



# 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, November 5, 2021

### Weekly Inspirational Words

*November comes and November goes,  
with the last red berries and the first white snows.  
With night coming early and dawn coming late,  
and ice in the bucket and frost by the gate.  
The fires burn and the kettle sings,  
and earth sinks to rest until next spring.*

**-Clyde Watson-**



This is beautiful Mount Chocorua and Lake Chocorua. The top of the mountain is all rocks. The climbing paths end and the rest of the climb is up those rocks.

I climbed this mountain many years ago with a group of people I was working with at the time. We started up the rocks and I looked down and immediately froze. I am terrified of heights, and I was looking straight down a rocky ledge. My hands froze to the rock I was grasping and I couldn't move.

One of the men I was climbing with stopped to help me. He was calm and kept talking to me calmly as he pried my fingers off the rock and helped pull me up to the top. We ate our lunch at the top and I couldn't eat much because I was terrified about going back down. We took a different path down that was not so steep and I made it to the bottom all in one piece.

I think sometimes our life seems like that steep path and we sometimes stop and can't seem to go on, or we panic and don't know what to do. But eventually God reaches out and guides us to a smoother path. He guides us through our misgivings and fears....all we need to do is reach out.

Every time I ride by this beautiful scenery, I remember that day and my fear that was calmed by a helping hand.

-Rev. Barbara Papagian-

"do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10



### Goodrich Family Update!

We can't believe Pipers 1st birthday is upon us in early November. We've been having fun planning a small gathering with family and friends. The theme will be from the movie "Up." If you haven't seen it, it's a cute Pixar film that you will surely enjoy no matter what age :)

Piper has mastered crawling and can pull herself up seamlessly now. We are excited for when she can walk but also know it's going to change a whole lot for us. She enjoys eating (she is not picky), she sleeps through the night and loves jumping in her bouncy chair. She is looking forward to going back to church at some point to see everyone in person! Until then stay safe and be well!

-Lindsey, Greg & Piper

**\*SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES\***

- \* Masks are strongly urged to protect every one, 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. Please do not sit in the pews with an "X".
    - \* 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.
  - \* If you are diagnosed with Covid and had recently visited FCC, please notify a pastor and see CDC guidelines. (<https://www.health.nd.gov>)
- Thank you, The ReOpening Task Force, 10/21/21 -



**\*Join us for Weekly Trivia\***  
**With Pip Adams!**

**This week's Questions**

1. What is the Vermont state pie?
2. What is the state flower of Rhode Island?
3. What is the state bird of Maine?

**Answers from Last Edition. . .**

1. Why do we tell actors to break a leg? . . . **Because every play has a cast.**
2. What ends everything always? . . . **The letter "g".**
3. You can hold it without using your hands or arms. What is it? . . . **Your breath.**

**\*2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN\***

As of 11/3/2021 we're at about 85% of our pledge goal with 84 out of 200 responses received, or about 42%!



**Sunday Worship Service with the Sacrament of Baptism**  
**October 17th, 2021**



**Choir at Sunday Worship Service**  
**October 24th, 2021**



**New Member Joining Sunday on October 31st, 2021**





Our newest members: Tom & Sue Wilkes, Regina Kinney and Elizabeth Blood. Welcome!



### REMINDER! DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH!

Remember to set your clocks back one hour tomorrow night, Saturday, November 6th, before bedtime!

### Open & Affirming Vote Anniversary

The November 14th worship service will be led by Associate Pastor, Rev. Barbara Papagian, and will include selected worship elements and special music in observance of the FCC Open and Affirming vote anniversary.

Choir members will lend their voices to "Child of God, a beautiful anthem by Mark Miller, and Jeffrey Frye will share his own composition, "We Are Unbroken." Readers Bruce Kinney, Ruth Knowles, Elle Funke, and Michaela Horan will lead us in a "Litany of Trust in God." **We hope you'll join us for this special service.**



### PICTURE DIRECTORY UPDATE!

As everyone knows, The Membership Team has been working on a new photo directory. Thank you to everyone who has contributed a picture!

