



July/August 2021!

Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

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www.walpolenhucc.org

2021

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Friends,

I propose a church-wide summer read: Don't Label Me: How to Do Diversity Without Inflaming the Culture Wars, by Irshad Manji. She is the founder of the Moral Courage Project. She lectures with Oxford University's Initiative for Global Ethics and Human Rights. Her book is a brilliant effort to build constructive communication and repair divisions laid bare by our overheated public discourse. I think it will be an excellent summer read for First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC.

I discovered Manji while watching *Firing Line* with Margaret Hoover on PBS. Hoover is the host of an iconic show created by a legendary conservative, William F. Buckley. Manji is a progressive, queer, Muslim. What I saw was an animated, mutually-respectful discussion between two highly intelligent women with strong views, giving off more light than heat. See for yourself. Originally aired on 5/21/21, the episode is available on YouTube. Could their example guide Americans to healthier public discourse? My hope is yes.

Don't Label Me was written before the 2020 election, and Manji is candid about her opposition to Donald Trump. At the same time, she openly criticizes progressives for their part in our dysfunctional predicament. She writes: "More and more of us in the diversity crowd label people as ignorant and insidious if they hold opinions that diverge from our script. We rally for diversity of appearance but we flake on diversity of viewpoint."

Manji cited a 2018 Harris poll that indicated one of the uniting characteristics Americans share is an openness to "alternative viewpoints." Sadly, beneath that hopeful finding, she concludes, "...the deflating reality is, people generally mean that *other* people should be open to *their* viewpoints." But for Manji, this is a starting place. She counsels that we all need to listen and ask why people hold the views they do. This is the only way to build the trust necessary for what she calls, "Honest diversity."

Nobody wants to be labeled. We are all more than the labels others give us. We are all more interesting and more complicated. Human beings are infinitely dynamic. Labels are reductive at best, generally limiting, and usually inaccurate. Everybody loses.

I hope to expand this conversation to include as many in the Walpole community as would like to participate. I have submitted a piece to the Clarion to extend the invitation. You have two months to read the book. The book is widely available. I ordered my copy through a local independent bookseller.

I will announce a date for the discussion in the September Parish Visitor. Until then, enjoy your summer.

—Rev. Richard Malmberg



It is so nice to be back at church, getting reacquainted with live worship and developing a more personal relationship with Pastor Richard. It is my hope that as we enter a more relaxed portion of the church year, we can all use the summer months to renew and refresh.

I will be using this less hectic time to become more familiar with the role of the Council Chair and am very pleased to share that responsibility with Marilyn Shriver. By sharing this position, we will provide stable leadership to this church. We welcome the support of the congregation, and appreciate the good wishes already extended. Please feel free to approach us with any concerns.

I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable summer.

Sue Krebs
Co-Chair

I feel honored and overwhelmed to serve as Church Council Co-Chair. This is an exciting time in the history of the church. We are emerging from the pandemic and have had little face-to-face contact with each other in well over a year. It's an opportunity to get to know each other again in worship and fellowship. While Pastor Richard has been with us for a year, our relationship with him has been primarily on screen. It is wonderful to finally have the opportunity to experience Pastor Richard live and in person!

I'm so excited to co-chair with Sue. We will do our best to serve the church faithfully.

Marilyn Shriver
Co-Chair



As this year comes to a close, as Missionettes we want to thank Chris Miller for being our Overseer. We have had a great year. I hope you will take the time to read the Annual Report for Mission and Action. See the projects and services we have accomplished with your help. The last donation from you was the Strengthen the Church offering. This is one of the 5 for 5 offerings from the UCC. We have donated \$155. Friendly Meals Program in Alstead, a summer lunch program has received from us \$292.12 so far. This matching donation will end on July 1st.

