



June 2022

CAROLYN'S CORNER

**With Interim Senior Pastor,
Rev. Carolyn Keilig**

"If this isn't rock bottom, it may be a long season."
- Jason Mastrodonato, *Boston Herald*, regarding the Red Sox, on May 3, 2022.

Throughout the month of May, many Red Sox fans (myself included) fervently hoped that the long, slow dive to rock bottom was coming to a close. Sadly, this was not to be. Midway through the month, on May 17, we had to endure a home game versus the Astros when at the top of the second inning Eovaldi gave up 5 homeruns, leading eventually to a 13-4 loss for the Sox. Eovaldi became the third player in Major League Baseball history to allow five homers in an inning. I am no longer envisioning the Red Sox playing in the 2022 World Series; I just want them to win an occasional game. And yet, as I write this reflection, I am feeling hopeful. The Sox have (at least momentarily) a five-game winning streak.

Which leads me to think about hope, as in, when do you give up hope? Of course, I am not really talking about the Red Sox. I will get over feeling annoyed about their current standing in the league and I certainly realize even if they come in dead last at the end of the Season, I will survive and thrive. But I do think watching the ups and downs of a favorite team can be a helpful metaphor in reminding ourselves of how unpredictable life can be and that hope has a place within this unpredictability.

Paul's Letter to the Romans has several passages about hope, including this one found in Romans 8:24b-25: "Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." The passage this is found in has at its foundation our understanding that God has acted in the past through Jesus

Christ and that God will continue to act in our lives and we will be sustained by the Holy Spirit. For me, in a very practical sense, it is a reminder that patience truly is a virtue, whether it is during a pandemic that feels never-ending or any period of our lives when hope seems just beyond our grasp. The importance of remembering that God holds us tight, whether things are going our way (on schedule!) or whether we are in an interminable waiting time for something we are hoping for.

As we enter our summer season, may you find evidence of God's grace in your lives wherever you look and may God's sustaining love and presence carry you through any times of disruption and dismay.

Blessings,
Rev. Carolyn

Worship Schedule

Sunday, June 5th 10:00 AM

Pentecost

Scholarship Sunday

Sacrament of Communion

Sunday, June 12th 10:00 AM

First Sunday after Pentecost

Music Sunday

Sunday, June 19th 10:00 AM

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Father's Day Tools of Hope

Honoring O&A Covenant (Pride Month)

Sunday, June 26th 10:00 AM

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Barbara Papagian Leads Worship

Senior Moments

With Rev. Barbara Papagian

I have new neighbors who just moved into the house in back of me. They have three small children who play outside in their yard on nice days, and on occasion their ball or a toy will find its way into my yard. The first time that happened the mother and her three children rang my doorbell and asked if they could retrieve their ball from my yard. There are a line of fir trees between our yards and instead of going through the trees, they walked around on the sidewalk and came to my front door.

I was very surprised, because when something like that has happened in the past the children would just run through the trees and get their toys. The mother was surprised when I told her it was ok for them to just come get their toys without asking my permission. This kind of politeness and respect surprised us both as there is such a lack of that in today's world.

This incident got me thinking about the word, "neighbor". Of course the Bible says everyone is our neighbor, but when we hear the word, we automatically think of those people who live around us.

When we first moved into this neighborhood I knew all of my neighbors and we all got along well. Our children played together and we would babysit for each other. Then the neighborhood started to change. Many of my neighbors moved and there started to be a lot of crime happening, including drug dealing, shootings, domestic violence and burglaries. There was even a meth lab three houses away from me.

I will do what God says and love my neighbors, but I especially love my neighbors in back of me with the three happy, polite children.

