



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC
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From Christine's Corner

Christian Wiman is a poet, translator, editor, and essayist. He was raised in West Texas and earned a BA at Washington and Lee University. A former Guggenheim fellow, Wiman served as the editor of *Poetry* magazine from 2003 to 2013.

When the Time's Toxins

“When the time's toxins have seeped into every cell and like a salted plot from which all rain, all green, are gone, I and life are leached of meaning. Somehow a seed of belief sprouts the instant I acknowledge it: little weedy hardy would-be greenness tugged upward by light while deep within roots like talons are taking hold again of this our only earth.”

While I reflect on the promise that retirement from formal and organized ministry offers, there is little doubt, mostly hope for the journey with Jesus for me. I hold on to hope as one gift from God. I hope that this hope is also true for you and for the church. While we live with toxicity and doubt, we trust the light of God's love to shine for our world.

The church in this world can be like a garden. The soil does not belong to us but God provides us with seeds and they can be planted. Weeds appear. So what? We water and pray for abundance of growth. We cut back and wait for a new season. We dig deep and recognize our roots of faith planted centuries ago. We plant again. We welcome the hard work of making the Bible the living Word of God and witnessing to the claims of faith as we attempt to follow Jesus. We cannot be sure about our future. Only hope, only seeds.

In retirement I will focus on staying healthy. It is my job always. We are always moving with blood flowing as the heart and lungs work together. All the organs, especially skin help us keep healthy as long as we have a life force. The body is a mystery and is remarkable, to be loved and valued at any age no matter what. The church is like a body, connected and imperfect from birth. Keep alive. Keep moving.

As a United Church of Christ pastor, I have traveled from NY State to Vermont, Minnesota to Iowa, from the central Midwest to Maine, Ohio, Eastern Illinois, Washington State, southern Illinois to Pennsylvania and then back to Vermont. Is it any wonder that growth and moving are themes for me and for my ministry?

Thank you for your work during this interim time. I hope we have helped each other become more hopeful and bolder in our faith as individuals and as a congregation. You will always remain in my prayers while I live on this our only earth.

May the love of God and the communion of saints move you toward wholeness,

Rev. Christine S. Boardman



Let nothing perturb you

Nothing frighten you

All things pass

God doesn't change

These words by Mother Theresa serve as a source of comfort when anxiety, concern and the unknown are part of our lives. And church is no different.

The Search Committee is diligently meeting and moving forward with the mandate to look for that candidate who will be the best fit for us that is possible. Meanwhile, the New Hampshire Conference has sent two profiles of clergy who have expressed an interest in being a Bridge Interim. A third profile is in the mail so when all three are here the Executive Board will meet and discuss them. Truthfully, the first two are not close by but expressed an interest regardless.

Your council is continuing to function well. There are a lot of committee meetings, planning sessions and organizing meetings in preparation for all the events coming up. We'll embrace our Zimbabwe guest, Danniford, prepare for the Rummage Sale and share meals.

The focus for the older children in Sunday school is on food. God provides us with food in the forms of plants and animals. We nurture them and they nourish us. Jesus generally talked about food as that which feeds our soul. An expansion of the discussion is sharing meals in small groups in people's homes and in church. If you're interested in planning meals please speak to me.

Peace, Chuck



by Paul Looney

August /September

We had our trustee meeting for September on the 11th.

- Basement.
 - Room was painted.
- We are looking at options to replace the on-demand water heater. Still working on this item. We are using the old oil heating system for hot water until then.
 - We decided to buy in the spring a new gas on-demand heater as we will be using the oil now through the winter.
- Slates in the roof still need to be replaced. This will have to be something to be done later in the summer.
 - We have a commitment from the contractor to fix the slates in the next few weeks.
- A pest control firm reviewed our buildings and found 4 places where rodents are getting into the buildings. We agreed to go ahead and have the holes fixed. This will be around \$600.00.
- Repair of the bathroom floor in the Parsonage has begun.
- We set a tentative fall cleanup date of November 3rd.
- The light timer is broken and will have to be replaced. We are going to get estimates.
- We are looking at options with Dale's help for new planting in the front of the church.
- The computer died and had to be replaced and upgraded
- IS IT TOO EARLY TO THINK OF PIES FOR THANKSGIVING?

My contact information: phone number 603-318-8917, looneyp@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.



