



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Friends,

November begins on an important Christian Holiday: All Saints Day. The Communion of the Saints is an important tenet of Christian theology, going back to the Early Church. The Apostles Creed underscores its fundamental importance. In Paul's letters, he greeted the saints of the churches. To the church in Rome, he sent regards to some by name and more general greetings to, "...all the saints who are with them. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you." (Romans 16:15b-16)

Paul was not talking about officially canonized people with the minimum three documented miracles. Paul was talking about the members of the church. He was talking about saints like us. The Communion of the Saints affirms our relationship, our bond to all members of the church everywhere in every time, living and dead. As Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, "Love never ends." (1Corinthians 13:8)

Saints are found in all walks of life. "One was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast." *For All The Saints*, tells us, "You can meet them at school, or in lanes or at sea, in church or in trains, or in shops or at tea." It comes down to the fact that we all are capable of living holy lives doing any number of occupations and vocations. **Our Zoom worship service at 10:00 a.m. on November 1st will be a celebration of the Feast of All Saints.**

Two other November holidays are not necessarily Christian holidays, though many Christians observe them in the United States. Veterans Day is tricky for some Christians, because of the association with war. After all, the Prince of Peace is one of the titles of Christ. Isaiah described a vision when, "...they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

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Veterans Day is rooted in Armistice Day, November 11, 1918; the end of the so-called, “war to end all wars.” Veterans Day is when we recognize and express gratitude to those who faced the horrors of war on our behalf. On the first Armistice Day, churches were asked to ring their bells at eleven minutes after the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, when the Armistice went into effect. We will ring the First Congregational Church bell at 11:11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 11, 2020. Sunday worship on November 8 will be a Veterans Sunday service.

Thanksgiving may be my favorite holiday of all. I love that it is a national religious holiday that does not transgress the First Amendment. I love that it is rooted in peace, diversity, and gratitude. I love that the first Thanksgiving happened in New England. Though its origins are foggy, and the subsequent history problematic, the symbolism is important and instructive. We remember Thanksgiving as a harvest feast when people of different races, different religions, immigrants, and natives sat down and shared the fruits of the earth and offered thanks to God.

Thanksgiving provides a vision of a shared meal at the same table despite differences. In fact, the meal is memorable BECAUSE of their differences. Our diversity makes us strong. Our variety can make us wise. In the heat of this election season, remember that we all have much for which to be grateful. There is more to unite us than divide us. We can ALWAYS do better. Let us give thanks to the God who gives us to each other to share the feast and care for the earth from which it comes.

This year, many of us will sacrifice the blessings of togetherness out of an abundance of caution. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of us will sacrifice physical togetherness for now, to preserve life through this crisis. Past generations sacrificed so we might enjoy the blessings of life and liberty. That is what we honor on Veterans Day. I pray that as our time to sacrifice has arrived, the present crisis will not find us wanting. I pray that you all will have a safe Thanksgiving, and that we may remember all for which we are truly grateful.

In Christ,
Richard Malmberg, Pastor



The money just kept coming in. Dale was reporting the income from the chicken barbecue held on Saturday, October 26. It was a new venture for Dale and his handy crew and it was planned to support the church financially because we have lost income from loose offerings, rummage sales and Mistletoe Mart. It was a bit of a gamble because we do not usually have chicken barbecues in the fall. But it was a huge success. After one or two updates, over \$1,800 was raised for the church. And it was a lot of fun.

But there is more. While selling tickets in front of the Post Office several people gave money as a contribution without taking a ticket and several of them mentioned their desire to see chickens get

FINANCE COMMITTEE

distributed to people less fortunate than we. Minna heard this story at the October council meeting and chipped in \$30. So, we were able to donate 18 half chickens to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. When their representative picked them up and delivered them to Mary Lou Huffliing at the food shelf, they smelled so good that Mary Lou rounded up a couple of high school kids and delivered all of them to needy recipients. Talk about a good ministry! Next time maybe we can hit 40 halves to give away.

Thanksgiving is going to be different this year. For many of us it is our favorite holiday when we enjoy our family, our friends and great food. People may not gather in as large numbers as usual, but they will still want pie! It's another fund-raising opportunity for us and another way to reach out into our community. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the anxious times we are in, but we have so much to be faithful for, especially because of our faith! Despair is not an option. Thanksgiving will be special.

The future looks challenging. The COVID-19 virus will be with us through the winter and spring. We are not opening the sanctuary for services and we probably will not until sometime in 2021. If there is one true thing, it is that there are so many people who want this church to continue serving our members, our community, our country and our world, that there is new energy to be part of the period we are in. Thank you to all who attend Bible study, attend church on Zoom, reach out to each other, participate in fundraising, pray for our country and its leaders, pray for humanity as we navigate this challenging time and keep the faith alive!

