

STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



REVEREND LARRY BRICKNER-WOOD, INTERIM MINISTER

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS

REVEREND MARY A. JAMES, PASTOR EMERITA

MAY 2024

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The Pastor's Page

A Ship of Stewards

Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood

June 2, 2024 is the FCCW Stewardship Sunday. This is a celebration of the pledges received for the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2024). Pledges, also known as covenants, stewardship contributions, donations and aspirational promises, are the primary way that FCCW accomplishes its mission as a community of faith. It is a form of giving, and giving back.

Stewardship is a way of returning to God what has been gifted to us. As it is said in Luke 12:48, to whom much is given, much is expected. Contributing, in time, talent and treasure enhances the work of our church and the work of Christ's church in the community and world. It is a way of being in partnership with God, as affirmed in the passage from 1 Corinthians: We are God's co-workers...God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. — 1 Corinthians 3: 9-11.

In this partnership we are connecting to the rich heritage of our past, the reality of our present and the promise of our future. As the Wakefield community celebrates its 250th anniversary this year, FCCW celebrates its over 235 years of being in this community, teaching, preaching, serving, providing, harboring, holding and witnessing. As the Wakefield community has grown, evolved and changed, FCCW has done the same, moving adeptly through the years, honoring our past, celebrating our present and dreaming God's dream for the future. FCCW has and is the community church, moving beyond the physical walls to work towards a community and world where there are no walls between us.

Earth Day in April is a reminder to be good stewards of creation, to be in right relationship to the earth, and celebrate our interconnectedness in this beautiful web of life. As we begin our Stewardship focus campaign, we are reminded of our call to be good stewards of the communities that grew from the first Christian churches founded by the apostle Paul and others. We renew our covenant with God and with each other to be shining lights of Jesus' ministry into the world. We commit to being God's head, heart and hands in the physical world of today, loving God, loving neighbor and loving ourselves.

We do this in so many ways: Prayerful celebrating each week our presence as a community of spirit and faith; praying for the healing of people, places and situations here and around the world; directly serving our community on issues such as hunger and food insecurity; witnessing to a just and loving world, through our Open and Affirming ministry, our work on peace, racial, economic, educational and environmental justice, our work with beloved partners in Zimbabwe and elsewhere to share our spirit and support; and by holding space as people of faith, serving those in need, being a refuge for those in distress and great suffering, and caring for each other, no matter where we may be on life's journey.

FCCW is a wonderful community and will be so for many years to come. We may look and be different than we are today, as we are different than our church forebearers. But with our faithful stewardship, we will be here, continuing to shine a light of love greater than any other the world has ever known. Thank you for your loving stewardship of our community.

May 15—Focus Group for Young Adults & Teens

We have a date! The Young Adult / Teen Focus Group session will be on May 15 at 6pm. Pizza provided! I hope you can join us at my house at 104 Clark Rd, Brookfield, NH. We will be meeting in a neutral, safe space for open conversation on your thoughts on church, our purpose, and growth. We'll explore your hopes, dreams, and concerns about FCCW and how we can be more inclusive, inviting, and essential in the here and now, and into the future. What do you like about church? What can we all do better? What is your vision? Your insight is so valuable for not just our present but also our future. We (Chris, Rev. Larry, Donna, Max) hope to see you on the 15th! Contact info— cfeddern1@gmail.com, 603-973-6178

Chris Feddern

Pride Day!

This year's Wakefield Pride Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th. There will be two booths, one for the church with a cookie walk and music camp information, and the other will be managed by the Parish Helpers and their quilt and rug raffles. At 10:00 the Bed Races will be held with the "FCCW Flyers" competing for first place. As always, we will represent the FCCW in the parade. We need folks to join in the fun and we would like for you to wear your yellow "Got Church" t-shirts, help carry banners, flags, and what-nots, or make a joyful noise with Boom Wackers. Please let me know if you can help with booth set-up, clean-up, cookie walk, or participate in the parade. I will have a work schedule so folks can help and also enjoy the day. Pray for great weather.

Donna V Ackerman

Search and Call Update

This is an update from the Search and Call team to bring the members good news. The Committee is now in the process of interviewing the candidates that have applied for the position of Full Time pastor at FCCW. We will release more information when we can. Please keep the Team in your prayers as we are doing our best to find the right settled Pastor. Peace.