Here it is October and Communion is one of the topics consuming the month. World Communion Sunday will be celebrated October 7th. Breads from various countries will be served.

On October 28th, Pastor Christine's last Sunday with us, she has graciously consented to serve Communion to her church for one last time. Thank you, Pastor Christine.

We will start to serve wine in addition to grape juice for those of us who would prefer to have wine. Also, rice crackers will also be available. This will start in October.

We would like to request that everyone please wear your name tags. We will be looking into tags that have a clip as opposed to the pin so as to prevent holes in clothing.

The deacons also need help locating the pew books for signing in and requests for visits. These pew books seem to have disappeared. We would like to start using them again.

One last thing. The deacons would like to thank all who assisted us with coffee hours this summer.

The DOM for October is Maggi Suttles.

Peace and love.
Minna Good



Search Committee Update

Our search committee has been a busy group in the last month. We have moved to new ground in some areas and we have tested our resolve to complete our assigned task. It candidly would be easy to settle but that is not what we were charged with and we are not backing down now. We have been noble and creative to accommodate for some much needed and well deserved personal time for our members but have always stayed on task. I will have more information to share at our next coffee and conversation so I hope to see you then. My ongoing request is to ask for prayers of strength, of perseverance and dedication for our committee members as we continue to pursue our next Pastor for our wonderful church.

Mark, Ellie, Marilyn, Bruce, Frank & Don



Note from the Memorial Committee:

Celebrating a special anniversary, birthday or a special someone in your life, past or present? Please consider a donation to the Memorial Committee of the church.

We will see that your wishes are followed and appreciated.



Pastor Parish Relations Committee Minutes for Thursday, September 20, 2018

Members present: Pastor Christine Boardman, Carol Failla, Ann Rogers, Dale Woodward and Bob Rhodes.

Pastor Christine opened the meeting at 2:00 P.M. with a prayer at the home of Bob Rhodes in Westminster.

On October 10th, Pastor Christine will meet with the Executive Committee for an Exit Interview to discuss how things have gone and recommendations for the future.: e.g. "What does a church expect?" "How do we build community?" "What is the role of a Bridge Pastor?" and other input. (Janet Martin has already completed an Exit Interview with many good comments.)

We discussed pastoral care for our church after Pastor Christine retires. Her last Sunday here will be on October 28th. There will be a farewell tea for Pastor Christine on Sunday, October 21st. Plans are in the works for this.

1. The Deacons will find and choose Supply Pastors at first until a Bridge Pastor arrives. The Deacons will be responsible for leadership for the children's sermon and help with the Sunday services and any potential funerals.

2. The Bridge Pastor will be selected by the Executive Board and Church Council under the leadership of Charles Shaw. The Bridge Pastor will be with us part-time for a few months until the next Pastor is found by the Search Committee, voted upon by the Congregation and called and settled here. Nobody has been found yet to be our Bridge Pastor. Chuck Shaw contacted the N. H. Conference for help in finding the Bridge Pastor.

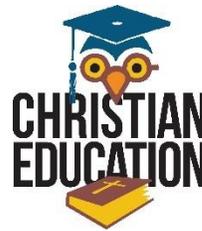
3. The summer series went very well in the Fellowship Hall, and kudos to Paul Looney for his work with projecting the worship service on the screen for the congregation to see.

4. The Search for a Music Director is underway.

5. The Pastor/Parish Relations Committee has been very pleased with the work accomplished by Pastor Christine, and believe that the church is much stronger, more unified, and happier than it was before she arrived. We are more open to new ideas and more welcoming.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Rhodes, Chair



by Linda Wright

Sunday School started up again on Sept. 23rd. Registration forms have been emailed to all parents. Please return them to Linda Wright as soon as you can. On Sept. 30th, after the Bible lesson, we plan on going outside to plant flower bulbs. Please dress your children accordingly. We have a visitor coming from Zimbabwe in October. We will be asking the children to write some letters to go to children in Zimbabwe.

Youth Sunday will start up again on Oct. 7 and will continue throughout the year until May. Plans for a Youth Group activity in October are to fill some buckets with supplies to be sent out for disaster relief as part of UCC and Church World Service. Two examples are supplies for hygiene and cleanup buckets. Funds have been provided to purchase supplies needed to fill the buckets. More information to come.