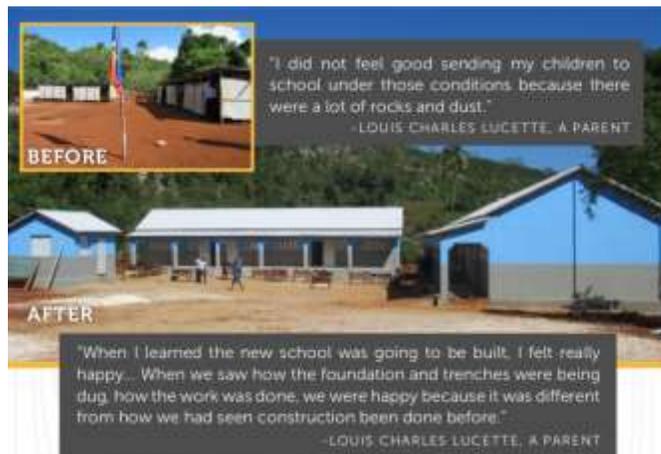


Rev. Barbara Papagian

Father's Day Tools of Hope

Sunday, June 19th, 2022

Contributions to CWS Tools helps Church World Service help people around the world gain resources and develop skills necessary to sustain themselves, their families and communities. The following tells one story:
In the community of Cassavon, Haiti, the public school was one of the buildings badly damaged by Hurricane Matthew in 2016 — a building meant to create a solid educational foundation for a child's future was reduced to tents filled with dust, rocks, and debris. For fear of their safety, some parents removed their children from school. Those who remained learned under tarps used as makeshift classrooms. The school building they had before was not constructed well. When the school was destroyed, they had no hope for reconstruction. Because of your generosity, through the CWS Tools Program, the community of Cassavon received resources to help them dig trenches, lay a solid foundation, build bathrooms, and construct a 13,000-gallon water reservoir for their public school.



The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a Church World Service Tools of Hope Day on Father's Day, June 19th.

Honor your father or special friend with a donation of \$10 or more in his name and receive a gift card to send him on Father's Day. The cards and lists for honor or memorial contributions will be available from Outreach members in the hallway behind the Chancel June 5 and 12th or by calling JoAnn Ward at 603-668-3485. Offering envelopes will be available in the pews for donations of any amount if no card is desired. If your offering envelope donation is in honor of someone living or in memory of someone who has passed who you wish included in the Father's Day bulletin, just print the name and appropriate list on the offering envelope. Checks made payable to FCC-Outreach with CWS Tools on the memo line make record keeping easier.



Friday Link Submissions Needed!

We are looking for your stories, photos, favorite poems, appropriate jokes, favorite Bible passages, book recs., etc.! Please consider contributing to our *Friday Link* online newsletter. You can remain anonymous, too, if you'd like. Email submissions to BPapagian@fccmanchesternh.org.



Tune into the Morning Watch Prayers on Facebook!

Each Monday thru Thursday morning at 9:00 am. Hosted by Rev. Barbara Papagian and Peter Perich. This short time of prayer and reflection can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FCCManchester



The First Congregational Church Picture Online Directory

You are welcome to access the Directory by going to the following website:
<https://www.members.InstantChurchDirectory.com>



Upcoming Committee Meetings

Please contact committee leaders to confirm location of meeting (Zoom or in-person).

- Mon., June 6th 10AM—Sr. Fellowship Board Meeting
- Mon., June 6th 6PM—Deacons’ Board Meeting
- Tues., June 7th 6:30PM—Membership Committee
- Thurs., June 9th 6PM—Sr. Pastor Search Committee
- Mon., June 13th 6PM—Stewardship Committee
- Tues., June 14th 6PM—Church Council Meeting
- Mon., June 20th 6:30PM—Church Trustees’ Meeting
- Weds., June 22nd 5PM—Sr. Pastor Parish Relations
- Weds., June 22nd 6PM—Sr. Pastor Search Committee
- Sun., June 26th 1PM—Open & Affirming Committee



News From Outreach June 2022

THANK YOU

To everyone who donated generously to the Bakersville School with sneakers, sweatshirts and sweatpants!

Seen right: Boxes filled with FCC donations brought over to the children of Bakersville!



If you have a prayer request for Sunday mornings, there are boxes in the narthex and hallway for you to put your requests in. Please submit them by 9:30 am. If you do come in after that you can hand your request to an usher who will get it to me. During the week you are welcome to email your request to me at bpapagian@fccmanchesternh.org. I can take email requests up until 9:00 am on Sunday morning. I am honored to have the privilege of raising your prayers during the service.



The Horton Center

The Horton Center, located in Gorham, New Hampshire, is a NHCUCUCC retreat center and faith-based camp where everyone is invited to “experience Christian community in the natural world”. They offer special camps to school aged children, and also retreat opportunities to adults. Check out their website at www.hortoncenter.org to see all of

the wonderful ways that they support our community.

Photo: *Chapel Rock*, a beautiful place in nature to pray and feel the presence of God.



Memory Garden Spring Clean Up in April!





