



First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

FCC Friday Link



Published Friday, January 7, 2022

Weekly Inspirational Words

Approach the new year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day.

-Michael Josephson-



It is a new year. The world is still chaotic, the pandemic is still running rampant, and we are all another year older.

Now let's look at the bright side. God is still with us, ready to love, support and guide us. I know we have all asked why this is all happening, but instead we should be asking God to guide us and strengthen us in this very difficult time. We should be asking God what we can do to help others and let others know by our actions that we have hope and faith in our God. God will help us through if we turn to Him. Let Him guide us to a life of service, acknowledging that God is our source of love, hope, and faith.

In the year 2022, let us resolve to give God the chance to lead us down His paths of helping others, of treating others as we would like to be treated, and of bringing God's great news of love, hope, faith, and joy to all we meet along the paths.

Happy New Year!
Rev. Barbara Papagian

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



As Covid numbers in NH continue to rise, the impact on FCC Manchester is being felt. The Reopening Task Force met on January 4th to discern what strategies need to be in place to mitigate the spread of the Covid virus to those who come through our doors. The Task Force reached consensus with the following protocols:

Worship

We will continue to have both a livestream, as technology and availability of volunteers allows, and an in-person option. Livestream will continue to be improved including written hymn words added to the online bulletin, and greater use of mics.

In order for in-person worship to continue, we will follow best practices for safety.

- All attending (vaccinated or unvaccinated) are strongly urged to wear masks.
- All attending are expected to maintain social distancing in seating and when entering or exiting the building. We will be exiting worship during the Postlude.
- We are temporarily pausing Chancel Choir and Sabbath Bells.
- We are temporarily pausing observing the Sacraments.
- We are temporarily pausing lay reading of the scripture lessons.

Meetings

Committee chairs will make the final determination regarding meeting format, but are urged to consult with committee members and to consider Zoom or meeting in larger areas (dining room or rec room)

For in-person meetings:

- All attending (vaccinated or unvaccinated) are strongly urged to wear masks.
- All attending are expected to maintain social distancing in seating and when entering or exiting the building.

If you need to meet with a staff member in-person, please plan ahead by making an appointment and following the established Covid mitigation protocols. Staff may stagger their time on site, and work from home for some of the time.

The Online Church Directory is now available!

The First Congregational Church Online Directory is now available to our Members and Friends! This directory offers up-to-date contact information and is easily accessed at any time on your home computer/tablet or mobile device.



You are welcome to visit the directory by visiting the website at <https://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com>. Click the tab "Create Login" to enter your email and to choose a password. You must use the same email address that you provided to the church - it will be listed in your printed directory.

Once you have created an account using your email and password, look for a confirmation email from "service@instantchurchdirectory.com" in your inbox (check your spam/junk folder if you don't see it). After you confirm your email, you may sign into the Online Directory at <https://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com>.

When you are logged in you may want to bookmark the [directory website](#) in the browser of your computer or mobile device for easy access. You may also submit changes to your contact information, including adding or changing your directory photo by clicking on the box, "Edit My Family" under your profile.

Only those who create an account are able to access our directory, thereby maintaining the confidentiality of all personal contact information.

If you have any questions about creating your account, please reach out to Lauren in the church front office at LHenderson@FCCManchesterNH.org or call her at 603-625-5093. As always, a printed version of the church directory will be available in the office.



ONLINE MEMBER DIRECTORY LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS.

First time signing into the Online Directory or Mobile App?

1. Go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com
2. Click on the **Create Login** button under: First time signing in?
3. Enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
4. Create a password. The password must be 8 characters long and contain at least two of the following special characters: capital letters, numbers or symbols.
5. Retype the password to confirm it and click **Request Login**.
6. Check your inbox for an email from service@instantchurchdirectory.com.
7. To complete the sign-up process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email.
8. Once you confirm your email, you may sign at members.InstantChurchDirectory.com.

Your email with the password you created will work on all the Instant Church Directory apps on any device

Already logged into the Mobile App?

1. Go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com
2. Enter your email address listed in the directory and your unique member password.
3. Click **Sign In**.

[Need help signing in? Please see your directory Administrator.](#)

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Join us for Trivia With Pip Adams!

This week's Questions

1. What is Connecticut's state insect?
2. Does the State of Rhode Island have the longest name of any state?
3. What is the state flower of Vermont?

Answers from Last Edition. . .

