



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, January 21, 2022

Weekly Inspirational Words

The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you.
-Bernadette Devlin-



These pews in the church are empty in this picture, but the Sanctuary is not empty. Yes, it may be empty of people, but look at the picture. What stands out to me are the spots of sunshine throughout the room. Spots of light shining on hymn books and Bibles. Maybe a spot of light is shining on the place that you usually sit on Sunday mornings.

No, the Sanctuary is not empty. God's sunlight is brightening and warming that beautiful space and even though we are not physically there, when we look at this picture our hearts and minds are there. We look forward to the next time we will be worshipping there together.

God is everywhere....even in spaces that look empty. Look for God and you will find Him.

"I love those who love me, and those who seek me, find me ." (Proverbs 8:17)

Rev. Barbara Papagian

An Update from the Church Council on Worship Services at First Congregational Church

Due to the rapidly rising numbers of Covid cases in New Hampshire and the contagiousness of this latest variant, First Church will temporarily have pre-recorded Sunday worship with the expectation of returning to in-person, livestreaming worship on February 27th and then continuing throughout Lent.

For the next few weeks we will broadcast the service Live on [Facebook](#) at 10:00 am, and it will be posted on our [Facebook page](#) as a Vimeo link at 7:00 am each Sunday.

The church office remains open for now, but with some staggered staffing. We do ask that you call ahead to make sure the staff member you need to meet with is in (603-625-5093).



Join us for Trivia With Pip Adams!

This week's Questions

1. What is the fear of snow called?
2. Where is the snowiest place in the United States?
3. What is the average speed at which snowflakes fall from the sky?

Answers from Last Edition. . .

1. What is Connecticut's state insect? . . . [Praying Mantis](#)
2. Does the State of Rhode Island have the longest name of any state? . . . [Yes, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations](#)
3. What is the state flower of Vermont? . . . [Red Clover](#)

Souper Bowl IX is coming!

The Greater Manchester Clergy Association is once again sponsoring a contest to see which Faith Community can collect the most cans of soup (or any other healthy can of food) beginning the weekend of the Super Bowl, February 13th.



Last year we raised almost \$1500; the year before we had 1400 food items. This year we will be doing cans again, but since services will be on-line, **we are asking you to start buying cans of soup and other non-perishable food items and delivering the bounty to the church office anytime during the week of February 13th.**

All Food Banks and Pantries have seen increased need in recent years. All food donated during this Souper Bowl collection will be given to New Horizons. The Outreach Committee thanks the congregation for their past generosity and is confident that we can do even better this year.



HOLLY BERRY FAIR NEWS

Matthew 17:20. - "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you".

We wanted to share our optimism and mustard seed faith with you. The pictures show our latest purchase - two Christmas trees - for the Holly Berry Fair! We are thrilled with them and look forward to more planning. They are stunning in person and the price was right!



Can You Please Help the Meal Train?

This month, the Meal Train is reaching out more to those at home while we as a church step back for a few weeks for everyone's safety. We are looking to restock especially with cookies for our FCC family, UpReach program staff and *Liberty House* occupants. UpReach staff is isolated as we are and would appreciate a "caring" gesture as they wait to restart their programs. *Liberty House* occupants can always use a "caring" hand. For Valentine's Day we hope to deliver FCC's wishes to both of them with special cookie bags. **Can you please help?**

Also, we are looking for small one serving meals, soup, muffins, small breads, coffee cakes, and of course our popular cookies! Items are stored in the freezer downstairs in the church. Please mark what the item is and the date. Containers are available for small meals and soups on the shelves next to the freezer downstairs. Cookies, muffins, etc. can be put in one large freezer bag. We are always grateful for your generous support in FCC's outreach!

Please see the Meal Train's article in the February Window for much more information and a special recipe. We "thank" you in advance. If you know of anyone who could use a little lift, please contact one of us.

WE CARE ABOUT YOU!

