

April  
2018



## Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

walpolechurch@yahoo.com

www.walpolenhucc.org

### From Pastor Christine's Corner

**HAPPY EASTER!** The season of Easter has begun and will end on May 20 which is PENTECOST, the birthday of the church. We will continue to celebrate by engaging in ministry that benefits our community.

April also ushers in signs of spring with warmer temperatures and outside activities. Church work will keep us very active and involved for the month.

The **Rummage Sale** is an important and time consuming effort to raise funds and build community lead by the **Mission and Action** Committee. We welcome dozens of people into our building and depend on many to make this event a success. The **Nominating Committee** has been active in their recruiting efforts as we seek new leadership in our church.

Each Sunday we will continue to learn from participants who attended PREPARED TO SERVE event. The **Finance** Committee will continue to build the budget for 2018-19. The **Stewardship** enlistment campaign will begin with special stewards sharing their story of faith each Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stewardship is a whole person concept. Yes, we do depend on friends and members who demonstrate their faith in God by offering financial support. More important are the people who attend worship when they are able and contribute to the many activities we support in our community.

Note that you will have an opportunity to gather and study the basics of faith with different friends and members who gather on Sundays or Wednesday. There is a separate notice about the classes we will offer during April.

Our interim journey continues into its 17<sup>th</sup> month now. That span is a brief one in time and we have accomplished a great deal together. I am pleased that the **Pastor Parish Relations** Committee continues to operate in new and constructive ways. Communication, especially with an updated web site, is stronger now. All the members of our church staff have new opportunities for assessment and goal setting through the efforts of the **Executive Committee of the Council**. Committees, including the Search Committee, are encouraged to focus their efforts as we move closer to the end of our fiscal year and the **ANNUAL meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>**. Committee goals and staff goals need to always be coordinated as we build teams of active and engaged participants.

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. “  
Romans 12:1-2

I am looking forward to seeing you in worship during the season of Easter. Pastor Christine



Happy Easter. April 1 is Easter Sunday this year, a time of resurrection and a time of celebration. It is an exciting time for our church as we go forward in faith into spring. I pray that our faith continues to be expressed in our support for the UCC, our church, our Covenant and all people.

We lost two long time active members of our congregation in March, Joan Swett and Stanley Byczkowski. We mourn their passing but we celebrate their stewardship to our church. What a wonderful turnout in support of Joan and Stanley by us, their church. Thank you to everyone who helped with all the aspects of the services and celebrations, especially to Pastor Christine, Pat, Chris, and Bonnie. We did well.

The Jesus Fatwah program in February generated an average of thirty attendees weekly for the five week program. Important discussions followed each section. Thank you to the Mission and Action committee for sponsoring it. This month Pastor Christine will offer Bible Study at 11:30 on Sundays and 12 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning April 15. And in May she will offer the opportunity to explore The Parables of Jesus. It is exciting to see the continuing education programs offered by our church. Please join us.

We have so much to celebrate. This month in the Clarion I listed some of the many organizations we reach out to with either money or material goods or both. I will add to that list each quarter so we and the community can see that we are a giving church. We know we have financial challenges with a low pledge commitment and surprise facilities issues but as people of faith we cannot despair because God is always with us. God is great!

Peace, Chuck

## **PASTORAL SEARCH SUGGESTION TIMELINE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

### **November 2016 - January 2017**

Pastor Christine arrives, time to get acquainted, Congregational Covenant work begins

### **February 2017**

Council begins process for selecting the Search Committee, Congregational covenant is presented to Council, Schedule meeting with NH Conference Minister, the Rev. Gary Schulte

### **March – May 2017**

NHCUCC visit on March 26, Committee installed on April 2, Cottage Meetings take place, Committee completes Church Profile, Council approves local church profile, pastoral vacancy is listed nationally

### **June-September**

Receive profiles from NHCUCC, prepare for checking references, phone and on-site interviews

### **October – August 2018**

Interviews, Neutral Pulpits, Search Committee selects candidate following negotiation, Week-end scheduled to meet the Candidate and Congregational Vote on the recommended candidate

### **September - December 2018**

Rev. Boardman resigns giving a 30-day notice, Farewell to Interim and a new Pastor arrives and is welcomed



by Paul Looney

Trustee Projects for the next few months include:

- New sidewalk and handicapped ramp.
  - Outstanding is grass to sprout and some concrete to be smoothed over. We will continue to work with the contractor.
- Painting project for the parsonage.
  - We are working with the finance committee and the church council to acquire funding.
- Painting/Papering of the ladies room.
  - We had some delays (me) on the shelf. Hopefully it will happen in April.
- Bathroom downstairs.
  - Still hounding for a quote.
- Tile in some of the rooms in the basement.
  - We have funding to move forward with this project focused on all of the tiles in the basement that need to be replaced.
- We have funding to fix the entry to eliminate the water damage.
  - We have one more quote to come in and once that is in we will schedule the work.
- We approved a budget for 2018-2019 and will work through the budget process.
- The covenant was framed and we will hang it in the appropriate place tbd.
- The Oriental rug in the entry/Lower Narthex was cleaned.
- Clocks were changed.
- We have a planned spring cleanup date of April 28 at 9:00.
  - We will be working on a signup sheet.
- The window sill on one of the south fellowship hall windows rotted and we had a temporary fix to make it presentable and will fix it completely in the spring.

