



First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

FCC Friday Link



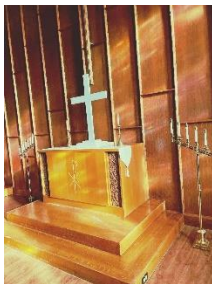
**Keeping the Members and
Friends of First Church Connected!**

Published Friday, October 1, 2021

Weekly Inspirational Words

As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way.

-Mary Anne Radmacher-



I love the simplicity of this altar in our chapel. It has a different kind of beauty than our Sanctuary, which is more colorful and has its own beauty.

Whether I am worshipping in the chapel or the Sanctuary, I always feel the closeness of God.

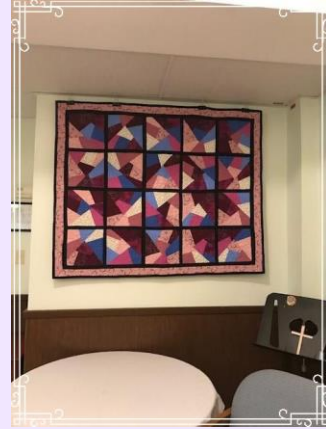
When I want a quiet closeness, especially when I am doing centering prayer, I go to the chapel which is a quieter, more contemplative space for me. When I am rejoicing and feeling open joyfulness, I go to the Sanctuary and drink in the open space and beautiful colors and feel surrounded by a joyful God.

We are blessed to have these two spaces in our church. Spaces we can go to for peace and joy.

-Rev. Barbara Papagian-

"Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually." 1Chronicles16:11

Rev. Barbara's Office Makeover!



The 2022 Stewardship Campaign!

*Faith in our hearts.
Hope on the horizon.
Patience well spent.*

The Stewardship Committee has been hard at work developing an appropriate theme for 2022, getting the mailing sent out, and inviting the speakers for Stewardship Moments in October.

It's been a challenging 2021 in too many ways to count, but we hope that this year we will rally and be generous again in support of the First Congregational Church that we love.

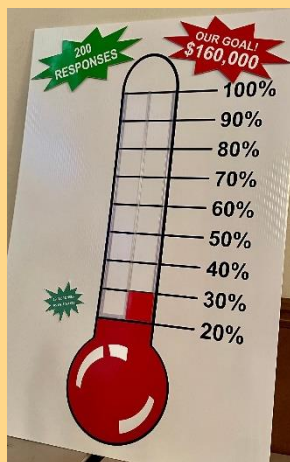
This year we are striving for 100% response to the appeal letters, understanding that some "will do their best to contribute throughout the year" and not be in a position to pledge.

Please acknowledge the receipt of the mailing by returning it by November 12th.

-The Stewardship Committee-



Photo above: Stewardship Campaign Kick-off with Dan McKenney on Sunday, September 26th



As of 10/1 we're at about 30% of our goal with 19 out of 200 responses received, or about 10%

SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

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 will continue to meet and adjust our Covid protocols.

In concurrence with the Church Council and the Deacons, we believe that our established protocols will help ensure all our members and visitors will stay safe while worshipping with us and will allow us to continue to worship in-person each Sunday! At the same time, we are aware that our church family includes children who are unable to be vaccinated, as well as those whose vaccination status is compromised because of health issues. Recognizing the increasing number of Covid cases in the Manchester area, including breakthrough cases of those who are vaccinated, we urge you to follow the protocols that have been established.

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 indoors should be practiced.
(Feel free to greet one another outdoors)**

*** If ramp access is needed, please ring the bell.**

*** Offerings may be left in the box located in the narthex and in 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.**

*** 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 -



Join us for Weekly Trivia
With Pip Adams!

This week's Questions

1. Where is the World Margarita Championship held each August?
2. Where did the largest Summer bikini parade take place on August 19, 2012?
3. Which tower actually grows in the heat of the Summer?

Answers from Last Edition . . .

1. Which park hosts a massive meet-and-mate night for fireflies? . . . **The Great Smoky Mountains National Park**
2. What do goats climb on every June in Morocco? . . . **Argan trees**
3. Where do people from all over the world gather for a reunion of the Finks? . . . **Finks, Texas**



Apple Picking is the Women's Connection's next event!

Join us this Sunday, October 3rd (with a rain date of October 17th) at Mack's Apples after church.

Plan on bringing your own lunch with an arrival time of 12:30 pm to eat on Mack's picnic tables. If you are planning on attending, email Denise Beurivage (beau.de@comcast.net) or Pam LeBlanc

(blancip@comcast.net) so more detailed information can be given.