We recognize that we need to move into the future and take advantage of the technology that is available to us. Other churches are using an online format and we have selected software called \*Instant Church Directory\*. When the online directory is ready for people to view and use in a safe and secure way, it will require a password. Lauren will be able to assist with directions for each of us to access our very own directory and set up a password.



Printed directories will still be available in the church office upon request.

If you would like to learn more about the software, go to [www.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com). After you explore, please email Lauren ([LHenderson@FCCManchesterNH.org](mailto:LHenderson@FCCManchesterNH.org)) and give her your thoughts and she will pass them along to the Team. Take a few minutes out of your busy day to see how this works. It will be a safe and easy way to access our directory, and it will always be up-to-date!

## MORNING WATCH PRAYERS ON FACEBOOK

We all understand that we need to make time for God in our lives. Rev. Barbara said that she learned the habit of regular daily reflection and meditation at seminary, and it has become a most important time of her day.



Perhaps you have a devotional time set aside, maybe you offer prayers or have conversations with God as you go about your daily life. It's possible when you take a walk outside and you are inspired by the beauty of the gift of nature, and you feel a certain closeness to God.

But good intentions have a habit of being put aside and they don't always happen. Sometimes the demands on our time seem too great and our time too short. If taking time for God is important to you, choose a regular time out of your day for a short time of devotion, reflection and meditation. This practice is key to turning a desire into a habit.

This can be made easier by tuning in for approximately 15 mins to the Morning Watch on Facebook, led by two wonderful people here at FCC, Rev. Barbara Papagian and Peter Perich. Watch live at 9:00 am, Monday -Thursday or set aside a specific time each day to watch the recording. Try and watch it for a month regularly so that this time of daily devotion will become a lifetime habit.

To join us click on Morning Watch on the FCC Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/FCCManchester](http://www.facebook.com/FCCManchester)

## FCC Yarn Crafters

Please drop off your finished yarn projects at the office or my home as we get ready to distribute them in time for the cold weather. Knitting is good for you, the knitters, so keep on knitting!

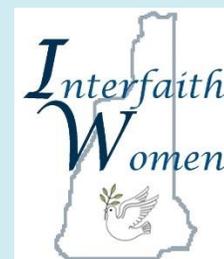


Also, yarn donations would be especially welcome at this time.

May we all stay safe, JoAnn Ward

**Interfaith Women of New Hampshire invites you to a special program via Zoom, 'FAITH INSPIRED STORIES: teaching tolerance, overcoming prejudice, acting from faith', on Monday, November 15th, 2021 at 6:45 pm.**

This program offers a continuation from IWNH's March program, 'Let's Talk: Faith and Race', sharing our thoughts, concerns and response to each other as people of faith.



'FAITH INSPIRED STORIES' provides stories from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths of respect for the humanity of all peoples, making choices related to tolerance issues, taking action to better people's lives regardless of race, religion or nationality.

We invite you to view these thoughtful, faith-based presentations, and stay with us for Zoom “break out room” discussions facilitated by the IWNH Leadership Team to share your related thoughts and real life experience regarding the matter of faith and race.

**TO REGISTER:** email [interfaithwomennh@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithwomennh@gmail.com). Once registered you will receive a Zoom meeting invitation. **Check-in on 11/15/21 begins at 6:30 pm, program begins promptly at 6:45 pm.** For questions, call **603-233-7760** or visit our website: [interfaithwomennh.org](http://interfaithwomennh.org) to learn more about us.