My contact information: phone number 603-318-8917, [looney@msagroup.com](mailto:looney@msagroup.com). If you call, please leave a message and I will get back to you. You can also text to that number if you would prefer.



by Linda Smith

**Think Spring.** Our spring rummage sale is set to take place on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be accepting donations beginning April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are accepting articles in clean and usable order. No leftover yard sale items, nothing with a cord, no underwear or shoes. The sale will begin on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. and continue on April 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. There will be a food sale on Saturday only. Also, our popular bag sale on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please let us know if you are able to help in any way during the week. Also, we will be calling for food items, but if you don't get a call, please bring something anyway. Cookies, brownies, baked beans, mac & cheese, pies, and homemade breads are some of the best sellers.

Our "Jesus Fatwah" sessions were well attended. Total attendance for the two sessions, Sunday and Tuesday, averaged a total of 20-25 attendees.

The One Great Hour of Sharing brought in \$1,000.

We continue to support the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

The Warming Shelter meals will be finished for this winter season on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all for your help in providing meals during this time. I am sure they were greatly appreciated.

Again, thank all of you for your help in making it possible for us to reach out to so many people.



by Gwen Yardley

By the time you read this, Easter will already be past and you will have heard our special music with guest organist Seth Phoenix performing a piano and organ duet with me for the prelude and joining the choir and I for the hymn concerto "Raise Your Joys and Triumphs High" for the anthem, among other special Easter music. I thank Seth for coming to perform with us, and also to Eric Robinson who filled in for me to lead the music for Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday.

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, we welcome the choir from Kurn Hattin, directed by Lisa Bianconi, who will be performing a variety of songs for the service.

Looking ahead to May, the annual spring Cabaret is set for May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and is sure to be a fun event! I will also be performing a free piano recital in the sanctuary on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. More details on both will be coming, but for now you can mark your calendars!

Keane Southard



### **KURN HATTIN SELECT CHOIR**

On Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, the select choir from Kurn Hattin will be performing several selections during the worship service. Kurn Hattin Homes is a residential school for children who are struggling in their home environment. The school is a non-profit corporation, depending on receiving 97% of its costs from private donations. Their mission is: "Kurn Hattin Homes changes the lives of children and their families forever."

The program at the March meeting of women's fellowship featured a fun evening of music, games and laughter with the 24 ladies in attendance being entertained by Kathy Yardley. After joining in the singing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth," we attempted a rhythmic exercise which was not exactly successful but drew a lot of laughs! We played a game of "hot potato" which was won by Shirley Byczkowski's daughter Cheryl. Then we had a limerick writing session and the results are printed here for you to enjoy. Kathy signed "Right Field" and "The Unicorn" (in honor of St Patrick's Day). Delicious refreshments were served by Betsey Congdon and Sara Beauregard.

The next meeting will be Bingo Night on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm with Phyllis Pickering in charge.

Gwen Yardley

Two poets who couldn't agree  
Got in a boat and went to sea  
The waves were high  
Oh me, oh my  
They ended up high in a tree

There once was a gal named Gwen  
Who has a son named Glenn  
They slipped on the ice  
It wasn't nice  
And fell chasing the hen. Amen!

In a castle that had a deep moat  
An old man sailed with his goat  
He fell out on his head  
And sadly he's dead  
Not to worry – he's now a coat!

**A STUDY FOR ALL AGES  
APRIL 2018**

A BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL AGES will be held at our church beginning in April for anyone who is interested.

Have you wondered where you have learned the names for God and what those names mean to you? Are you interested in learning about the teachings of Jesus and how your life is impacted by your understanding? What about looking at the Hebrew (Old) and New Testament as a library containing the keys to a faith-filled life?

Beginning April 15<sup>th</sup> and continuing throughout April, you may choose to attend classes lead by Pastor Christine to explore **GOD, JESUS and SCRIPTURE**. This Bible Study will be held in the second floor conference room following worship from 11:30-12:30 p.m. and also at noon until 1 pm on Wednesdays.

No sign up is required. You may come as you are able. Bring yourselves, perhaps a lunch for the Wednesday class and always your HOLY BIBLE. All translations of the BIBLE are encouraged.