Peace, Chuck

At the October meeting of the Finance Committee, we heard detailed reports from Tracey Martin and Don Sellarole on our current Financial standing. Thus far in the fiscal year, we are somewhat below our budget for income by 13%, and expenses are outweighing our income at present. We have had some successful fundraising, with the Mission Committee's recent yard sale contributing \$2,300, as well as generous contributions from the Lightner yard sale and a donation for the Zoom project. The recent chicken barbecue was a huge success yielding about \$1,800. We are so grateful to everyone for their contributions and hard work! It illustrates the continued enthusiasm to support this church.

We voted to take the money (\$4,800) for the painting project on the church from our emergency fund, which leaves that fund quite depleted. To shore up our checking account, we did withdraw \$25,000 from the endowment. This was not unexpected. Don Sellarole gave us a favorable quarterly report which showed the fund holding steady at a value of \$1,133,164 at the end of the quarter.

We realize that keeping our pledges and loose offerings up while we meet by Zoom is more difficult. We expect the current situation to go on for several more months, but the continued expressions of support help keep our faith strong and our resilience intact. Let us carry on together and celebrate the ministry of our church.

Sue Krebs/Janet Wilson, Finance co-chairs

WALPOLE CROP HUNGER WALK

The Walpole CROP Hunger Walk was very successful this year! On Saturday morning, September 26, twenty-nine walkers gathered in front of our church for a photo op before embarking on a 3.5 mile walk around the village. We were masked, and we were able to stay a safe distance from others while walking (Walpole's a great town for that) due to the coronavirus pandemic. Others chose to walk on their own schedule during the weekend. Teams from First Congregational Church, St. John's Episcopal, and Walpole Unitarian as well as community members participated not only by walking, but also by raising money to help fund Church World Service disaster relief projects and community sustainability ventures worldwide. Although the final tally isn't in yet as of this writing, we have raised more than \$12,000 in donations. This is a record-breaking number! Our theory is that folks were so Covid weary, anxious about the upcoming presidential election, and uneasy about all the social unrest in our country that they decided to give money to something POSITIVE. As Pastor Richard said in Zoom church on October 4, "It was lighting a candle rather than cursing the darkness"—and indeed a plus is that the Fall Mountain Food Shelf will receive twenty-five percent of the donations. Thank you to all who supported this year's CROP Walk. We are so grateful for your generosity.



Ellie's Crop Walk Speech



The Crop Walk 2020



First, I want to thank Pat Kingsbury for her generous time, advice and help with my first Parish Visitor. You are awesome, Pat !

There is now a lock box outside the handicap access door. If you need to leave documents and the office is closed, you can securely leave your documents in the box. I will empty the box each morning.

Many thanks – Jane



The Trustees held their October meeting on October 20th.

In the rear view mirror, the painting at the Church was completed on Friday, October 9th, which included the metal clad mid-section between the first and second levels, lower areas on the north and south side, areas that needed securing such as window sills, and the front entry. We are pleased with the outcome. Nice that the parsonage and the church are looking special.

We are planning a survey of the steeple, as from the ground there looks to be some moisture damage on the southeast sides. This will be the next exterior project, anticipated for next summer.

Work has not started on the bell rope extension. Brian is making the “bosses”, which is the term for the piece that the bell rope goes through that protects and guides the rope. Hopefully, Brian will get to this soon.

November brings fall clean up. There is a significant amount of trimming needed around the recently-acquired property in the rear of the church. The Trustees have chosen November 7th for cleanup day. Volunteers can meet at 9:00. No inside cleaning will be done.

Thanksgiving pies sales will be on November 25th in front of the Post Office. Please plan to bake a pie or two or more. If you have another treat you like to make, bring it along. Not so sure what Thanksgiving will look like this year with

Covid- 19, but everyone likes a homemade pie! Pies can be delivered to the Post Office outside area between 8:30 and 9:00am on Wednesday morning.

Peace, love, and goodwill!
Dale



Happy autumn, everyone. October has passed and November has arrived with a full schedule for our church.

November 1st is All Saints Day. Pastor Richard will read the names of friends or relatives you would like to have remembered. Please contact the church to submit the names you would like to have offered up.

November 1st is also Holy Communion. Please remember to have your elements ready for the service.

November 8th is the Veteran’s Day service. There will be the reading of veterans’ names, not just church members, but also friends and relatives of our veterans. The deacons will be reading poems from the WW1 era and from around the world. There will be music/hymns honoring our veterans. On November 11, at 11:11am, the church bell will ring 11 times to celebrate Armistice Day, the end of WW1.

November 29th we will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent.

May the Peace and Grace of the Lord be with us all.

Minna Good, Chair of Deacons



The Mission and Action Committee met on Wednesday, October 14, on the common. It was a beautiful fall day. We discussed many topics, and I will bring you up to date.

We surprised Pat Kingsbury during her last week as our Church Administrator with balloons and a gift card. We will miss you, Pat, but look forward to Jane as our new admin.

We talked about our Outdoor Yard Sale. Thank you to all the volunteers who turned out to make this day such a success. In one day without any clothing we collected \$2327.25. This is just \$300 less than our last one. The food booth even did better. Maybe this is the way to go. We will be re-examining next year's Rummage Sale when the time draws nearer.