Our summer project is the Container for Zimbabwe. On July 14th from 1 to 6pm, we will be collecting items to be shipped to our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe. We are looking for donations of craft supplies, personal and medical items, sports equipment, tools, shoes, sewing items and good clothing. We will pack up the items and drive them to Spaulding HS in Dover. From there they will be placed in a shipping container and sent to Zimbabwe.

Thanks again for all your support,
Peg, Clerk

We are heading into summer, so hopefully the pace will slow down a bit.

At the Annual Meeting, members in attendance voted to approve the \$40,425.00 for the repairs to the steeple and painting of the front gable end of the Church. That is the first hurdle and the Trustees are thankful for the support to undertake this vitally important project. We realize the significance of the amount of money required to do this.

We are hopeful that the Church will find financial support from Members and friends of the Church who are able to make a special donation to offset this expense. If anyone has questions about the project, please contact Dale Woodward or any member of the Trustees committee. There are drone photographs that depict the rot and deterioration of the steeple structure. We will try to keep everyone updated on the projects' progress. When you see a 125' lift show up at Church, it will be the sign that work will be beginning soon.

For the Trustees,
Dale

Chicken barbecue August 8th! Save the date to help at the pit or at the Church!

IT IS CHICKEN BARBECUE TIME

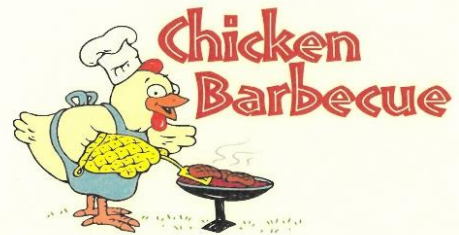
On Sunday, August 8th, under the experienced leadership of Dale Woodward, we will be cooking up our “normal” chicken barbecue.

Betty Prentiss (603-313-4801) will be selling tickets. They are \$12 for the full dinner of 1/2 chicken, potato salad, bean salad, roll and beverage. If you are interested in just the 1/2 chicken, tickets are \$7. We will be selling 150 meals and 250 halves.

Pick up time at the church is between 5:00 and 6:00.

Dale is looking for helpers at the pits, Peg Winnen is looking for help in the kitchen with prep work, etc., and the crew needs setting up help as well as clean up help.

Please see any one of us to offer your help. The Crew—Dale, Bonnie, Betty, Peg, Tom & Chris



**Sunday, August 8, 2021
5:00 – 6:00 PM**

**First Congregational Church
of Walpole, 15 Washington Sq.**

**Take out half chicken: \$7 each
(Pick up at church between 5:00 and 6:00 pm)
Dinner: \$12 (1/2 chicken, potato salad,
bean salad, roll, lemonade or iced tea)**

**Tickets available at Galloway Real Estate
Or call Betty Prentiss 603-313-4801**



THE DEACONS

**WE ARE BACK IN THE SANCTUARY -
HALLELUJAH!**

I pray we may soon be able to ease the mask
and distance restrictions.

I hope we will have a decision in the next
two weeks as to Sunday services being held
in the sanctuary or in fellowship hall. Please
let one of the deacons or Pat in the office
know your preference.

We also have a new deacon. Please
welcome Kathy Yardley to the diaconate.

Have a wonderful, happy and safe summer
everyone.

Minna Good



NEWS FROM FINANCE

Welcome back to church.! Wasn't it great to
worship together once again, as we ease
back into normality?

We have good news! Linda Smith
reports 53 pledges already, which will yield
\$108,417 toward the support of the
church. That is fantastic! Many heartfelt
thanks to all who have pledged.

The committee also appreciates the support
of the congregation on the passage of next
year's budget at the Annual Meeting. We
are aware of the difficulties of operating at a
deficit but feel as we get back to "business
as usual", we will be able to resolve
it. Having a settled pastor will relieve so
much of the uncertainty of the last several
years. We have much to be thankful for!

The summer months are a time of
restoration and renewal. We look forward
to seeing you in church and getting
acquainted with some new faces not framed
on "Zoom". Let's enjoy!