MISTLETOE MART UPDATE

It is now October which means only 48 more days until our annual Mistletoe Mart.

Bonnie and I would like to thank all who attended our brief September 9th meeting as well as those of you who contacted us to volunteer to help with whatever needs doing.

We are all set with chairman and co-chairman of each table. Please remember to let us know of any needs you have.

Our plan is to have volunteers, including some men of the church, act as floaters giving breaks as needed to those at tables.

If you have not already let us know of your desire to help, please do. We can always use your help.

Table assignments etc. are as follows:

Christmas - Sue Krebs, Marina Johnson

Gifts - Betsey Congdon, Shirley Byczkowski

Candy - Pat Kingsbury, Nancianne Houghton

Food - Carol Malnati, Deb Timon, Myra Mansouri

Dry goods - Kat Graves, Gwen Yardley

Pets - Rachel Watson

White Elephant - Judy Foley, Linda Smith,

Bruce Martin, Martha Kingsbury

Floaters - Carol Failla, Nancy Sawyer, Jan Martin, Judy Daniels

Donuts - Sandy Pickering, Sue Durgin

Luncheon - Peg Winnen & helpers

Dishes – Trio: Dale, Don, Tom

Thursday the 15th - **Pizza Maker**: Kathy Yardley

More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the big day.

Bonnie Woodward & Chris Miller



The stewardship committee has met via email and working on time, treasure, and talent for the coming year. We welcome ideas from all, and hope you feel free to approach us with your ideas and what you would like to see happen.

Thank you,
Myra, Bevin, Kat, Terry and Harry



Wednesday, October 10, is the date of the next meeting of Women's Fellowship. We will each be making at least one Christmas card with the help of Beth Merrill and Kathy Yardley at the gathering at 6:30 pm. The card making will be followed by devotions, and refreshments served by Judy Foley and Linda Smith.

Hope to see you there!
Gwen Yardley



The Kempters are coming!!

On October 21st at 6:00pm we welcome back the Kempters for a concert of their special blend of family gospel-style music. Our church is partnering with the Third Congregational Church of Alstead to host this event. Please note that the concert will be held upstairs in the TOWN HALL, not the church! The Kempters – Dad Chaz, sons Nathan and Chris, and daughters Dani, Joanna and Charli – hail from Slapout, Alabama and have once again included us on their tour of New England. Come and experience their wonderful style of music which features close harmonies, excellent musicianship and originality as they play new songs and some of our old favorites.



October is a busy month for the Missions Committee.

We sent \$370.00 in cash donations to the Fall Mountain Food shelf. This will go towards the matching funds by an anonymous donor. The food received this month went to Bellows Falls for their food drive. The goal there was to fill every seat in the movie theater. These donations go to Our Place Drop In Center. There is a plea out from the Fall Mountain Food Shelf for snack foods needed in the schools. Some kids come to school with nothing for their snack breaks. This will enable them to be able to choose a healthy snack. Remember only "healthy snacks".

The fall rummage sale is coming up. The sale will be held on Friday, October 26 from 4 PM to 6 PM. And on Saturday October 27 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Our popular bag sale will be held at 11 AM on Saturday. We will be having a food sale on Saturday, hopefully, with some new items offered. The church will be open on Wednesday, the 24th and Thursday, the 25th from 9 AM to 6 PM to accept donations and on Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM. We will gladly accept donations of fall and winter clothing and tag sale items at those times. All donations should be clean and in excellent condition. We will not accept shoes, undergarments, furniture or anything with a cord. We will be making calls for the food table. Some suggestions are chili, mac & cheese, baked beans, corn chowder, fruit pies and apple crisp, bread and rolls, fudge, Chex mix, fruit breads, caramel corn, brownies and cookie bars, Rice Krispy squares.

The Neighbors in Need offering will be held on October 7th. Last year the total received was \$425.00. Let's try to surpass that amount.

Be thinking about the meals for the Warming Shelter. Our church volunteers will continue to provide meals on the 3rd and 4th Sunday and the 2nd Saturday, starting in November until mid-April. We will offer more information in the next few weeks. This is a very heart-warming Christian thing for us to offer to our community and is something that could get the kids involved. There are a lot of homeless and hungry people that need our help. With our generosity, they will receive a hot meal, along with a warm bed, every night. Consider putting your name on the list, which will be in Fellowship sometime in October.