**Explore, listen, learn and enjoy.** Questions? Please feel free to be in touch with Pastor Christine.



Shirley Byczkowski & family would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls, food, and for the Women's Fellowship for the luncheon. "I am so grateful to belong to a wonderful, loving church family."

**THE PARABLES OF JESUS  
MAY – JUNE 2018**

Celebrate the beauty and the possibilities found in the Parables of Jesus. There are three major types of parables – similitudes, example stories and parables proper. You will discover a richness in the parables that guarantee an awakening and a revival of faith. They startle, comfort, challenge and change us.

Come for a bag lunch on Wednesdays in May and the first Wednesday in June. Beginning Wednesday, May 2 at 11:30, please bring your Bibles and enjoy the conversation. Location will be in the Conference Room on the second floor.

May 2	Parables of Growth
May 9	Parables of Reversal
May 19	Parables of Preparedness
May 23	Parables of Decision
May 30	Parables of Treasure
June 6	Parables of Tradition

**Explore, listen, learn and enjoy.** Questions? Please feel free to be in touch with Pastor Christine.



Our Church library has received a new book: We have received: **THE BOOK OF JOY** by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and The Dalai Lama.

This book is given in the memory of Joan Swett, given by Walter and Susie Smith, former members who are now in Montana.

Judy Foley, Librarian



by Marina Johnson



On March 10th, the Youth Group gathered in the church kitchen and prepared a meal for the Warming Shelter. The menu was lasagna with salad and garlic bread. They made a second batch so they were able to share a meal together at church. Then they all drove to the Warming Shelter to deliver the meal. It was an enjoyable and meaningful experience for all.

The Youth Group is making tug toys for the dogs and cats at the Monadnock Humane Society. Catnip fish are also being put together. We are planning a visit this spring, and are collecting the items from their wish list, which is printed below. We would like to bring the items we are making, along with any other donated items from the congregation, when we visit.

#### **MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY WISH LIST:**

Kuranda Beds! MHS has a link on their website's wish list through which to purchase these. Sturdy dog toys, clumping cat litter, dog treats, Carefresh bedding for small animals, cat toys (no balls please), gift cards from local stores, cardboard scratching posts (new), pet food (dry & canned, unopened), wood pellets, peanut butter (without xylitol).

The Silent Auction will begin on April 22nd and end on April 29th. Please let Linda Wright or any other member of the committee know if there is something you can donate.

It is time to start thinking about if any children are interested in attending the Horton Center this summer. Please talk to Linda Wright if interested.

Thank you to all our friends and family who recently contributed monitory gifts in memory of Joan Swett and later to Stanley Byczkowski.

When we receive monitory gifts we contact the family and the Trustees for suggestions of how to use the funds here in our church for a lasting memory.

Before Memorial Day we are planning to place more stones in our Memorial Garden. If you would like to purchase a stone in Memory of a loved one please contact Judy Daniels at 756-9879 so arrangements can be made by May 1. The cost is \$35.00 and includes engraving. Fact sheets can be obtained from the office or in the hallway to the office, right side, in a folder. The person on the stone and date of death is recorded in a book also. We are now up to 98 names recorded. Many fond memories are shared when walking in the garden and looking at the precious stones.

Once again our thanks to Susan Scott for her love of the garden and maintenance skills.

Memorial Committee,  
Linda Graff, Betsey Congdon, and Judy Daniels



### Mistletoe Mart

It's happening! The 2018 Mistletoe Mart is on! Date is November 17<sup>th</sup>, and our goal is \$5,600. "What," do you ask, "can I do to help?" Start sewing, knitting and creating! We need lots of volunteers to plan the luncheon, chair a table, make signs, do publicity, make swags, price items, etc. etc!

Our plan is to start meeting a couple of times a month beginning in September to prepare for "The Mart". So many of you were part of 2017's huge success, and we need you again. Let us know what you can do for "The Mart"!

Stay tuned for an organizational meeting date. Please stay well and mobile!!

Bonnie Woodward and Chris Miller, co chairs



The Search Committee is very active with candidates on a variety of levels. Quite exciting as well. Frank Sibley made note last night of what an amazing and committed Congregation that we have, and they deserve a Pastor who will match that commitment, passion and thirst for the Lord. We stay vigilant in that pursuit and ask for prayers from everyone to provide energy and focus for us to find the "Right" person. We all miss Joan Swett dearly but each of us has stepped up to do a little more and I am grateful and thankful to be a part of such an inspiring and determined group.

God Bless,  
Mark Lightner



The Stewardship Committee has been busy discussing the pledge campaign. We will begin assembling the packets on April 15. We have our speakers lined up for the month of May, and the breakfast is set for the beginning of June. We will give you the names and dates in the next newsletter. We welcome the Congregation's suggestions for discussion.

Thank you,  
The Stewardship Committee

### MEN'S HEARTS CLUB

On behalf of the First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, the Men's Hearts Club made a contribution of \$500 to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf, which in turn will be doubled by an anonymous donor.