Janet Wilson

Sue Krebs

PLEASE POST THIS CALENDAR FOR EASY REFERENCE

JULY / AUGUST 2021

Calendar subject to change due to challenges of Covid-19

Sunday, July 4	Independence Day Worship Service - Communion Sunday	10:00 am
Monday, July 5	Church Office Closed	
Sunday, July 11	Worship Service	10:00 am
Saturday, July 17	Memorial Service for Nancy Ramsey	11:00 am
Sunday, July 18	Worship Service	10:00 am
Monday, July 19	Walpole Seniors Luncheon	12:00 noon
Saturday, July 24	Church Council Meeting	8:30 am
Sunday, July 25	Worship Service	10:00 am
Saturday, July 31	Memorial Service for Nancianne Houghton	TBA
Sunday, August 1	Worship Service - Communion Sunday	10:00 am
Sunday, August 8	Worship Service CHICKEN BARBECUE	10:00 am 5:00 – 6:00 pm
Sunday, August 15	Worship Service	10:00 am
Sunday, August 22	Worship Service	10:00 am
Sunday, August 29	Worship Service	10:00 am

Monday, August 23, Parish Visitor Deadline

Thursday, July 22, Walpole Clarion August Deadline

Monday, August 23, Walpole Clarion September Deadline

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



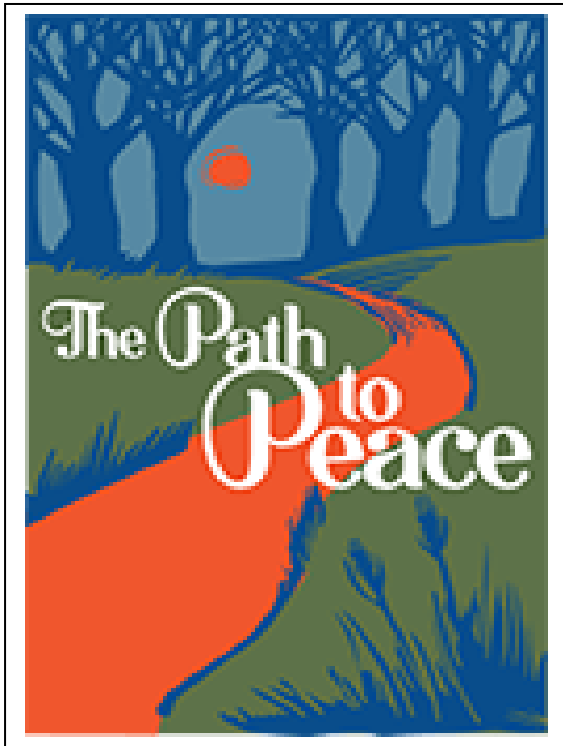
BIRTHDAYS

July 4 Peter Graves,
Emily McNamara
July 5 Maggi Suttles
July 8 Linda Jacob,
Christie Winmill
July 9 Nora Larsen
July 10 Felicia Phillips
July 19 Amy St. John
July 21 Jan Martin
July 22 Sue Perry
July 28 Kate St. John
July 29 Mike Delaney
August 6 Minna Good
August 13 Carol Malnati
August 15 Marilyn Blake,
Carol Lamp
August 16 Harry Boynton
August 18 Caitlin Caserta,
July Foley
August 20 Frank Sibley
August 24 Betsey Congdon
August 31 Tania Johns,
Gordon Pugh,
Cheryl Watson

ANNIVERSARIES

July 7 Chuck & Ellie Shaw
July 11 Tim & Judy Foley
July 19 Dale & Bonnie Woodward
July 21 George & Linda Jeffrey
August 8 Jeanne Cloues & Marcia Weil,
Joe & Linda Graff
August 28 Alan & Linda Smith
August 29 Vincent & Carol Malnati
August 31 Rick & Betty Prentiss

PARISH VISITOR



First Congregational Church
PO Box 393
Walpole, NH 03608