**It's Angel Tree time, and this year the Outreach Committee has an exciting twist. Instead of gift cards or gifts we would like to distribute filled Christmas Stockings!**

The Committee has purchased 150+ red felt Christmas stockings and we will be sponsoring 5 organizations this year. As in the past years we will partner with the 3 group homes: *Manchester Mental Health*, *Helping Hands Outreach*

*Center* for men, and the *New Life Home* for women and children. Additionally, this year we will be including *Liberty House* for our homeless male veterans and *Dismas Home* for women. We are asking you, our FCC family, to pick up an empty stocking or two from church and fill them up with appropriate stocking stuffers for the specific organization. There will be an informational card attached to each stocking with the name of the organization and gender of the recipient. In the case of the children their age will also be included. Also included will be a list of suggested, but certainly not limited to, appropriate stocking stuffers. The only requirement is **no food or candy please** due to allergies and dietary restrictions.

Let's have fun with this project and please use your imaginations! Be creative! Fill you stocking(s) with useful items (wrapped or unwrapped) that will bring surprise and joy to the person receiving the stocking. As done in the past the Knitting Committee is graciously including knitted hats for the adult recipients, and knitted hats and mittens for the children. Please drop your filled stockings off at the church by Dec. 10th, 2021.

There is a suggested \$30 limit. If you would like to participate but wish not to fill the stocking yourself, please mail a check payable to FCC to the church office marked “Christmas Angel Stocking Project” in the memo line by Nov. 29th, 2021. A committee member will be glad to shop and fill a stocking on behalf of you.

We are truly grateful to be able continue our tradition of bringing unexpected happiness to people during the Christmas Season!!

The Angel Tree Committee



**A Holly Berry Fair Reminder!**

**We hope everyone is coming to church to worship and see our sampler display of the “Overstock Sale” items on November 14th and the 21st!**

**This will be a small selection of what will be for sale on Sunday, December 5th.**



**\*The FCC Women's Connection Announce the Annual College Cookie Mailing 2021!\***

**Women's Connection would like to continue the old tradition of a College Cookie Mailing on December 4th in the church parlor at 9:00 am.**



Because of Covid we will not do the swap but we want to let the college students know that we are thinking of them and care about them. Masks will be required. To anyone who would like to bake cookies and or package cookies on December 4th, your baking skills are welcome. We will also need snack donations to fill the boxes.

Just e-mail Pam LeBlanc ([blanclp@comcast.net](mailto:blanclp@comcast.net)) or Denise Beaurivage ([beau.de@comcast.net](mailto:beau.de@comcast.net)) to let us know your plan. At least three dozen cookies will be needed and delivered to the church office by noon on December 3rd, or you can sign up to help package instead.

**Attention College Student Parents!**

If you are a lucky parent of a college/grad student and they are taking their college exams... how about treating them to some homemade cookies. We know things are different from the past but we want to continue one of our church's oldest traditions. Please e-mail or call the church office by Wednesday, December 1st with their name, home address or school address.



**What are you thankful for? Share your blessings, Thanksgiving prayers or graces!**

In our next Friday Link (November 19th) we would love to share things that you are thankful for this Thanksgiving or a short grace that you say at your Thanksgiving dinner.

Please email these to Lauren or Rev. Barbara.  
[LHendersonFCC@yahoo.com](mailto:LHendersonFCC@yahoo.com) or [BPapagian@fccmanchesternh.org](mailto:BPapagian@fccmanchesternh.org)



**\*Sending Cards to Members and Friends\***

Please send your get well & prayers for healing messages to Fred Simmons who has major medical problems.

Fred Simmons, 61 Morrill Road, Hooksett, NH 03106

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Please send your messages of healing and comfort to Joan Currier as she goes through her cancer treatments.

Joan Currier, 2 Sandy Pond Pky, Bedford, NH 03110

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Please send thinking of you messages to Richard Jarvis who was just diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

Richard Jarvis, 531 Union Street, Manchester, NH 03104

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Rev. Carolyn Keilig's birthday is this Sunday, November 7th! When you come for Worship Service be sure to wish her a Happy Birthday!

