



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

walpolechurch@yahoo.com

www.walpolenhucc.org

Breathe. Rejoice! For the last three-and-one half years we have benefited primarily from four pastors who have guided us through the long period of transition from interim ministry to the selection of our settled pastor, Rev. Richard E. Malmberg. Interestingly, the four wonderful clergy were diverse. It was great for us to experience that diversity. First, we had the “old” lady, Rev. Christine S. Boardman, then the “old” man, Rev. David Stinson, followed by the young woman Rev. Rachelle Eaton and finally the young man, Rev. Eric Marean. All of them have been absolutely critical in the healing, confidence, faith formation, discerning, joy and spiritual growth we are experiencing to get to where we are today. We thank them all and rejoice in our new beginning. We are truly on “God’s time”.

The relief we feel (especially the Search Committee) has rapidly changed to awareness that we have a lot of preparation for Richard and Jane’s arrival in May. The terms of the Call Agreement, the official contract between us and Richard, have been agreed to and the official copies will be signed soon. Here, we have worked very hard to produce an accurate mailing list of active members, associate members (1) and those who connect to the church but are not technically members. We will be using it to keep all of you informed of the progress and events going forward. Please reach out to Pat or any member of the Executive board (me, Janet Wilson, Paul Looney or Carole Hill) with questions or ideas. It is truly an exciting time in our church. We have persevered! We thank God! And we enter into Lent with thanks for all those who have got us here and with joy for the future.

Rachelle detailed how she spent her time as a half-time pastor when she was with us from June through November, 2019. As a result of our Coffee and Conversation meeting after church last September she detailed all that she did and all that there was not enough time to do. Her list of opportunities for us when we have a full-time pastor was long, probably too long for any one person. It included community presence and outreach, long-range planning for worship and facilities, helping with the stewardship campaign, fundraising, Bible study, growing the youth component of our church, attending Association and Conference meetings, serving on denominational boards and committees, volunteering visitation, dedicating time for personal growth and development and more (How about resting?).

We are entering very exciting times. Please remember we are “Calling” Richard, not hiring him. Richard is responding to being “Called” by God to be our spiritual leader. Embrace that, pray for Richard and Jane and us. Commit to the changes ahead. As our Covenant says; “Support and love one another, as Jesus commanded. “Just as I have loved you, you should love one another” (John 13:34)

Peace, Chuck



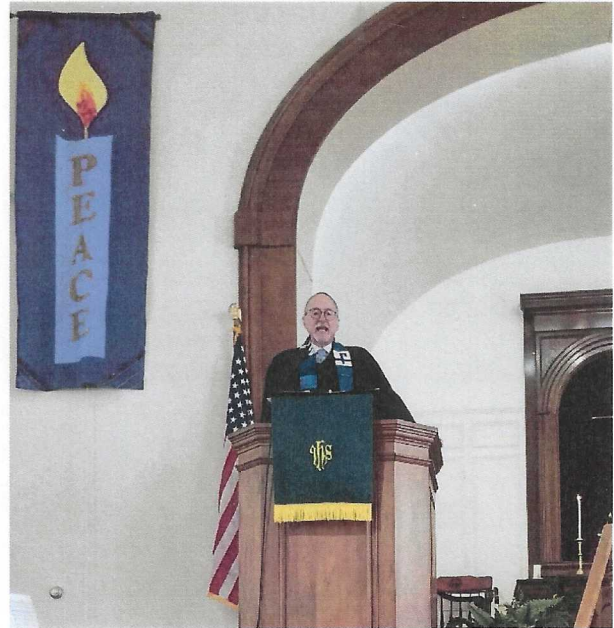
HALLELUJAH!!! We hosted Rev. Richard Malmberg and his wife Jane on February 22 & 23. The festivities began with a terrific potluck supper followed by a question and answer period, allowing for dialogue with the Malmbergs. We enjoyed Richard leading us in worship on Sunday. Immediately after the service there was a member vote in the sanctuary that CONFIRMED the Rev. Richard Malmberg to be called as the next full-time pastor of the First Congregational Church, UCC, Walpole. A celebratory Mardi Gras-themed coffee hour followed, thanks to the Mission and Action Committee.