Buddy Dee

Chair Yoga to Resume in May

Lindsey Kipp of Sunflower Studio in Shapleigh, Maine will start up the weekly chair yoga classes on Thursday mornings at 10:30 starting on May 23. The sessions are \$10 per session and are held in the Fellowship Hall. You can get further information from Lindsey at 603-455-3208 or email sunflowerstudioyoga@gmail.com.

Parish Helpers News

Our Annual meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9, at the Knotty Pine Restaurant at 12 noon. Parish Helpers love "doing lunch". It's a great time to socialize and catch up with each other.

The summer season of the **Treasure Shop will begin on Memorial Day weekend**. We are trying something new this summer! In keeping with the upcoming festivities of Wakefield's 250th Birthday this summer, the Treasure Shop will be open on Friday afternoons as well as on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. The Wakefield Library will also be open and we hope it will bring more people into the village! **Carole D and Rachel will be looking for you to sign up** and help out at the shop on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays all summer long. If we all chip in and take part, we can make this summer our best yet!

We are also looking for ladies to help promote the ticket sales for our 2024 raffle items. We have another of Catherine Britton's beautiful hand-braided rugs this year and also a queen size quilt made by Susan Raban, Jill Mullen, Laura Parsons, Sharon Theiling, and Carol Jeffery. Last year's profit was over \$1,000. Let's see if we surpass that this year! **We would love to have someone step up and coordinate the ticket sales.**

The Parish Helpers offer a \$1,000 scholarship for high school seniors or graduates entering their second semester of post secondary education. Students who are congregants/ participants of FCCW, children of a Parish Helper, and grandchildren of a Parish Helper who live in Wakefield area are eligible to apply. Please contact the church office for applications.

Carol Jeffery

Many Thanks

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far to my White Lake 24-hour run for Zimbabwe humanitarian relief! With your generosity, I am now just over half-way to my goal of raising \$2,500! The race starts Saturday, May 4th and runs to 7 am on Sunday, May 5th. All support of any kind is welcome, so feel free to stop over - anytime- to the beautiful beach and support either myself or Ryan, who will have a support tent staged. Anti-rain dances are also encouraged. THANK YOU!

Mjo McCarthy

Ed. Note: Donations can be made by check made out to FCCW with Mjo Zim Run in subject line. You can donate online at www.fccwakefieldnh.org. Look for the Donate Button and scroll down on menu to Zimbabwe Mission and put "Mjo Zim Run" in the comment field. There is also a link on the church FB page. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/donate/410457221717119/835101458655480/>

Hazel MacBrien NS News

April has been a crazy weather month. The kids had a snow day but we are now seeing some beautiful daffodils greeting us as we walk up our path to our classroom door :)

The first week of April we worked on letter Uu and did some fun activities with raindrops and umbrellas. The afternoon fours class worked on rhyming families, scissor cutting practice and explored with shaving cream. The morning threes class colored a rain cloud and then glued raindrops to their paper. We worked on numbers and they counted how many raindrops they had under their cloud. They also have been doing activities with shapes. We sorted them by color and did some gross motor play by crawling through our caterpillar tunnel and naming the shape they found at the end of the tunnel. Both classes made butterflies for our bulletin board to help us flutter into April!

During the second week we worked on letter Ff. The fours class talked about compound words, did a count how many bees were on flowers write the room activity and went outside to use rulers to measure how much snow was outside!! The threes continued working on shapes by matching flower shapes and we tossed a foam butterfly onto a flower that had a number on it and they had to jump that many times. We also used unifix cubes to make flower towers and traced lines with mini erasers. During this week we had kinetic sand and silk flowers in our sensory table and we made flowers to put up on our bulletin board.

For the third week we introduced letter Nn and used noodles in our activities. The fours used different kinds of noodles to make patterns and glued them onto a piece of construction paper to make art and then painted the noodles. The threes laced, painted and sorted with different kinds of noodle pasta. We asked the 3's how do you cook noodles? They said you put the noodles in the oven to cook and then add sauce ! We worked on numbers by playing feed the noodle monster a certain number of noodles. Both classes played with playdough, straws and noodles to create some unique projects. We had noodles, feathers, eggs and chicks in our sensory table this week.

Our school had the fourth week of April off and we will be back at school on Monday, April 29th. We're ready for some warmer weather, the leaves to start popping out on the trees and more flowers to enjoy!