Women's Connection is participating in a Holiday Card Challenge for Soldiers

However, this is open to anyone in the church if interested! Pick-up a package of Christmas cards that are in a box on the tables in the back of the church. There are directions inside the card package that can also give you ideas what to write. Add a sentence or two inside, sign with just first name and put "First Congregational Church Manchester" if you like. Please follow the directions inside the package. Return the cards by October 17th, 2021.

Let's see how many cards we can gather to send in!



2021 Religious Response to Hunger Food Drive

Thank you all for your generous donations to this annual food drive! On Friday, September 17th, John Rowe, Sue Clement and Justin May brought over FCC's contributions to the Temple Adath Yeshurun in Manchester.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH



SHOES & BOOTS FOR BAKERSVILLE SCHOOL!

In past years we have provided boots and coats for kids at Hallsville. Bakersville has a source for coats but are in need of shoes (sneakers) and boots for many kids. The Outreach Committee has already supplied some sneakers to give them a start, but we are again asking the congregation to participate.

There are signup sheets on the office window. Please add your name/contact information beside the size item you would like to donate, and also, indicate whether you are donating shoes or boots! There is a separate sign up for boots and another for shoes (sneakers).

FCC members are extremely generous and we thank you so much for providing so much for children in need!



****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.



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!



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



Holly Berry Fair News

We have postponed the big Holly Berry Fair until 2022 due to the ongoing pandemic, however Fair Coordinators, Peggy & Pam, have regrouped and will have an abbreviated version to sell the marvelous handcrafted items the ladies of FCC and friends have made.

So mark your calendars for Sunday, December 5th following worship! This would be a great time to bring your friends to worship to meet our amazing congregation...and shop afterwards! Protocols are still to be established, so watch for more news! There will be a special preview of items in the Narthex on Sunday, November 14th!



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please send messages of healing to Bob Hall as he recovers from recent surgery.

Bob Hall, 309 Palm Avenue, Wildwood, Florida 34785

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, October 3rd, 2021. Her sermon is titled, "Whose Yeast Are You?". It is World Communion Sunday with Communion offered during the service and Pip Adams 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.
- This Sunday is the *Neighbors in Need Annual Mission Offering*. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Offering envelopes will be available in church pews.
- The Senior Fellowship Board will meet on Monday, October 4th at 10:00 am (in the church parlor) and the Deacons' Board will meet Monday evening at 6:30 pm. The Membership Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 5th at 6:30 pm and will also host a New Member Orientation Session on Sunday, October 10th following the Worship Service. The Nominating Committee will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, October 6th at 7:00 pm. The Connecting the Congregation Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 12th at 2:00 pm on Zoom and Church Council will meet Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm. ***Please contact Committee Chairs to find out if your meetings will take place in person or by Zoom.
- Next Sunday, October 10th, Worship will be lead by Rev. Barbara Papagian and Lisa Allen will be the Scripture Reader. Alison McKay of the Young Athletes program will be here for a special Stewardship Moment for Mission. Following Worship there will be a New Membership Orientation session in the parlor. On Sunday afternoon there will be a Memorial Service for Barbara Hebert in the Sanctuary at 2:00 pm.
- The Church Office will be closed on Monday, October 11th in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday.

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. The deadline to submit a photo is Sunday, October 24th.
- Chancel Choir and Sabbath Bells will now meet on alternating Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Chancel Choir will meet this coming Wednesday, October 6th and Sabbath Bells will meet the following Wednesday, October 13th.
- 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. November 7th is our Member Recognition Sunday.

- Friday, October 15th will be the deadline to submit articles for the November Church Window Newsletter. Email Lauren at LHendersonFCC@yahoo.com
- **JUST ANNOUNCED:** Interfaith Women of New Hampshire will have a Zoom Event titled, "Faith Inspired Stories: teaching tolerance, overcoming prejudice, acting from faith" on Monday, November 15th at 6:45 pm. Go to interfaithwomennh.org for more information!
- **Audio Copies of Worship Services Available!** We are doing 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 x23)

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

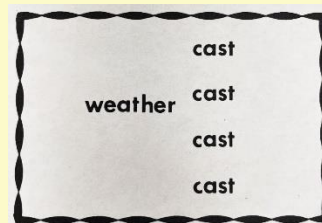
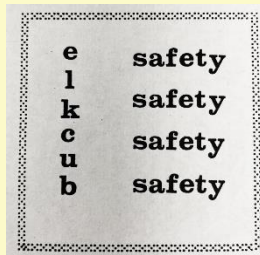
"When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord..." Jeremiah 29:13-14

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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Photo: Our Interim Senior Pastor, Rev. Carolyn Keilig, September 2021