Rev. Malmberg will notify his current church of his decision by the end of February, and then will begin preparations to move to Walpole, most likely by early May.

The Search Committee has worked hard for three years, and we are delighted to have called a pastor who seems to fit the goals we set forth as a congregation. Once Richard begins his ministry with us, we want to consider new initiatives to undertake, and we look forward to working alongside him to serve God, to grow in love and service to others.

Thank you, dear members of our congregation, for rolling out the welcome mat in fine fashion, to all the helpers for the weekend and the entire three years, to Chuck Shaw for endless pulpit supply success, to Maggi Suttles for her hospitality, and to Ellie, Marilyn, Bruce, Frank and Don for their tireless commitment from start to finish. We remember Joan Swett, whom we lost early in this journey, and have faith that she is with us. The Spirit has moved us once again.

Mark Lightner
Chair



Rev. Richard Malmberg



Rev. Richard & Jane Malmberg



We had our trustee meeting for February on the 14th.

- We reviewed the 2020-2021 budget:
 - We would like to add to the capital account monies to build a handicap ramp on the left side of the church. Currently those stairs are not to code and are difficult to use.
 - We are going to look at having the hallway ceiling in the church leading to the restrooms painted. It is currently peeling.
 - We want to keep other spending flat for 2020-2021.
- We discussed the Parsonage project:
 - The bathrooms are almost done.
 - In the downstairs bathroom we have asked Houghton's to resolve an issue with the pipes for the toilet.
 - In the upstairs bathroom we are resolving an issue with the sink and vanity top that do not match. Once this is done the remaining work can be completed.
 - The kitchen is done except the wiring of the outlets for the new appliances.
 - To do:
 - The summer kitchen and a handicap entrance
 - Refinishing the unpainted floors
 - Selecting curtains for the Parsonage
 - Painting woodwork and rooms - this is in progress.
 - Window shades are ordered but not yet installed.
- Our next meeting is March 10th at 6:30.

Paul

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



The February meeting of Women's Fellowship opened with devotions led by Betty Prentiss and followed by a business meeting which included a rather lengthy discussion about some possible new ideas for the 2020 Mistletoe Mart scheduled for November 21st. Workshops are still being held for anyone interested and there are some project ideas on a table in fellowship hall for anyone who is interested on working on something at home. Further business included a vote to give Becky Bowen a \$300.00 scholarship for the Horton Center summer camp, and it was noted that the \$5,000.00 pledge to the church has been paid. Kathy Yardley was in charge of a "Musical Madness" program including some Valentine's Day games and songs. Pat Kingsbury and Carol Malnati served refreshments to the 13 ladies present.

The next meeting is on March 11th at 7:00 p.m. Marcia Weil and Jeanne Cloues are in charge of "Trivia Night" and refreshments. I hope to see you there.

Gwen Yardley, President



We started off the month of February with our "Souper Bowl Sunday" fundraiser. We had 20 plus pots of various kinds of soup and bread and rolls. We made \$358.00 which will be split between the Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place. Thank you to all who contributed to this event.

We have designated February as "Peanut Butter" month for our monthly food collection. Our goal is to surpass last year's collection of 119 jars. The last date to bring in your jars of peanut butter is March 8. We will deliver them to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf that week.

The collection for One Great Hour of Sharing will be on March 22.

We have paid our obligation to the Haiti Mission for our sponsorship of a child. We will be sponsoring a child in our congregation to attend camp this summer. We also will be giving money to Heather Ferland for a project she is doing with children at Kurn Hattin.

We are in the process of obtaining more information regarding the shipping container to Zimbabwe. We are looking into sending actual dollars rather than items for the container.

Again, thank you all for supporting our committee. With your help, we can do what God calls us to do.

Linda Smith, Clerk

The next Movie and Pizza Night at the church will be on Saturday, March 14 at 5:30 pm. Free to the public, donations accepted. The movie is called "What if . . ." and stars Kevin Sorbo and Kristy Swanson. It is about a man who leaves behind his college sweetheart and his calling to be a preacher, in order to pursue a business opportunity and become a high-paid executive. In the tradition of "It's a Wonderful Life", he meets a tow truck driver 15 years later who claims to be an angel. The angel sets out to show him what his life would have been like if he had followed his original calling.

