



First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

FCC Friday Link



Keeping the Members and Friends of First Church Connected!

Published Friday, September 17, 2021

Weekly Inspirational Words

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.

-William Arthur Ward-

A smile is a powerful weapon; you can even break ice with it!

-Author Unknown-



What would we do without signs?

We wouldn't know what store we were going into without a sign in the front. We wouldn't be able to know which office is the doctor's office we need, without a sign on the door. We wouldn't know the denomination of this church on the corner of Union and Hanover Streets, without this sign. It tells us it is a Congregational Church where you can worship at 10:00 AM on Sunday morning with one or both of the Ministers named on the sign. It gives the website address if you want more information and says that we are *The United Church of Christ*.

There are also signs that aren't worded so clearly. We talk about signs from God, or dark clouds on the horizon, a sign indicating an advancing storm.

One of my favorite signs is a rainbow in the sky. A sign that the storm is over. We have weathered many storms this past year and a half, both figuratively and in reality. Let us stay positive and

look for signs of ending storms....maybe in the form of rainbows or the end of COVID-19.

-Rev. Barbara Papagian-

"I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."
Genesis 9:13

This is the solstice, the still point
of the sun, its cusp and midnight,
the year's threshold
and unlocking, where the past
lets go of and becomes the future;
the place of caught breath, the door
of a vanished house left ajar.

Margaret Atwood

I know this is neither the time of the summer or winter solstices, but I believe many of you know that I am one of those people who like standing in transitional places and this poem by Margaret Atwood captures how I am feeling right now.

I find hope in the pure mystery of how past and future intersect and become transformational. I love the long, lingering look back to see where I or a church have come from. I enjoy pondering the paths taken and recognizing where God was present in the journey. I also like planning for the future and working with congregations to find a way forward in faith.

You are a wonderful community of faith, who are blessed with much wisdom and many talents, and it is a gift to serve amongst you once again. I am particularly enjoying how easy it is to relearn how you live your life of faith together, reconnect names and faces, and discover the areas where you have made some changes.

As we stand on this new threshold, welcoming a new dawn, I look forward to discovering with you the wonderful surprises God has planned for us, hiding just beyond the bend in the road.

Blessings,
Carolyn

603-625-5093 x12
ckeilig@fccmanchesternh.org

From Sunday Worship, September 12th, 2021





REOPENING INFORMATION

Being able to worship together again on Sunday mornings is not only spiritually fulfilling but paramount in being able to reconnect with one another and with God. In light of this, the re-opening committee has reconvened and discussed the importance of practicing our current covid protocols.

In concurrence with the Church Council and the Deacons, we believe that our established protocols will help ensure all of our members and visitors will stay safe while worshipping with us and we want to continue to convene each Sunday! We're also apprehensive about those amongst our church family who are unable to be vaccinated: our youth. Following these protocols and wearing masks while indoors shows our young families with children that we care about their health and safety. Let's continue to gather safely every Sunday and find the strength and guidance from God that we all need during these uncertain times.

Masks are strongly urged to protect everyone, following CDC recommendations.

Social distancing will be practiced.

If ramp access is needed, please ring the bell.

Collection box will be located in the narthex and plates by the exit doors.

Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available.

People may seat themselves in open pews.

The Cradle Room is available but not staffed.

Masks are appreciated but not required if you are fully vaccinated.

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

-Thank you, The ReOpening Task Force, 9/16/21-

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. Which park hosts a massive meet-and-mate night for fireflies?
2. What do goats climb on every June in Morocco?
3. Where do people from all over the world gather for a reunion of the Finks?

Answers from Last Week . . .

1. In which year was ice pops invented by an 11 year old boy? . . . **1905**
2. What national competition was held on June 17, 1925? . . . **The First National Spelling Bee**
3. In southern England, where do 35,000 people gather to see the Summer Solstice? . . . **Stonehenge**

Congratulations to Dr. Kevin Finefrock!

On Friday, September 3rd, Kevin Finefrock successfully defended his doctoral dissertation!

Jeanine and Craig were able to be part of it on Zoom. His knowledge and poise were remarkable! He was encouraged by more than one on the panel to turn it into a book manuscript. I'm not sure he'll do that but it was nice to hear how impressed they all were with his work.

Please send Kevin your messages of congratulations:

Dr. Kevin Finefrock, 6 Deerfield Avenue, Middletown, Connecticut, 06457



Yarn Donations Needed!

The Knitting Ministry is looking for yarn! Specific colors include: navy, brown, black, dark green, burgundy. Some bright colors (for accents) are welcome too.

Colors that are not needed at this time: white, off white and pale yellow.

This yarn is needed to make balaclavas, and hats and mittens!

Please reach out to JoAnn Ward if you have some to donate or contact the church office. Thank you!



Open & Affirming News

The Open and Affirming Committee will meet on Zoom on Sunday, September 26th at 1:00 pm.

Our agenda will include establishing goals and plans for the new church year. Please contact Carol Soucy for the Zoom link if you'd like to attend the meeting. (carolsoucy@comcast.net or 603-591-6387) Also, feel free to contact Carol or other committee members if you have questions or suggestions about Open and Affirming's plans for the new church year.