The Hearts Club is always seeking new members. For more information, contact George Jeffrey at 603-756-3376.



WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE BY  
SHANNON BRESAW  
HONORING JOAN C. SWETT

“Love the people God gave you, because he will need them back one day.” –Becky Kinder

“I would like to share some of the lessons and quotes that I believe truly represent who my Mom was.”

1. Practice Compassion.

“Let our hands be stretched out in compassion towards others, for everyone is walking his or her own difficult path.”

Quote by Dieter Uchtdorf.

2. Advocate.

From Proverbs 31:8-9. “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of those who are poor and in need.”

3. Help Others.

Author unknown. “Always help someone. You might be the only one that does.”

4. Be Kind.

Quote by Ashleigh Brilliant. “Be kind to unkind people, they need it the most.” From Charlotte’s Web, one of Mom’s favorite children’s books. Wilber says, “Why did you do all this for me? I don’t deserve it. I’ve never done anything for you.” “You have been my friend,” replies Charlotte. “That in itself is a tremendous thing.”

5. Love Others.

Author unknown. “Remember that people are the least lovable when they need love the most.”

6. Be a Champion for Kids.

“Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists they become the best they can possibly be.”

Quote by Rita Pierson.

7. Forgive.

Author unknown. “The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. The first to forget is the happiest.”



- 04/01 Sandy Pickering
- 04/03 Eric Malnati
- 04/08 Kathy Yardley
- 04/09 Christine Boardman
- 04/11 Valerie Brown
- 04/11 Sarah Keith
- 04/13 Jason Bemis
- 04/13 Linda Smith
- 04/13 Dave Westover
- 04/14 Linda Wright
- 04/16 Bill Houghton
- 04/16 Patrick Murray
- 04/17 Denise Roentsch
- 04/18 Woodworth Winmill
- 04/19 Bob Galloway
- 04/22 Victor Pratt
- 04/24 Kathleen Malnati
- 04/29 Don Sellerole



- 04/01 Sue & Kenneth Durgin
- 04/15 Linda & Charles Wright



**PLEASE POST THIS CALENDAR FOR EASY REFERENCE**  
**April 2018**

Sun., April 1	<b>Easter Sunrise Service</b>	6:30 am
	<b>Easter Breakfast</b>	7:00 am
	<b>Easter Worship Service / Communion</b>	10:00 am
Mon., April 2	Search Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
Wed., April 4	Rummage Drop-off	9 am-6 pm
Thur., April 5	Rummage Drop-off	9 am-6 pm
	Music Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
Fri., April 6	Rummage Drop-off	9 am-1 pm
	Rummage Sale	4 – 6 pm
Sat., April 7	Rummage Sale	9 am-1 pm
Sun., April 8	Worship Service / <b>Kurn Hattin Choir</b> / Sunday School	10:00 am
	Coffee Hour	11:00 am
Mon., April 9	Search Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
Tues., April 10	Finance Committee Meeting	4:30 pm
Wed., April 11	Deacon's Meeting	4:00 pm
	Executive Board Meeting	5:00 pm
	Women's Fellowship Meeting	7:00 pm
Sat., April 14	Church Council Meeting	8:30 am
Sun., April 15	Worship Service / Sunday School / Food Shelf	10:00 am
	Coffee Hour	11:00 am
	<b>Bible Study</b>	11:30 -12:30 pm
Mon., April 16	Seniors' Luncheon	Noon
	Search Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
Wed., April 18	<b>Bible Study</b>	Noon – 1 pm
	Pastor Parish Relations Committee	2:00 pm
Thurs., April 19	Mission & Action Committee Meeting	3:00 pm
Fri., April 20	Walpole Clarion Deadline	
Sun., April 22	Worship Service / Stewardship Campaign Kick-off / Sunday School	10:00 am
	Silent Auction Begins	
	Coffee Hour / Silent Auction Begins	11:00 am
	<b>Bible Study</b>	11:30 – 12:30 pm
Mon., April 23	<b>Parish Visitor Deadline</b>	
	Search Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
Tues., April 24	Office Closed	
Wed., April 25	Office Closed	
	<b>Bible Study</b>	Noon – 1 pm
Sat., April 28	Church Spring Cleanup	9:00 am
Sun., April 29	Worship Service / Sunday School	10:00 am
	Coffee Hour	11:00 am
	Silent Auction Ends	
	<b>Bible Study</b>	11:30 – 12:30 pm
Mon., April 30	Search Committee Meeting	5:30 pm

AA meets in Fellowship Hall weekly on Monday evenings at 7 pm.  
 Men's Hearts Club meets every Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 pm.  
 The Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7 pm and Sunday mornings at 9 am.  
 The Bell Choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm.

**Deacon of the Month:** Carole Lamp (443-0134)