1. Is Maine larger than the other five New England States combined? . . . **Yes**
2. How long is Vermont from North to South? . . . **159 Miles**
3. What is Rhode Island's famous food? . . . **Rhode Island-style calamari**

Christmas Eve Worship at First Congregational Church
Friday, December 24, 2021



WOMEN'S CONNECTION BINGO!
Mark your calendar for January 13th at 6:30pm!

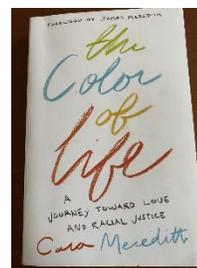
We will be playing BINGO once again!
Email Pam (blanclp@comcast.net) or Denise (beau.de@comcast.net) to let them know you want to play and they will make sure you have the bingo card. When it gets closer to the date you will be sent the Zoom link. The past few times we have played we have had a lot of fun! There is no limit of the number of ladies. Please join us and you might be the lucky winner of the crown!



News from the Open & Affirming Committee

As FCC and the Open and Affirming Committee enter 2022, we have renewed our commitments to learn and grow in faith and to work with others in our congregation to put our shared faith into action.

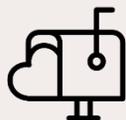
Don't forget...For winter reading, we recommend *The Color of Life* by Cara Meredith, a memoir about Cara's faith-filled life journey as a white woman married to the son of Civil Rights leader James Meredith. Elizabeth Blood had positive experiences in writing workshops with Cara and has been in touch with her about our plans. Thanks, Elizabeth! The book is sold as a paperback, a Kindle edition, and CD. A copy will also be available in the church office if you'd like to borrow it. Look for details about an upcoming book discussion in *Friday Links* and the February *Church Window*.



We are in the initial stages of working with other FCC groups to plan a forum on homelessness and expect to offer it as Covid protocols allow. Let us continue to pray for all those that are unhoused, especially during the upcoming months of cold and inclement weather, and let's also pray for those that work to support those in need.

Livestreaming Worship!

Livestreamed Services can be accessed on Sundays at 10am by going to www.Facebook.com/FCCManchester



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please send messages of appreciation to Paul Hoff, Karen Hawver and Tom Wilkes. We thank them for all the hard work and long hours put in on the live streaming project!

Dr. Paul Hoff
77 Pilgrim Drive
Bedford, NH 03110

Dr. Karen Hawver
119 Fieldstone Drive
Londonderry, NH 03053

Tom Wilkes
20 Seasons Lane
Londonderry, NH 03053

Please send Happy Birthday messages to Wylene Fuller who will be celebrating a milestone birthday on January 14th!

Wylene Fuller
54 No. Bend Drive
Manchester, NH 03104

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, January 9th, 2022. Her sermon is titled, "Called by Name".
- The "Morning Watch Prayers" continue on Facebook every Monday thru Thursday at 9:00 am, led by Rev. Barbara Papagian and Peter Perich.
- 2022 Pledge Envelopes Available in the Narthex: To save on the cost of printing envelopes, we automatically print the envelopes #1—#100. Even if you don't "pledge", there are unused numbers, so envelopes are available to track your contributions. Please see Linda or drop her a note!
- The Stewardship Committee will meet on Monday, January 10th at 6:00 pm. The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, January 11th at 6:00 pm. The Church Trustees will meet on Monday, January 17th at 6:30 pm. *****Please reach out to Committee Chairs to confirm the location of your meeting - in person or by Zoom*****
- The Women's Connection will host a Zoom BINGO game on Thursday, January 13th at 6:30 pm. Email Pam (blanclp@comcast.net) or Denise (beau.de@comcast.net) if you are interested in attending.
- On Sunday, January 16th, Worship Service will be lead by Rev. Carolyn Keilig.

- The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 17th in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. There will not be a Morning Watch broadcast this day.

Future and Ongoing Happenings

- **Inclement Weather and Church Office Hours:** FCC Church policy is that when Manchester schools are closed or open late due to inclement weather, the Church office follows the same schedule. * Please contact Committee chairs to verify meetings. * Worship Service cancellations are posted on WMUR.com.
- **Resilience Reigns at FCC** has been postponed for at least January and February of 2022 due to the rise in Covid-19 numbers. Please stay tuned for the announcement of a new date.
- The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 6th, 2022 with a snow date of Sunday, March 13th. The meeting will begin following Worship Service.
- **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

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25



First Congregational Church 508 Union Street, Manchester, N.H. 03104
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www.FCCManchesterNH.org

Photo: Christmas Poinsettia set up, December 18th, 2021 & Christmas take down, January 5th, 2022