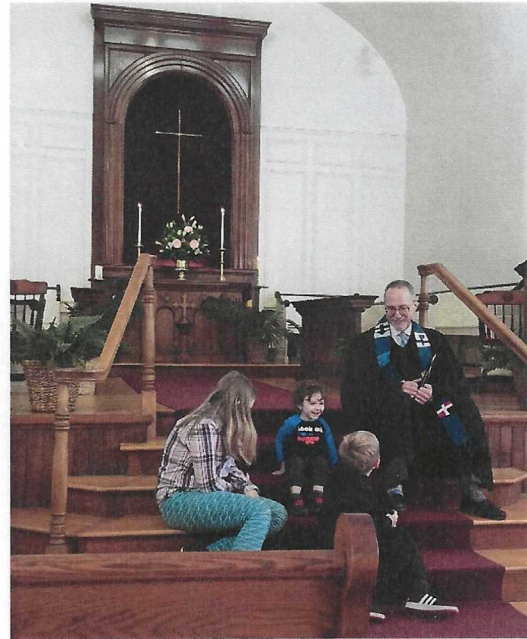
Our Annual Silent Auction this year will be the end of April. It will start on April 19 for viewing and bidding. The bidding will end on April 26 after church, when all winners will be announced. We have started looking for donations for the auction. Please check to see if you might have an item that is new or in like-new condition that you think someone would like to purchase. It could also be a type of service, for example: making a cake or baking some bread, volunteering to do yard work, preparing a dinner for someone, etc. If you have any questions, or something you would like to donate, please see either Linda Wright, Erin Bowen, Don Sellarole or Kathy Yardley. Thank you in advance for anything you can do to help make this a success.

Linda Wright



Thank you, Eric, for leading us in a very nice Ash Wednesday Service with Communion. We now enter the season of Lent and April brings us spring and Easter and hopefully warm weather. We look forward to the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus! It is a beautiful time with flowers and music and a look forward to a new settled pastor in May. We are blessed! Thank you, Search Committee! Minna Good is finishing out Paul Looney's term until June as a Deacon. Thank you to Paul for your help and thank you Minna!

Deacon of the Month for March is Jana Sellarole.



February 23 Children's Message



BIRTHDAYS

3/04 Susan Scott
3/06 Phyllis Pickering
3/11 Michelle Wright
3/13 Margaret Winnen
3/15 Vincent Malnati
3/15 Greg Wilson
3/16 Katelyn Houghton
3/19 David Maysilles
3/19 Jana Sellarole
3/20 Bonnie Woodward
3/22 Megan Sellarole
3/23 Christopher Caserta

For help for yourself or a loved
one suffering from addiction,
call Becky Pearson at
603-860-0221.

PLEASE POST THIS CALENDAR FOR EASY REFERENCE

MARCH 2020

Sunday, March 1	Worship Service / Communion / Youth Sunday Coffee Hour	10:00 am 11:00 am
Saturday, March 7	Church Council Meeting	8:30 am
Sunday, March 8	Daylight Savings Times Begins Worship Service / Sunday School Coffee Hour	10:00 am 11:00 am
Tuesday, March 10	Trustees Meeting	6:30 pm
Wednesday, March 11	Women's Fellowship Meeting	7:00 pm
Saturday, March 14	Movie & Pizza Night	5:30 pm
Sunday, March 15	Worship Service / Sunday School Coffee Hour	10:00 am 11:00 am
Monday, March 16	Walpole Seniors Meeting	Noon
Tuesday, March 17	Walpole Grange Meeting	6:00 pm
Thursday, March 19	Mission & Action Committee Meeting	3:00 pm
Friday, March 20	Clarion Deadline	
Sunday, March 22	Worship Service / Sunday School Coffee Hour	10:00 am 11:00 am
Monday, March 23	Parish Visitor Deadline	
Wednesday, March 25	Women of Walpole Meeting	1:30 pm
Sunday, March 29	Worship Service / Sunday School Coffee Hour	10:00 am 11:00 am

AA meets in Fellowship Hall weekly on Monday evenings at 7 pm.
Men's Hearts Club meets weekly on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 pm.
The Bell Choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm.
The Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7 pm.

Church Office Hours: 9 am to 12 noon, M-F

Deacon of the Month: Jana Sellarole