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## 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, November 7, 2021. Her sermon is titled, "Standing at a Crossroad". Ruth Knowles will be the Scripture Reader. It is Member Recognition Sunday so please join in our celebratory recognition of those with milestone years, and also recognition of the Church membership of our entire congregation!
- The "Morning Watch Prayers" continue on [Facebook](#) every Monday thru Thursday at 9:00 am, led by Rev. Papagian and Peter Perich.
- The Stewardship Committee will meet on Monday, November 8th at 6:00 pm on Zoom. The Connecting the Congregation Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 9th at 2:00 pm on Zoom. Church Council will meet Tuesday, November 9th at 6:00 pm on Zoom. \*\*\*Please contact Committee Chairs to confirm if your meetings will take place in person or by Zoom.
- The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, November 11th in observance of the Veteran's Day Holiday.
- The Church Trustees will meet on Monday, November 15th at 6:30 pm. *The Open and Affirming Committee has postponed their November meeting to Sunday, December 12th at 4:00 pm on Zoom.* \*\*\*Please contact Committee Chairs to confirm if your meetings will take place in person or by Zoom.
- Chancel Choir will meet this coming Wednesday, November 10th at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary and will meet again the following Wednesday, November 17th.
- On Sunday, November 14th, Worship Service will be lead by Rev. Barbara Papagian and Liz Verity will be the Scripture Reader. This is the Fourth Anniversary of the Open & Affirming Vote at FCC and worship will include selected elements and music. We will also be recognizing any veterans who are present at worship and including veterans in our pastoral prayer. There will be a \*Holly Berry Fair Preview Display\* in the narthex.

#### \*Future and Ongoing Happenings\*

- Friday, November 19th is the deadline for the December Church Window Newsletter. Please email your submissions to Lauren in the office at [LHendersonFCC@yahoo.com](mailto:LHendersonFCC@yahoo.com). Thank you!
- **Rev. Keilig Announces an Advent Book Study: *A Christmas Carol!*** A favorite book of many is Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*. Written during a time when our Congregational ancestors-in-faith would not have celebrated Christmas, as one

part of this 4-week study we will explore some of our Congregational history as it pertains to the observance of Christmas. Led by Rev. Carolyn, we will meet on Wednesdays (time to be determined) via Zoom beginning December 1. For the first gathering (Dec 1), please read Stave One: Marley's Ghost. For the second gathering (Dec 8) please read Stave Two: The First of the Three Spirits; our third (Dec 15), Stave Three: The Second of the Three Spirits and for the final gathering (Dec 22), Staves Four and Five. We hope you can join in reading and discussing this wonderful story of redemption and hope. If you have an interest in participating, please let Rev. Carolyn know. There will be sign up sheet on the office window.

- **Save the date: Tuesday, December 7th!** It's the Senior Fellowship Christmas & 60th Anniversary Luncheon at the Manchester Country Club. Watch for your invitation in the mail coming soon!
- **Home for the Holidays - Live streaming during Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas:** Family and friends not able to travel to your home this Christmas? Has the pandemic kept you from enjoying worship at FCC? The Church Council is working on making it possible to livestream our services throughout the holidays, with the hope to continue into the new year.
- **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](mailto:bpapagian@fccmanchesternh.org)

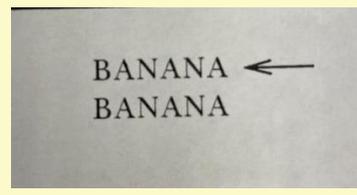
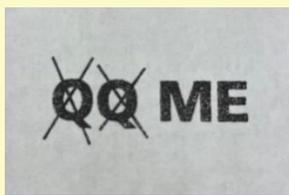
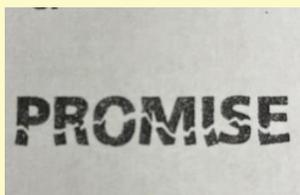
"I hereby command you; Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

## **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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