**Open & Affirming
Committee
News and Reflections
June 2022**

**Join us at the Queen City Pride Festival on
Saturday, June 18th from 12pm - 6pm!**



We have a great time sharing our FCC Spirit with the community and we are looking for a few volunteers to be at our table during the event. The shifts are short so you will have the chance to enjoy the festival before and/or after your shift. The event includes performances, karaoke, dancing, live music, food and drink, and a parade at 10:00 am.

Sign up for a time slot on the church office window!
If you have any questions please reach out to the event coordinators:

Karen Hawver: khawver@gmail.com or
Jeanine Finefrock: cjfinefrock@comcast.net

**Sunday, June 19th is
Father's Day and will
also be an occasion
to observe Pride
Month.**

We are pleased that
FCC's own singer-
songwriter Jeffrey Frye



will perform his song, "Here is a Man," during worship. Jeffrey's beautiful composition expresses his pride, gratitude, and love for his late father, Berton Frye, a man who lived his faith and was a great example of love and support for his family and the LGBT+ community. We hope you'll join us for this special service.

As the date for submitting our June *Window* article approached, the nation and our black brothers and sisters in Buffalo are grappling with the tragic results of another hateful, racist mass shooting. The news coverage included stories of resulting sadness, fear, grief, and anger. Such events prompt us to reflect and ask ourselves,

"As Christians living in these troubled times, who are we called to be? What is our mission? How can we honor God and, in the words of the late John Lewis, demonstrate "love in action" at First Congregational Church?"

In the spirit of hope for racial justice and racial healing, the Open and Affirming Committee will offer avenues to *continue the conversation* about these difficult topics. We pledge to work and act, to listen and learn, think more deeply, and pray for peace. Look for news of upcoming events in *Friday Links*, the *Sunday News*, and *The Church Window*.

Open and Affirming Committee

Elizabeth Blood, Jeanine Finefrock, Jeffrey Frye,
Karen Hawver, John and Kathy Rowe,
and Carol Soucy, Chair

Wesley's Way 5k 2022!

****June 12th—June 26th****

We will be holding our third annual Wesley's Way 5k in June 2022! Like last year, this will be a virtual race.

Registration and further

details can be found here:

<https://runsignup.com/wesleysway5k>

Because the event is virtual again, you'll have the option of completing it at your own pace... *do a little every day until you complete your 5k!*

We hope you can be a part of this event! If your business would like to be a sponsor for Wesley's Way 5k, please visit our sponsor registration page found linked from our main site: <https://www.wesleyswayfoundation.org>



HOLLY BERRY FAIR NEWS FLASH!

October 15th, 2022 has been picked as the date for the Fair!

We decided to schedule it earlier so we would have a better chance of succeeding in presenting it to the public. Over the next few months we will be contacting you if you had signed up before.

Also, Thursday workshops will be starting on June 2nd from 9-12 in the rec room (Note: not the dining room). These will be held every Thursday through June for now. We would like to invite everyone to participate in them. The more hands, the more fun and lighter the load. Last year's participants will tell you of the camaraderie and laughter as we painted and glued! No specific craft skills needed. Come every time or whenever you can!

See you in June! Pam and Peggy



UpReach Volunteer Opportunity in June!

If you would like to help by providing and serving family dinner to kids and their families on Wednesday, June 15th at 5pm, please contact Liz or Peggy (info below).

UpReach Therapeutic Riding Center in Goffstown runs an after school program called *Resilience Reins* for kids "considered at risk" and their families. We usually provide 1 Salad, 2 main dishes, 2 desserts (bars, cookies or cupcakes) and waters or healthy drinks.



The goal of the *Resilience Reins* is to equip children with the skills necessary to cope with their changing and challenging family dynamics. At the end of each weekly session, both children and families come together to reconnect over a family dinner. Family dinners provide an opportunity to strengthen ties and build better relationships. They build a sense of belonging which leads to better self-esteem.

To volunteer or to ask your questions, please contact Liz Verity (liz-v@comcast.net or by phone @ 603-623-7461, cell 603-494-6785) or Peggy Neveu (frannys1@aol.com or by phone @ 603-483-8388). Seeing these children benefit from this program is very uplifting; and if you can help, you will know you made a difference.



FCC UpReach Volunteers on Wednesday, May 18th, 2022!



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!
To all those who participated in the May 18th *Resilience Reigns* volunteer evening!

We thank Kathy Nelson, Liz Verity, Ross & Marion Palmes, Linda Bonetti, Peggy Neveu & Joan Currier (our cookie ladies), all of the wonderful cookie bakers (you know who you are!), and to Bill Jones - our constant connection to UpReach and the *Resilience Reigns* program.