We are excited to announce that Women's Connection will be hosting their very popular BINGO game night again!

Thursday, September 23rd at 6:30 pm on Zoom!
(rescheduled from 9/16 to accommodate the Reopening Task Force meeting)

The last couple of times we played everyone had a great time and we were asked if it could be played again! So get your BINGO cards and chips ready to win the handmade crown and bragging rights.

Email Denise Beauvillage: 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 Techies!

Do you have some tech skills or think you might want to learn more?

We are setting up a tech group to meet and discuss possibilities for livestreaming and/or recording services. If you know how to run a video camera or are interested in learning, please get in touch with Karen Hawver at khawver@gmail.com.

A MEAL TRAIN THANK YOU!

"THANK YOU" to all those who baked cookies.

We were able to supply the choir and musicians with a symbol of gratefulness. We were overwhelmed with cookies so we will supply UpReach and Liberty House with homemade goodies in addition to our own goodie bags for the FCC Community.

Now that cooler weather is upon us we will need soup, muffins, and small individual meals. Containers for soup and the meals are next the FCC freezer.

Again - **THANK YOU!**



Members of the Quilting Ministry met last week to sew bindings!



Photos from the Holly Berry Fair Craft Prep Workshop on Thursday morning, September 2nd!



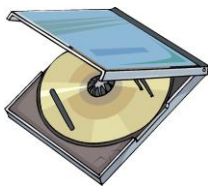
The final deadline to submit your pictures for the Picture Directory is Sunday, October 24th!

This will allow us time to print and assemble the book for distribution for 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!

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP EVENTS!

- **New Member Orientation: Sunday, October 10th following Worship Service**
- **New Member Joining: Sunday, October 31st**
- **Member Recognition: Sunday, November 7th**



Audio Copies of Worship Services

Now that church services are in-person every week, we will not be offering the pre-recorded services on Facebook.

However, we are doing the cd recordings of the services like we did before the pandemic, so if you would like to receive the cd of the service, call me and we will deliver one to you every week or if you are unable to attend church on occasion we can make an audio cd for you.

-Rev. Barbara Papagian- (603-625-5093 x 23)



Let's Celebrate October Milestone Birthdays!

George Shepherd - October 2nd

Michael McCutcheon - October 11th

Barbara Taylor - October 11th

Richard Jarvis - October 13th

Linda Bonetti - October 15th



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please send your condolences to the Family of Barbara Hebert. Barbara passed away on September 9th.

The Family of Barbara Hebert
69 Forest Drive, Bedford, NH 03110

News and Events at First Congregational Church

Announcements by Rev. Barbara Papagian

This Week's Happenings

- Rev. Carolyn Keilig will lead Worship at 10:00 am this Sunday, September 19, 2021. Her sermon is titled, "A Winning Welcome". Ellie Stetson will be the Scripture Reader.
- The "Morning Watch Prayers" continue on [Facebook](#) every Monday thru Thursday at 9:00 am, led by Rev. Papagian and Peter Perich.
- The Church Trustees will meet in-person on Monday, September 20th at 6:30 pm in the parlor. The Open and Affirming Committee will meet on Sunday, September 26th at 1:00 pm on Zoom. The Outreach Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 28th at 6:30 pm on Zoom.
- The Women's Connection will host Zoom BINGO this coming Thursday, September 23rd at 6:30!
- Next Sunday, September 26th, there will be a special *Blessing of the Quilts* during the service. Rev. Keilig will lead Worship and Carol Soucy will be the Scripture Reader.
- This coming Monday, September 20th is the deadline for October Church Window articles and pictures. Please send submissions to Lauren in the church office at LHendersonFCC@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Future and Ongoing Happenings

- Bill Jones or Pam LeBlanc will be available in the parlor after Worship each Sunday to take your picture for the Photo Directory.
- There will be a Memorial Service for Barbara Hebert in the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 10th at 2:00 pm.
- 2021 Annual Meeting of the NH Conference, UCC—Business Meeting & Keynote Address is Saturday, October 16th, 2021 from 9 AM—2:30 PM! The Meeting is Zoom Webinar & YouTube Livestream. Visit: www.nhcucc.org (Conference Events) for more information.

- Upcoming Membership Events!... After Church on Sunday, October 10th, there will be a New Member Orientation. Then on Sunday, October 31st, we will have a New Member Joining during Worship Service that morning.
- Church Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and by appointment.

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

"Then Jesus said to him, 'Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.'" John 4:48

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!

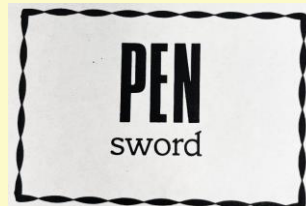
Can you figure them out? . . .

Kindly Submitted by Karen Hawver

ANSWERS FROM LAST WEEK BELOW



"Go down in history"



"The pen is mightier than the sword"



"Ageless"



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Photo: Sokhom mows the church lawn & keeps the grounds looking beautiful! September 3, 2021