Liz Verity (liz-v@comcast.net) and Peggy Neveu (frannys1@aol.com)

Instant Church Directory

A new church directory was something that the Membership Team at FCC has been thinking about for a few years. Bill Jones and Pam LeBlanc decided to take the job on and get it rolling.



They explored ideas and talked with Linda Bonetti and Lauren Henderson about the best way to accomplish this and decided to do it all in-house. This is where you, the congregation, was asked to send in your own selfie or family picture. Once Lauren received the pictures she began making a file.

Then Rev. Carolyn joined in on our Membership meeting and told us about the *Instant Church Directory* that she was very familiar with. We talked more about it and got the information and Lauren took off with it. She learned the program and worked diligently entering all the pictures and everyone's information. We now have our own Instant Church Directory that we all need to thank Lauren for. A GIANT THANK YOU goes out to you Lauren from the Membership Team and the congregation. We all appreciate everything you have done to make this project real. For those of you who don't know, Lauren is now the Directory Administrator.

If you don't have a picture in the new directory yet it is not too late to put one in. You can go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and put in your picture. Then Lauren, our administrator, will get an email to accept it. She is the only person who can do this. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU LAUREN!!!!



Women's Connection will have a Zoom event on Thursday, February 10th at 6:30 pm with a special Valentine's Day theme!

We will be making a very easy craft. Even if you are not crafty you can make this! Kits will be put together and available to pick up in the church office for a small fee.

There are other activities being planned as well. Just email Pam (blanclp@comcast.net) or Denise (beau.de@comcast.net) to let them know you would like to join in on the fun!

Girl Scout Cookies for Sale

The Girl Scout Troops that meet at FCC are once again selling their cookies! Please call the church office (603-625-5093) or email Lauren at LHenderson@fccmanchesternh.org to place your order. Cookies will be available beginning February 12th.

Deadline to order is February 28th.

Cookies cost \$5.00 per box. Please see photo for flavors or [CLICK HERE](#) for a detailed online list.



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please send messages of healing and comfort to Zach Hastings, Fran Hastings' grandson, as he recovers from a recent surgery.

Zachary Hastings

C/O Fran Hastings
6 Alexander Drive
Manchester, NH 03109

Please send prayers for healing to Tarweh ("Mr. T") Williams who is home recovering from recent open heart surgery.

Mr. Tarweh Williams
200 Hanover Street
#302
Manchester, NH 03104



News and Events at First Congregational Church

Announcements by Rev. Barbara Papagian

This Week's Happenings

- Rev. Barbara Papagian will lead Worship on Facebook at 10:00 am this Sunday, January 23rd, 2022. Her sermon is titled, "Happiness and Joy". Justin May will be the Scripture Reader.
- The "Morning Watch Prayers" continue on Facebook every Monday thru Thursday at 9:00 am, led by Rev. Barbara Papagian and Peter Perich.
- The Open and Affirming Committee will meet on Sunday, January 23rd at 4:00 pm on Zoom. The Outreach Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 25th at 6:30 pm on Zoom. The Membership Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 1st at 6:30 pm on Zoom.
- On Sunday, January 30th at 10:00 am, the Worship Service on Facebook will be lead by Rev. Carolyn Keilig. Pip Adams will be the Scripture Reader.
- If you have not yet submitted your Annual Committee Report to Linda, please do so - thank you! Email her at LBonetti@FCCManchesterNH.org.

Future and Ongoing Happenings

- Friday Link Submissions Needed! We are looking for your stories, photos, favorite poems, appropriate jokes, favorite Bible passages, book recommendations, etc.! Please consider contributing to this publication. You can remain anonymous, too, if you'd like. Email submissions to Rev. Barbara at BPapagian@FCCManchesterNH.org.
- Deadline to submit articles for the March Church Window Newsletter will be Friday, February 18th.
- 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.**

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

"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, and to all who call upon Him in truth ." Psalm 145:18



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