



First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

FCC Friday Link



Published Friday, September 3, 2021

Weekly Inspirational Words

If you stumble, make it part of the dance!

-Author Unknown-

This picture certainly says "fall". The colors are fall colors and the cornstalks that used to be green are now brown.

I am always amazed at the transitions in our seasons, flowing from one to another. I like fall because the weather is cool and I love the fall foliage. I like winter because I like snow and the cold fresh air. I like spring with the flowers and leaves coming to life. And I like summer with it's relaxed atmosphere. I am glad I live in New England with the four seasons.

It does seem that we are getting more and more extreme weather conditions that are destroying property and lives, and I hope you are all keeping the victims in your prayers.

Let us give prayers of thanks for all that God has given us, and prayers of love and support to those who are struggling through the devastation of some of God's creation.

"But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." 2Peter 3:13

-Rev. Barbara Papagian-





A Message of Thanks and Welcome!

By Selma Naccach-Hoff, Church Moderator

How much we New Englanders anticipate the summer months, the longer days, the warm weather, the gatherings of families and friends! Yet how quickly those months pass. As autumn begins its appearance, so too do we at First Church transition into a new phase in our faith journey, one that promises even more riches.

We have been extremely blessed to have the steady, guiding hand of The Reverend Barbara Papagian this past year, but especially throughout this summer. She has lovingly filled so many roles – pastor, counselor, church member, student, teacher, parent, and friend, among others – and she has done so with kindness, compassion, and a commitment to the word of Jesus Christ. Our gratitude to her is beyond words, but definitely deep and most heartfelt. Thank you, Barbara, for all you have done and been for us.

September will see yet another transition as we welcome once again The Reverend Carolyn Keilig as our Interim Minister. She will be with us as we prepare for, and engage in, the search for a settled pastor. We are fortunate that she knows us, so her time with us will be marked by continuing the work we have begun as a congregation. We eagerly await her September 7 start date and her inaugural worship service on September 12.

So, yes, transitions are a part of life, but we meet them with great anticipation, and with the knowledge that we are a strong, faith-based community, prepared to meet the challenges of a future we know will be filled with the joy of continuing the timelessness of God’s work in the 21st century. As the psalmist tells us: *The Lord will watch over your coming and going, now and evermore.*

IMPORTANT SAFETY PROTOCOL INFORMATION

Updated Message From the Reopening Task Force 9/3/2021

We worshipped together, we sang long-familiar hymns, we enjoyed the music of Adam Peithmann and Leo LeBlanc, we listened to an uplifting sermon by The Reverend Gordon Rankin, we social distanced – and 95% of those present wore masks! Thank you, all, for the wonderful effort to maintain the health of our members and friends, allowing us to move forward with more in-person worship. Stay tuned for further updates.

**The Task Force met and reviewed the latest CDC protocols.
These are our latest guidelines for Worship Services:**

Masks are strongly urged to protect everyone, following the CDC recommendations due to increased numbers.

Social distancing will be practiced in order to be able to sing.

If ramp access is needed, please ring the bell.

Offering box will be located in the Narthex and the plates by the exit doors.

Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available.

Ushers will hand out Bulletins to those entering the Sanctuary.

People may seat themselves in open pews.

The Cradle Room is available but not staffed - stay tuned for changes regarding childcare and Church School.

We look forward to seeing everyone, but urge you not to congregate inside the building at this time.

-Thank you, The Reopening Task Force-



Leo LeBlanc accompanies Adam Peithmann
Sunday Worship Service - August 29th, 2021
Photo courtesy of Pam LeBlanc

Please note that the Friday Link Newsletter will now be published on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month.



Join us for Weekly Trivia
With Pip Adams!

This week's Questions

1. In which year was ice pops invented by an 11 year old boy?
2. What national competition was held on June 17, 1925?
3. In southern England, where do 35,000 people gather to see the Summer Solstice?

Answers from Last Week . . .

1. In what country is the biggest water park in the world? . . . **Germany**
2. In what city is the ice cream sandwich believed to be invented? . . . **New York City**
3. Before the Civil War, kids had school off during which season? . . . **Spring and Fall**

- **Worship Service this Sunday, September 5th at 10:00 am is Facebook only**

- **Beginning Sunday, September 12th, all Worship Services will be in-person at 10:00 am. There will no longer be a virtual service on Facebook going forward.**





Elliot Book Drive
“A book is a gift you can open again and again”

The Outreach Committee is happy to announce that during our Sunday service on September 12th, we will be able to present over 200 books to the Elliot Hospital’s Family/Children Outreach Program! Kelli Rafferty from the Elliot Hospital will be present at the Worship Service to accept our gift.