Food Pantry Collection

The May collection for the Wakefield Food Pantry is concentrating on Boxed Cold Cereals, Shelf-stable Milk; Canned Meats (i.e. chicken, ham, Spam, and tuna; Packaged Meals (i.e. Hamburger Helper, Mac and Cheese. Thank you for your continued support of the WFP.

Grief Support Webinar

Patti Schmook, who leads the Grief Support Group at our church, will present a live webinar on June 25 at 2:00 p.m. EST for the Three Principles Global Community (www.3pgc.org) titled, Resilience After Suicide Loss. This webinar is open to everyone who registers and the recording will be uploaded to the 3PGC YouTube channel. If you are interested in attending, go to is the registration link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212703?pwd=ZlZwceupj0Qh9EHcQPXywkHsmx4N7kIX0tA>

Safe Church

American Heartsaver First Aid/ CPR and AED training will be held on June 1 beginning at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Two sessions are offered. Upon completion of this course, students receive an American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR/AED e-card via email. E-cards are valid for two years and will be issued 2-4 business days after course completion. Please contact Andrea in the church office to sign up. Payment can be made at the class. Checks should be made out to Heather Powers. See details on Page 6.

Men's Fellowship Sponsored Basketball Team



The Mens' Fellowship sponsored a basketball team this year. The team was a 4th and 5th grade Parks and Rec team. There was amazing coaching with great skill development throughout the season. They were appreciative of our support!

Stewardship in Action, Called by God to do God's Work

Stewardship of self, of others, of the earth we live on, the community we live in, and that which has been entrusted to us to responsibly manage and care for. Our acts of Stewardship, small or large, are demonstrated daily and will forever continue, I pray.

The Open-Mic Potluck held in April and sponsored by Finance, Endowment, and Stewardship was a fun example of caring for each other and giving of oneself. Many folks offered their talents of singing, playing instruments, telling jokes, skits, doing readings, even miming! Of course, there was food aplenty as well. Thank you to everyone for your participation and if you weren't able to join us, no worries! I'm sure we'll have opportunities to all get together again in the future.

By the time you read this article in Steeple Views, you may be in receipt of your Stewardship Pledge brochure. This is yet another opportunity for all of us to lovingly ensure the future of our church. Your pledge of financial support, no matter whether it's weekly or monthly, small or large, will help ensure that our many ministries continue. If you haven't received your brochure, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or the church office directly. There will be a dedication and blessing of our pledges on Sunday, June 2.

Humbly,

Chris Feddern, Stewardship Ministry
fccwuccstewardship@gmail.com

Author Highlight

Adam Hamilton is senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, one of the fastest growing, most highly visible churches in the country. He also preached at the National Prayer Service as part of the presidential inauguration festivities in 2013.

Our library has two of his books:
"Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go" (J-G)
"Making Sense of God's Will" (R-T) Source: Amazon

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

FUNdraising Activities

PRIDE DAY COOKIE WALK

Once again, we will have our FAMOUS cookie walk during the Pride Day festivities. Homemade Cookies, of all flavors and varieties, are requested. You can drop them off at church on Friday, May 17th or at our booth on Saturday, usually right in front of the Library, as long as you can get there by 9 am (or so). PLEASE write the name of the cookie and "nuts" or "no nuts" on a label. Shirt boxes work well, or if you have a plastic container, please label it so you will get it back. Cookies freeze really well, so we can start baking NOW!

SAVERS

The next Savers run is scheduled for June 10. We are looking for soft goods and books. Please put your soft goods in kitchen bags, if at all possible. The big trash bags are just too heavy (and we're old!) Books can go in boxes. Collection times will be the 3 weekends prior—May 25, 26; June 1,2; June 8,9. Saturdays 10-12; Sundays 11-12. We will also be looking for a few drivers with larger vehicles to make the run to Newington on June 10. Good excuse to go out to lunch or get some shopping done!

Nancy Dee

May Events

May 5, Communion, Belonging; Psalm 98; John 15:9-17, flower shirt service, conversations on racial justice. We invite all to wear a flowered, colorful or festive shirt or item of clothing to church. In this Eastertide season, let's help light up the world with our joy!

On May 8, 5:00 p.m., Springing into Joy in the Fellowship Hall. We will have our next Drum Circle, an hour of making sounds and music together, conversation in voice and instruments, and welcoming the joy of spring into our lives. All are welcome to join us—no musical experience necessary! Contact Pastor Larry with question or for more info, pastor@fccwakefieldnh.org and 603-522-3189.