We will be sending gas cards to Joel Eaton, the pastor at Acworth church, and to Kenneth Thompson, our Walpole highway worker, who was involved in a serious accident. This will help to defray the high cost of traveling back and forth to doctor's appointments.

We are blessed to have so many caring members of our church family who so generously provide the funds and supplies we need to carry out God's work not only in our community but worldwide. Thank you so much all of you.

Linda Smith

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The Mission & Action Committee made the delivery of school supplies to the Walpole Elementary School on Friday, September 7th. The supplies included nine filled backpacks, a large box and two plastic bags. We were able to give an additional \$130.00 be used as needed. The response from the members of our church was overwhelming.

Thank you for helping the children.

The Mission & Action Committee
Shirley, Bonnie & Chris

UKAMA NEWS

In just a short time, we will welcome Danniford Masunungure, our delegate from Chiredzi, Zimbabwe, to Walpole and to our church! He arrives Friday evening, October 12 and will be in New Hampshire until Monday, October 29. Our Zimbabwe Hospitality Committee is diligently working to ensure that his visit to Walpole is a very special, meaningful, and memorable one.

Danniford is 57 years old, married with four children and three grandsons. He and his wife Gladys own a small hardware business. He is active in the Chiredzi church, serving as a member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, as well as one of the Church Elders, and he also sings in the choir.

While Danniford is here, there are some activities planned which include the entire church, and we encourage your participation! First of all, we will celebrate Ukama Sunday on October 14, his first Sunday with us. Ukama Sunday marks the anniversary of the founding of the United Church of Christ Zimbabwe in the late 1800s, and we will celebrate with special prayers, songs, and listen to Danniford preach. A special offering will be received for Zimbabwe to help fund water and borehole projects. After church, we will joyfully welcome Danniford at an all-church potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

Then on Saturday, October 27, we are planning a farewell Thanksgiving Dinner at Nancy Sloan's house at 6 p.m. Thanksgiving dinner has been very popular with past delegations from Zimbabwe, according to our state Ukama Committee, as it celebrates a traditional American holiday. Therefore, we are counting on you, the members of the congregation, to sign up and indicate what dish you will bring! Think Thanksgiving-- turkey with stuffing and gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, rolls, pies. Nancy needs a crew of helpers at 4 p.m. to assist her in setting up.

There are SIGN-UP SHEETS for both meals, the potluck after church on October 14 and the dinner at Nancy Sloan's on October 27, posted on the large bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Take some time to check out the itinerary also posted on that same bulletin board. As of this writing, some activities are still tentative, but you will notice some yellow highlighted areas. This is where you all come in! Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and volunteer to host Danniford for a meal in your home. Offer to drive him to an event. Invite him to attend one of your committee meetings. Again, look for a SIGN-UP SHEET on the bulletin board. Please read the itinerary carefully – you will notice that there is a period mid-visit when our delegate will be joining other delegates and traveling as a group throughout the state. While he is here, however, he will be staying at Chuck and Ellie Shaw's home.

The Zimbabwe Hospitality Committee welcomes your comments and suggestions, but most of all, welcomes your willingness to actively participate! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ellie Shaw, Dale Woodward, Debbie Timon, Paul Looney, Marcia Weil, or Nancy Sloan.

LETTERS TO ZIMBABWE

Please write a letter to someone in our sister church in Chiredzi and put it in the decorated box in Fellowship Hall.

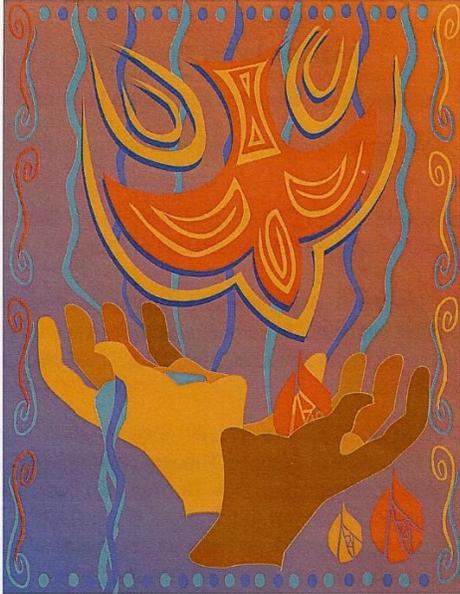
We recently received a list of those who wish to have a pen pal – adults and youth – from Danniford.