Seen left: FCC cookies provided to the *Resilience Reigns* Families on 5/18



Women's Connection News & Events June 2022



Women's Connection Pottery Painting Event! From Thursday, May 5th

Six ladies gathered at the "You're Fired" paint-your-own pottery studio in Bedford on the evening of May 5th. They enjoyed good conversation and yummy pizza while they painted their pieces - see the photo of their finished work!

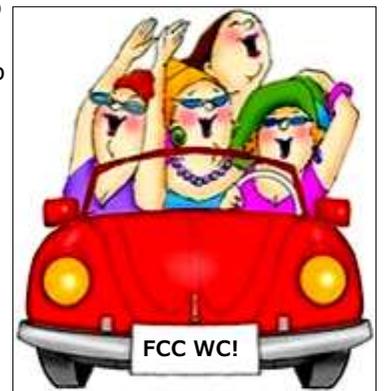
Remember to save Saturday, June 11th for our Tenth Annual Mystery Ride!

If you have never been on one of our Mystery Rides before, you should plan on a full day event. We usually leave the church parking lot about 9 am and return around 3 pm... *it all depends on where the mystery brings us...*

There is a sign up sheet on the Church office Window, or you can email Pam (blanclp@comcast.net) or Denise (beau.de@comcast.net) to be added to the list. When signing up please mark the column marked "driver" if you plan on driving, along with how many ladies can be in your car, and indicate who you might already have going with you. If you are a rider, please indicate who you are planning on riding with. If you don't know who to ride with when signing up, we will figure it all out once everyone has signed the list.

Last day to sign up is Sunday, May 29th.

Once the time gets closer you will receive an email with more information about the day!



The Women's Connection Mission Statement:

The Women's Connection offers opportunities for the women and friends of First Congregational Church to experience social time together, to build connections, and to strengthen friendships. We seek to encourage and support one another as we journey through life together at every season of our lives. All adult women are welcome to join us for whatever event interests them. Our activities are varied and have included outings, crafts, spiritual reflections, hiking and volunteering in the local community... something for everyone.



June 12th is Music Sunday!

For our Sunday service on June 12, we will showcase our talented FCC musicians with song and praise. This year's "Music Sunday" will be the highlight of the season that will not disappoint.

Come and hear the Chancel Choir, the Sabbath Bells, and our special musical guests, New England Brass. Be sure to invite a friend or neighbor to this uplifting worship experience as we celebrate the wonderful gift of music.

The deadline for the July/August Church Window Newsletter is Friday, June 17th!

Please submit your articles & pictures to
Lauren in the Church Office:
LHenderson@FCCManchesterNH.org



FCC at the *Walk Against Hunger* Event Sunday, May 15th, 2022



HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY STOCKED

Items we need regularly:

- boxed milk
- peanut butter
- dry pasta
- pasta sauce
- canned pasta
- canned vegetables
- soup
- cereal bars
- Hormel Meals
- cereal
- pudding cups
- fruit cups/canned fruit
- mac & cheese
- crackers
- canned meats: tuna ham, or chicken
- breakfast bars
- juice boxes
- canned baked beans



Update from the Senior Pastor Search Committee

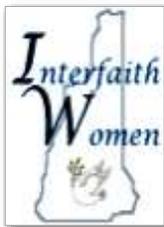


The search committee continues to diligently put its efforts towards finding our new senior pastor. At this phase, we continue to decide on the best approach of introducing our church to candidates via the Local Church Profile. There has been great discussion of how we explain the challenges and opportunities of our community and congregation.

We continue to meet biweekly, bringing our best efforts and attitudes together, and are forever keeping our congregations' desires at the forefront of our decisions.

As we have stated in the past, we welcome any and all feedback from the congregation, and hope that everyone feels comfortable reaching out to a member of the committee to discuss their views.

Thank you for your continued thoughts and prayers.



Interfaith Women of New Hampshire's *AN EVENING OF JOYOUS CELEBRATION* From May 11th, 2022

Celebrating joy, our spring event was held via Zoom on Wednesday, May 11th, 2022. The evening provided poetry and music from Muslim, Christian and Jewish traditions, celebrating the joy of being people of faith together.

A message of joy, Feride Saribas presented the Islamic poem, "I haven't come here (world) to settle down" by Turkish poet and Sufi mystic, Yunus Emre, in original language with English subtitles opened our program.