May 12—Horton Center-ed service. We welcome our friends and partners from Horton Ctr. to lead our service

May 19—Pentecost Sunday—Strengthen the Church offering; Psalm 104 or Psalm 23; Acts 2:1-21; John 17:6-19; Engaged in the World. We celebrate the Strengthen the Church offering and celebrate Pentecost by wearing red in some form or fashion!

May 26—Trinity Sunday, Memorial Day Sunday; Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; John 3:1-17

June 2—Stewardship Sunday; Communion Sunday; Psalm 139 or 81; Mark 2: 23-3:6

News of Zimbabwe

Mjo McCarthy, our human dynamo, is prepping for her 24 hour endurance event at White Lake State Park in Tamworth May 4th/5th. She is using this run to raise funds to benefit both PKZ medical and food security projects in Zimbabwe. Most of us can't stay awake for 24 hours never mind complete many, many three mile loops of trail running. Mjo's goal is 100 kilometers or 21 loops for 63 miles! I am in awe of Mjo's motivation, discipline and perseverance.



An image of food insecurity in Zimbabwe. Country wide devastation of crops is contributing to famine and increased risk of disease

Zimbabweans seem to be chronically suffering under oppressive political policies impacting health, education, and the ability to earn a living. Noticeable differences in climate have impacted their ability to access water and cultivate crops. People are starving. Many eat one meal a day or eat every other day. Mjo's big heart for the people of Zimbabwe will make a significant difference. Thank you to all who have donated or who plan to donate to this amazing event. (*Ed. Note: See how to donate on P. 2.*) We can also cheer on Mjo with words or signs of encouragement on event day.

Painting, both interior and exterior, is underway as the renovation of the Humani Clinic continues. I can't wait to share photos when that milestone is achieved!

Looking ahead, a Z Team pancake breakfast is in the works for Saturday, June 15th, the day before Father's Day. You know the drill... lots of yummy pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and hot beverages will be available at a cost of \$9 for adults and \$6 for school age kids. Treat the men in your life and by doing so help us support the next humanitarian shipping container to Zimbabwe!

Friends, you are a blessing to the people of Zimbabwe and to me!

Connie Littlefield

Calling and Discernment

Joe Palmariello and I had the opportunity to attend the Carroll Strafford Association Meeting at the Lee Congregational Church on April 21 with Rev. Larry. These meetings are an opportunity to hear what is going on among the churches in our association. The big new this time around was that there are three members in discernment, that is, three people who are on the journey to see if ministry is their call. We know there is a shortage of pastors so this is good news indeed. Following the meeting was a joyful installation of Rev. Catherine Alard, the new pastor of the Lee Church.

FCCW has an opportunity to send four or more representatives to the NH Conference Annual Meeting in October. Usually this state wide conference is held in Concord. This year the event will be held at the beautiful Geneva Point Center in Moultonborough. Geneva Point has 200 acres of forest trails for hiking and almost a mile of shore line on Lake Winnepesaukee which should be lovely in October. Meeting fees are covered by our church budget. Speak to Margie Galabrun, Jan Brejwo or me if this sounds like something you would like to learn more about.

Closer to home, C & D is always looking to encourage friends and members to share their gifts and talents on one of our many ministries or to create a new outlet! If you are interested in new ways to get involved in the life of FCCW, please let Margie, Jan, or me know. We promise it isn't a lifetime commitment. Your participation in the life of the church makes us all stronger!

Connie Littlefield

Horton Center

Please see below updates regarding the Horton Center.

1. The Men's Fellowship has donated \$1000 toward our local youth camper registration at the Horton Center again this year. That sum will be divided up equally between all our campers that sign up before July.
2. The Horton Center opening work weekend is scheduled for May 17-19. If you are interested, go to the Horton Center home page for the details and to sign up.
3. They will be offering the Wilderness First Aid course at the Horton Center. This link will give all the information to interested folks:
<https://www.hortoncenter.org/wfa>
4. Tivi Pare, the executive camp director of the Horton Center will join us here at FCCW for our May 12 service.

George Ackerman

Celebrations!

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

We believe that prayer is powerful! During this time of transition in our church, let us pray for the Diaconate, the Search Committee, the Officers, Ministry Coordinators, and Leadership Council for their thoughtful deliberations in guiding our church onward.