Look for the spreadsheet list on the Ukama bulletin board!

2018 Annual Meeting

New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ

This is the day of the poured out spirit. Dreamers and Visionaries arise.



Saturday, October 20, 2018

8:00 AM – 4:15 PM

Grapone Center – 70 Constitution Avenue – Concord, NH 03301

JOIN US FOR THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Registration is Now Open!

Clergy and Delegates are called to attend...

Visitors are invited and welcome to attend!

Register now for the 217th Annual Meeting of the Gathered New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ.

THEME: The theme of our meeting this year is, "this is the day of the poured out spirit. Dreamers and Visionaries arise." The theme is rooted in the words of Joel (2:28), "I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh."

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: The Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray, Jr., newly appointed President of Chicago Theological Seminary, will deliver the keynote address. Rev. Dr. Ray also serves as the President of the Society for the Study of Black Religion. Having written and lectured broadly in the areas of Systematic Theology, African American religion, human rights and the intersection of

Further details and registration information may be found at: <http://nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2018-annual-meeting> or in *the Weekly News*.

PASTORAL SEARCH SUGGESTION TIMELINE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

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 2017

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

October until a Pastor is called

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

Rev. Boardman resignation official Nov. 1, 2018

Farewell to Pastor Christine. We hope to have a Bridge Pastor arrive.



BIRTHDAYS:

10/01 Brody Keller
10/02 Marcia Allen
10/04 Rachel Watson
10/05 Charles Shaw
10/07 Brian Shriver
10/20 Becky Hubbard
10/21 Zachary Bemis
10/24 Curt Congdon
10/26 Cindy Westover
10/28 Peggy Graves
10/28 Bruce Potter
10/29 Susan Krebs

ANNIVERSARIES:

10/12 Brian & Marilyn Shriver
10/15 Paul & Ann Looney
10/23 Merv & Geri Stevens
10/27 Bernard & Sue Perry

PLEASE POST THIS CALENDAR FOR EASY REFERENCE
October 2018

Monday, Oct. 1	Ukama Committee Meeting	5:00 pm
	Search Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 2	Fire Warden Supper	7:00 pm
Saturday, Oct. 6	Nugent/Edson Wedding Rehearsal	4:00 pm
Sunday, Oct. 7	Worship Service / Youth Sunday / Communion	10:00 am
	Nugent/Edson Wedding	3:00 pm
Monday, Oct. 8	Search Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 9	Deacons Meeting	5:00 pm
	Trustees Committee Meeting	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Oct. 10	Executive Board Meeting	5:00 pm
	Women's Fellowship Meeting	6:30 pm
Friday, Oct. 12	Zimbabwe delegate arrives	
Saturday, Oct. 13	Church Council Meeting	8:30 am
Sunday, Oct. 14	Worship Service / Ukama Sunday / Sunday School	10:00 am
	Zimbabwe All-church Potluck	11:00 am
Monday, Oct. 15	Seniors' Luncheon	Noon
	Search Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
Wednesday, Oct. 17	Pastor Parish Relations Committee Meeting	2:00 pm
Thursday, Oct. 18	Mission & Action Committee Meeting	3:00 pm
Saturday, Oct. 20	NHCUCC 2018 Annual Meeting	8 am
Sunday, Oct. 21	Worship Service / Foodshelf / Sunday School	10:00 am
	Kempters Concert at Town Hall	6:00 pm
	Walpole Clarion Deadline	
Monday, Oct. 22	Search Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 23	Parish Visitor Deadline	
Wed. & Thurs., Oct. 24 & 25	Rummage Sale Drop-off	9 am – 6 pm
Friday, Oct. 26	Rummage Sale Drop-off	9 am – 1 pm
	Rummage Sale	4 – 6:00 pm
Saturday, Oct. 27	Rummage Sale	9 am – 1 pm
Sunday, Oct. 28	Worship Service / Communion / Sunday School	10:00 am
Wednesday, Oct. 31	Women of Walpole	1:30 – 3:30 pm

AA meets in Fellowship Hall weekly on Monday evenings at 7 pm.
 Family Support Group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:45 – 8 pm.
 Men's Hearts Club meets weekly on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 pm.
 The Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7 pm.

Deacon of the Month: Maggi Suttles 756-3337