The Neighbor in Need offering was taken on October 18th. Our mission will be spread throughout the US and the world with your generous donations.

October 25th is UKAMA Sunday. Missions has already donated \$1000.00 in the Spring to this cause. But here is your chance; if you donate to the UKAMA Relief Fund, we will match your donation. Just make your check out to the church and on the memo line write "UKAMA" May I say "Thank you" in advance. Our church has always been strong supporters of our church in Cheredzi, Zimbabwe.

During our BBQ Chicken fundraiser on Saturday, October 17, 18 chicken halves were donated to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. Thank you for your generosity. Along with your September Food Shelf donation of \$270.00, we continue to lift up our support for our local food shelf. This brings me to our November donation:

Saturday, November 14 from 10 to 2pm, we will be located outside of church collecting food donations for our **Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive**. What is needed: canned vegetables, pie crust mixes, pie fillings, stuffing mix, cranberries, fresh potatoes and other non-perishable food items.

Other donations your Mission and Action Committee donated to: Bible for Troops (American Bible Society) \$100.00, Church World Service Gifts (gifts selected for our friends in Haiti) \$275.00, Reality Check in Jaffrey, NH (a drug and alcohol recovery center) \$500.00. We continue to do your mission work throughout our community and world.

God Bless all we do:
Peg Winnen, Clerk



COMMUNITY GIVING TREE

If you would like to help someone in need please come and take a tag with a request for gas, food, or a gift. The tags will be displayed so you can choose to help in your own way. Tags for the Giving Tree can be picked up Nov. 1st – 8th at our office 9-12pm M-F.



We have received twelve books this month to add to our Church Library. Thank you, Pastor Richard Malmberg, for giving us The Gift of the Jews by Thomas Cahill. This book tells how a tribe of desert nomads forever altered the way we experience our world.

Thank you to Gwen Yardley for giving us the following books:

Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul, Chicken Soup for the Golden Soul, Chicken Soup-Miracles Happen, Christmas in My Heart: Volume 1&2 (short Christmas Stories), Thoughts at Christmas by Rev. Allen Gibson, All God's Children (Guidepost true stories), Comfort From Beyond (Guidepost stories of hope in the face of loss), The Birth That We Call Death by Paul Dunn and Richard Eyre, The Wisdom of Sundays by Oprah Winfrey (insights from interviews), Dewey (a true story of a small town library cat) by Vicki Myron.

Come and check out some of these books. It's good reading weather.

Stay Safe!
Judy

The final proceeds of Women's Fellowship yard sale table is \$455.00 thanks to sales of RADA cutlery. Thank you to all who contributed sale items and of course to all who purchased items. Thank you also to Betsey and Curt for the jams, jellies and pickles you made and donated. Betsey says she is now in need of more empty jelly jars in preparation for 2021. Call her to arrange for pick-up or leave them at church.

Gwen Yardley



**CURBSIDE DROP OFF FOOD
DRIVE
FALL MOUNTAIN FOOD SHELF
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
10 TO 2**

Drop off will be outside of the church

Contributions needed:

Pie Crust Mix

Pie Fillings

Stuffing

Cranberries

Canned Vegetables

Fresh Potatoes

Other non-perishable items

Or Cash donations



The Pit Crew 2020



BBQ Bruce 2020



BIRTHDAYS

- 11/2 Elizabeth Prentiss
- 11/4 Richard Prentiss
- 11/9 Gwendolyn Yardley
- 11/11 Patsy Campbell
- 11/15 David Ramsey
- 11/20 Nancy Sloan
- 11/22 Dale Woodward

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/3 Tom and Chris Miller
- 11/23 Tom and Christie Winmill

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

November 2020

* Calendar subject to change due to challenges of Covid-19

Sunday, November 1	SUNDAY MORNING BEGINS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME Worship Service / Communion - online via Zoom Weekly Offering / All Saints Sunday	10:00 am
Sunday, November 8	Worship Service-online via Zoom Weekly Offering / Service to Honor Veterans	10:00am
Tuesday, November 10	Finance meeting-online via Zoom	4:30pm
Wednesday, November 11	Executive Board Meeting-online via Zoom	5:00 pm
Saturday, November 14	Church Council Meeting – online via Zoom	8:30 am
Saturday, November 14	Annual Thanksgiving Curbside Food Drive at the church	10-2pm
Sunday, November 15	Worship Service-online via Zoom Weekly Offering	10:00 am
Sunday, November 22	Worship Service-online via Zoom Weekly Offering	10:00 am
Wednesday, November 25	Trustees Pie Sale at the Post Office	9:00 am
Wednesday November 25	Parish Visitor and Clarion Deadline	
Thursday November 26	Thanksgiving Day–office closed	
Sunday, November 29	Worship Service-online via Zoom Weekly Offering	10:00 am

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

PARISH VISITOR



If we live by the
SPIRIT,
let us also keep
in step with the
SPIRIT.

GALATIANS 5:25. ESV



First Congregational Church
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