And as always, please keep in your prayers all those who suffer in any way in mind, body and spirit,

We ask also your prayers for peace in our world, for the health and integrity of our democracy, and for the flourishing of the work of our community of faith.



Please pray for: Titia and her family; Connie L; Connie's sister-in-law Sarah; Marie and Jack H; Bob L; Dave and Charlotte L; Sue L; Arlene L; Cindy E; Michael T; Chrissy B

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 Sarah Connell | 17 Bridgette Gehring |
| 7 Dalton Ostrye | 18 Lance MacLean |
| 10 Sophia Moran | 19 Cindy Eggleston |
| 11 Sharon Baldwin | 23 Marc Galabrun |
| 11 Wayne Robinson | 28 Luke Evenson |
| 13 Nicholas Gatchell | 29 Scott Twombly |
| 14 Elizabeth Fogg | 31 Brittany Frothingham |
| 14 Scott Frothingham | |
| 17 George Ackerman Jr. | |


MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 3 Barry & Evelyn Truhn |
| 13 Charlie & Ann Bilodeau |
| 24 Chip & Karen Hagy |
| 29 Rob & Kelly Druge |
| 30 Richard & Linda Messer |
| 31 Dick & Harriet Wilson |

FCCW Prayer Chain: Through emails and text messages, we are able to increase our prayer power for "immediate intercessory prayer" for the concerns of our congregation and friends. If you have a prayer request, please email Harriet Wilson (dhwilson39@gmail.com) All prayer requests are kept strictly confidential and will only be shared with the express permission of the people involved.

Heartsaver First Aid CPR & AED Courses

Saturday, June 1st
First Aid/CPR/AED from 9:00-1:00
or CPR/AED from 1:30-3:00
First Congregational Church
2718 Wakefield Road, Wakefield, NH



Instructor: Heather Powers, former EMT and certified First Aid, CPR & AED instructor 10+ years!

Attendees: For anyone 10+, with limited or no medical training in CPR and AED operation.

Course Content: Instruction on Adult, Child and Infant First Aid, Choking, CPR and AED use (depending on course taken).

Course Format: Hands on training with instructor and devices, plus video with skills conducted throughout.

Course Fees: AM First Aid/CPR/AED Course \$55 pp or PM CPR/AED Course \$45 pp. Checks will be accepted at class.

Certification: Upon completion of this course, students receive an American Heart Association HeartSaver First Aid and CPR/AED e-Card, valid for 2 years.

****SPACE IS LIMITED****

Please call the First Congregational Church of Wakefield at 603-522-3189 by May 28th to reserve your spot!

MAY 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | 1 Scrabble Group 1–3 p.m. Diaconate Meeting | 2 | 3 | 4 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. White Mountain Lake 24-hour Endurance Run |
| 5 6th Sunday of Easter Worship and Communion—10 a.m. Coffee Hour | 6 Caregiver Self-Care Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m. Choir 5:30 | 7 Faith Formation 12 Noon | 8 Drum Circle 5 p.m. | 9 Parish Helpers Annual Meeting and Luncheon Knotty Pine Restaurant 12 Noon | 10 | 11 |
| 12 7th Sunday of Easter MOTHER'S DAY Worship—10 a.m. Horton Center Service Coffee Hour | 13 Choir 5:30 | 14 Faith Formation 12 Noon Ukulele Club 6–7:30 p.m. | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. PRIDE DAY |
| 19 PENTECOST SUNDAY Worship—10 a.m. Coffee Hour | 20 Caregiver Self-Care Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m. Choir 5:30 | 21 Prayer Shawl Ministry—10 a.m. Faith Formation 12 Noon | 22 | 23 Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall | 24 | 25 Treasure Shop Open 9 a.m.—12 noon SAVERS COLLECTION |
| 26 TRINITY SUNDAY Worship—10 a.m. Coffee Hour SAVERS COLLECTION | 27 MEMORIAL DAY Choir 5:30 | 28 Faith Formation 12 Noon Ukulele Club 6–7:30 p.m. | 29 Treasure Shop Open 9 a.m.—12 noon | 30 Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall | 31 Treasure Shop Open 1 p.m. –5 p.m. | June 1 Heartsaver CPR Course 9 a.m. Treasure Shop Open 9 a.m.—12 noon |



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