A musical offering from the Christian tradition was shared by Adam Peithmann, Director of Music Ministry at First Congregational Church of Manchester, together with the adult choir's presentation of a Gospel choral song as a virtual anthem.

The Jewish presentation completed our program with a Simcha (Joy) circle led by Cantor Sarra Spierer of Congregation Beth Elohim, Acton, MA.

Many of the evenings attendees took part in small group discussions facilitated by the IWNH Leadership Team to share the joys they have experienced over the last two years as the pandemic changed our normal routines.

The IWNH Leadership Team is grateful to all the presenters and to Ali Athar who provided Tech Support.

Our Mission: To share religious beliefs, cultures, and traditions among women of diverse faiths in order to develop understanding and friendship among us and within our community.

THIS MONTH AT FCC

ACTIVITIES, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE REFER TO THE PRINTED CALENDARS BY THE OFFICE OR GO TO WWW.FCCMANCHESTERNH.ORG

JUNE

Wednesday, June 1st

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, June 2nd

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
9:00 AM Holly Berry Fair Craft Workshop

Friday, June 3rd

No Church Activities Scheduled

Saturday, June 4th

No Church Activities Scheduled

Sunday, June 5th—Pentecost Sunday

10:00 AM Worship Service, Scholarship Awards & Communion
11:30 AM Private Piano Recital in Chapel

Monday, June 6th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
10:00 AM Senior Fellowship Board Meeting
6:00 PM Deacons' Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 7th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
10:00 AM Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 8th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
7:00 PM Sabbath Bells

Thursday, June 9th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
9:00 AM Holly Berry Fair Craft Workshop
6:00 PM Sr. Pastor Search Committee Meeting

Friday, June 10th

No Church Activities Scheduled

Saturday, June 11th

9:00 AM Women's Connection Annual Mystery Ride

Sunday, June 12th—Music Sunday

10:00 AM Worship Service

Monday, June 13th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 14th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
10:00 AM Staff Meeting
6:00 PM Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 15th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
5:00 PM UpReach Volunteer Night

Thursday, June 16th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
9:00 AM Holly Berry Fair Craft Workshop

Friday, June 17th

No Church Activities Scheduled

Saturday, June 18th

10:00 AM Queen City Pride Festival

Sunday, June 19th—Father's Day Tools Sunday

10:00 AM Worship Service

Monday, June 20th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
6:30 PM Church Trustees' Meeting

Tuesday, June 21st

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
10:00 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, June 22nd

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
5:00 PM Sr. Pastor Parish Relations Meeting
6:00 PM Sr. Pastor Search Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 23rd

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
9:00 AM Holly Berry Fair Craft Workshop

Friday, June 24th

No Church Activities Scheduled

Saturday, June 25th

No Church Activities Scheduled

Sunday, June 26th

10:00 AM Worship Service
1:00 PM Open & Affirming Meeting

Monday, June 27th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook

Tuesday, June 28th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
10:00 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, June 29th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook

Thursday, June 30th

9:00 AM "Morning Watch Prayers" on Facebook
9:00 AM Holly Berry Fair Craft Workshop



New Member Joining Sunday! May 22nd, 2022



**Welcome Justin May
& Rev. Randy VanDeventer!**



First Congregational Church
508 Union Street
Manchester, NH 03104-4890

Non-Profit Organ.
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*Time Dated Material -
Please Deliver Immediately!*

Rev. Carolyn Keilig
Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Barbara Papagian
Associate Pastor

The June 2022 Church Window

Our monthly newsletter
(603) 625-5093 (with voice mail)
(603) 622-1511
www.fccmanchesternh.org



**Sunday
Worship**
10:00 AM

Livestreaming Worship

Access our Services on
Sundays at 10am by going to
[www.Facebook.com/
FCCManchester](https://www.facebook.com/FCCManchester)
Also now on Youtube!
Go to [www.Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
and search for "First
Congregational Church,
Manchester, NH"

The Church Office is open M—F from
9AM to 3PM. If you are planning to
stop by please give us a call to be sure
we are here to welcome you.
The office number is 603-625-5093.
Please note that we close the office
on major holidays.

Summer Altar Flowers!

The Altar Design Team would like to extend the
invitation to anyone who would care to place a flower
arrangement on the altar this summer. The dates are on
the sign up sheet on the church office window. Just
write your name on your special date and when the
week comes up you will receive an email to remind you.
The arrangement can be flowers from your garden,
from the grocery store, from a florist or even potted
plants. If a florist is used, check with Lauren in the office
and she can set it up!



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