The Outreach Committee would like to thank all those who generously donated books. Through the Manchester Funds, the committee was able to double the number of books donated. A special thank you to JoAnn and Bob Ward for creating the Manchester Fund. Over time, these funds have helped many in Manchester!



This September 11th, Jim Fogle has produced a virtual meditation that commemorates this solemn event.

His powerful meditation weaves together piano pieces, photos, quotes from those directly affected, and scripture. A Vimeo link for this reflection will be posted on our church’s [Facebook page](#) the morning of September 11th.

Thank you Jim for your talents and efforts in helping us honor those we lost in such a meaningful way.



JOIN US FOR THE MORNING WATCH PRAYERS!

Join Rev. Barbara and Peter Perich every Monday thru Thursday morning at 9:00 AM on [Facebook](#) for the Morning Watch!

The book we are using is “A Guide to Prayer For All Who Seek God” by Norman Shawchuck and Rueben P. Job.

Please note that there will not be a Morning Watch on Labor Day, Monday, September 6th.

The 2021 Religious Response to Hunger

Temple Adath Yeshurun continues the tradition of leading the Manchester Religious Community in the annual fall “Religious Response to Hunger Food Drive” which supports Families in Transition - New Horizons Food Pantry.

Please bring your food donations directly to:
Temple Adath Yeshurun at 152 Prospect Street
Manchester, NH 03104

Friday, September 17, 2021 between 10am - 12 Noon

OR BRING YOUR ITEMS TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BY THURSDAY, 9/16 SO THAT OUTREACH MAY COLLECT AND DELIVER THEM

2021 Religious Response High Need Food List:



Fruit juice – 64ounce bottles, Tuna- 66.5 ounce canned, Ground coffee, Healthy, individually wrapped snacks, Oatmeal – 42-ounce containers. Family sized: Salad dressings, Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo squeeze bottles. Baking items (flour, sugar, etc.), Breakfast items (no cereal needed), Canned protein, Macaroni & cheese, Drinks, Dessert mixes, Crackers/ Cookies, Beans, Rice, Fruit cups, Applesauce cups & Granola bars



Join Us Thursday Mornings! *Holly Berry Fair Craft Prep Workshops*

The crafting workshops will continue on Thursdays through September 9th from 9:30 am -12:00 pm.

Come and see what is happening, socialize and help out even if you can not real crafty we have lots of things that need to be done. Call Lauren in the church office at 625-5093 or email Pam LeBlanc or Peggy Neveu and your name will be added to the list. Pam's email is blanclp@comcast.net or Peggy's email is frannys1@aol.com.

Has your attic, basement or garage been cleaned out lately? The "Attic Treasures Shoppe" is looking for interesting one of a kind type of items. Not yard sale items! We can not store Attic Treasures at this time, but start cleaning and collecting because the time is drop them off will be coming soon. If you are not sure about the items you find, just contact Peggy or Pam and they will help you decide.

The crafting group is looking for glass stemware, glass plates any size and color, interesting shaped vases, glass jars and bottles any size, to create yard sculptures. We would also love to acquire some lace, lace curtains and doilies even if they are worn and tattered. If you have anything of this nature and would like to pass it on, please let Pam or Peggy know and arrangements can be made to pick it up.

"The Jewelry Shoppe" is looking for your old unwanted, hasn't-been-used-in-many-years kind of jewelry. These pieces might be repaired and cleaned for resale or repurposed into a craft. Please contact Terri Pattee (seamstressed@yahoo.com) to arrange pick up.



JUST ANNOUNCED! Women's Connection will have a Zoom BINGO on Thursday, September 16th at 6:30 pm.

It is a fun time and the winner takes a homemade crown and bragging rights! Email Denise Beurivage at (beau.de@comcast.net) or Pam LeBlanc (blanclp@comcast.net) to get on the Zoom list and receive your card print out before that night.





CALLING ALL YOU WONDERFUL BAKERS!

The Meal Train is in need of cookies for an outreach project. If you are able to bake some we would appreciate it. We need them by ***Tuesday, September 7th*** - Thanks, Liz and Peggy

Special Olympics Volunteer Opportunities!

First Church has had a wonderful history of supporting Special Olympics New Hampshire in the past, by volunteering as Coaches for the Young Athletes Program and helping out at Summer Games by running the Mini-javelin competition. If you have been involved in these events you know how rewarding it is. Your efforts to volunteer helps First Church advance the Special Olympics mission to change attitudes toward people with disabilities and to transform lives through the joy of sport, every day, everywhere.



Young Athletes Program (YAP)

The Manchester YAP will resume activities in mid-October on Tuesday evenings on the campus of SNHU. YAP is a weekly, one hour, sports play activity program for children ages 2 to 7, with and without disabilities. The program helps children develop physical, cognitive and social skills. We are in need of coaches to help run the weekly program. If you are interested, or want more details, please contact Bill Jones via email or cell phone.

Special Olympics - June 2022 USA Games – Orlando, FL

Special Olympics New Hampshire will be sending a delegation of 115 athletes to represent New Hampshire and compete at the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games next year. Athletes will be selected from competition held this fall. First Church will run the Mini-javelin competition at two locations as follows:

- Sunday, September 19th at Monadnock Park in Claremont - (Time TBD)
- Tuesday, September 21st at UNH Durham - (Time to TBD)

Tom Irving will be helping me coordinate these competitions. If you have helped out with this event in the past it would be great to have you onboard again as an experienced volunteer. First time volunteers will be trained. If you can make one or both of these dates, please contact Bill Jones via email or cell phone. Wjones0615@comcast.net
603-860-1236



SONH athletes are training now to qualify for the USA Games in 2022



The final deadline to submit your pictures for the Picture Directory is Sunday, October 24th!

This will allow us time to print and assemble the book for distribution on Member Recognition on Sunday, November 7th. Please send your "selfie" to Lauren Henderson in the church office at: LHenderson@FCCManchesterNH.org

Pictures can be of individuals, couples, or families – it's up to you. Pam LeBlanc or Bill Jones will also be available on Sundays after the worship service to take your picture in the parlor. Your help in making this project a success is most appreciated!



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please send your **congratulations** messages to Martha and Peter Perich in celebration of their 50th Anniversary! They celebrated last weekend with family and friends.

Martha & Peter Perich, 215 So. Taylor Street, Manchester, NH 03103

News and Events at First Congregational Church

Announcements by Rev. Barbara Papagian

This Week's Happenings

- Rev. Barbara Papagian will lead virtual Worship on Facebook at 10:00 am this Sunday, September 5, 2021. Her sermon is titled, "Desperate Faith" and she will also be the Scripture Reader.
- The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 6th in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.
- The "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook are every Monday thru Thursday at 9:00 am. **Please note that there will not be a Morning Watch on Labor Day, Monday, September 6th.**
- Rev. Carolyn Keilig begins as Interim Pastor on Tuesday, September 7th! She will be leading in-person Worship Services beginning on Sunday, September 12th.
- The Membership Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 7th at 6:30 pm, the Senior Fellowship Board will meet on Monday, September 13th at 9:00 am, the Stewardship Committee will meet on Monday, September 13th at 6:00 pm, the Connecting the Congregation will meet on Tuesday, September 14th at 2:00 pm, the Church Council will meet on Tuesday, September 14th at 6:00 pm and the Reopening Task Force will meet on Thursday, September 16th at 6:00 pm. All meetings tentatively remain on Zoom but please reach out to committee chairs to confirm meeting location.
- The Holly Berry Fair Craft Prep Workshops continue every Thursday morning from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm in the dining room through September 9th.

Future and Ongoing Happenings

- Bill Jones or Pam LeBlanc will be available in the parlor after Worship on Sunday, September 12th to take your picture for the Photo Directory.
- The All Church Picnic scheduled for September 12th has been cancelled due to the recent rise in Covid-19 cases in NH.
- Thursday, September 16th is the deadline to bring in your non-perishable donations to church for the Religious Response to Hunger Food Drive. Please call the office if you have any questions.
- Please note summer church office hours continue until **after Labor Day**: M-TH from 9 am to 2 pm and Fridays 9 am to Noon. As always, we will be here if you want to stop in so please call ahead 625-5093.

Rev. Barbara Papagian, Associate Pastor bpapagian@fccmanchesternh.org

"A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever." Ecclesiastes 1:4

WORDLES!

Word puzzles that are made up of a series of cryptic letters, words and patterns which, when combined, represent a common word or phrase!

Can you figure them out? . . .

Kindly Submitted by Karen Hawver



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Photos: From the Manchester Young Athletes Program (YAP), 2019