



SEPTEMBER

Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

walpolechurch@yahoo.com

www.walpolenhucc.org

2021

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Friends,

Can it be September already? Remember all the preparation for the first day of school? A new lunch box, new ring binder, new clothes that would be outgrown by Christmas. But school is never really out. There are always things to learn, and we all teach. It is part of our religion. The Hebrew Bible celebrates wisdom in the Book of Proverbs. Solomon prayed for wisdom when he became King of Israel. Before Jesus was called "Lord," he was called "teacher" (Mark 9:5; John 1:38). In Congregational tradition, clergy serve as "pastor and teacher." Throughout our lives, we all learn, and we all teach.

I look forward to discussing Irshad Manji's New York Times bestseller Don't Label Me: How to Do Diversity Without Inflaming the Culture Wars. The book is widely available in paperback. If your nearest independent bookstore does not have it, I am certain they can order it for you. Manji's book offers ways that we can more effectively communicate and understand each other. I found it helpful, insightful, and welcome in divided and divisive times. I am eager to hear what you thought of it. We will meet on Sunday, September 19 at 2:00 p.m., on the north side of the church, by the Memorial Garden. In case of rain, we will gather in Fellowship Hall (mask required).

Following a summer hiatus, Bible Study resumes meeting on Wednesday, September 15 on Zoom, 4:00-5:00 pm. We will start reading 1 Samuel, which tells of the rise of the monarchy in ancient Israel. We will learn about the miraculous origins of the prophet Samuel, the rise and fall of the first king Sol, and the emergence of the great King David. I look forward to studying with you. I treasure the fresh insights that emerge when we study the Bible together. Zoom link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87236977806?pwd=YkxyK2FwY1oyTCt5cXYzREZwL1lxdz09>

Meeting ID: 872 3697 7806

Passcode: 054975

I hope you have all had a fun and refreshing summer. I am looking forward to the discoveries in store with all of you.

In Christ,
Richard Malmberg



Wow, September already! How did that happen? Summer has flown by, as usual. As we look to the fall, it is with some uncertainty due to the ongoing pandemic. When can we sit in the sanctuary without a mask? When can we throw a big ol' potluck supper? What about the fall Rummage Sale and Mistletoe Mart – can we do them safely? Will we be rolling Halloween candy down a giant tube again? (That was cool.)

Despite our anticipation of returning to more “normal functioning,” we instead find ourselves proceeding with extreme caution, as we have done since March 2020. We just want to acknowledge that we know things are hard, and we appreciate that you show up anyway, even though things are hard. You show up in person and you show up on Zoom. You show up with pies and with school supplies and knitted blanket squares. You show up to peel mountains of potatoes and barbecue scores of chickens. Despite the heaviness that accompanies the reality of Covid, you find a way to stay in community. And maybe it helps you feel a bit lighter. We hope so.

Thanks for showing up.
Marilyn and Sue

Pie Sale Report

Despite some weather events causing cancellation of 2 pie sales, we have still cleared \$1,592 thus far.

Thanks so much to everyone who has made this possible; pie makers, workers and other volunteers. Summer pie sales live on!

Sue Krebs

A Letter from Bob Rhodes

Dear Friends,

First, I want to express my thanks to God and to the warm-hearted Christian people of this church family for your expressions of support and many kindnesses. Since April 30th I could see the shock in my eyes in mirrors. Soon I became aware of prayers from friends and neighbors and even other churches.

I am not afraid of dying, but I am afraid of pain. I keep remembering Terri Tole's long, painful, and courageous battle with cancer. Now every time I hear of people with cancer, I feel a kinship with them and pray for them. My nightly prayers are growing longer. I have told people that I am not ready to go yet - there is so much to do. Recently, after my MRI, biopsy, and two infections, and blood tests, I have been helped by the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, which is a comprehensive cancer center designated by the National Cancer Institute. It combines cancer center research at Dartmouth College and the Geisel School of Medicine in Hanover, N. H. with patient-centered care provided at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, D-H regional locations in Manchester and Keene, N. H. and St. Johnsbury, Vermont and 11 partner hospitals throughout N. H. and Vermont. As of 2018 it is one of 69 comprehensive cancer centers in the U.S.

I have learned about "nuclear" medicine. Three vials of blood were taken from me and tested for my genetic inheritance for prostate cancer. **I have also learned that I do not have bone cancer or lymph cancer, but that my prostate cancer is in my bones and lymph system and that by giving me hormone treatments to reduce my testosterone levels in my prostate, it will also reduce the levels of prostate cancer which is in my bones and lymph system. My testosterone is feeding the cancer in my prostate. I find this helpful news exciting.**

When I was nine years old two of my playmates lost their mother to cancer, and people used to whisper about cancer. I think that the more we can learn and share, the safer we will all be. On August 27 I will undergo a four-hour process of scanning my bones with radiation to find locations of prostate cancer.

As I always have, I continue to pray for our church family and our connections with others with all kinds of problems.

Love and best wishes to you all,
Bob Rhodes

Additional Information from Pastor Richard

Communion Sunday is every first Sunday of the month. All are welcome at the table. We currently use Covid-safe, sealed communion elements. Our practice on Zoom has been for worshippers on the internet to take part using their own bread and cup.

Bible Study meets every Wednesday, 4-5pm, led by Pastor Richard Malmberg, following summer hiatus. It resumes on Wednesday, September 15 on Zoom.

Discussion of our summer book: Don't Label Me: How to Do Diversity Without Inflaming the Culture Wars by Irshad Manji, will take place on Sunday, September 19 at 2:00 p.m., on the north side of the church, by the Memorial Garden. In case of rain, we will gather in Fellowship Hall (mask required).

Sunday, September 26, at 3:00 p.m., with the Southwest Association of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, we will install the Rev. Richard Malmberg, as Pastor of The First Congregational Church of Walpole, United Church of Christ, in a festive service celebrating this moment in the church's history in Walpole. A reception will follow. All are welcome. Blessing of the Animals will be October 3rd, and a rain date of October 17th.

Join First Congregational Church of Walpole Worship and Study on Zoom using the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87236977806?pwd=YkxyK2FwY1oyTCt5cXYzREZwL1lxdz09>

The Zoom link can also be found on our website: www.walpolenhucc.org as well as on the church's Facebook page.

Back To School – The first two weeks in September we will be collecting school supplies. for the backpacks. We need scissors, notebooks, rulers, pencils, pens etc, please help. Thank you from **The Mission and Action team.**



The Trustees are still on summer slowdown. Our major project for this summer was the repair and painting of the steeple. That needed to be postponed until next summer as our painter, Jim Momaney, severely injured his shoulder in a fall. He would have been unable to operate the lift required to do the steeple work. We are all prepped for next summer and now we have a chance to do a little searching for outside funding.

The second summer project is the trimming and removal of some of the trees behind the Church. This has been delayed, waiting for the ground to dry so the equipment does not ruin the lawns. As things are going, we may need to wait for the ground to freeze! The parsonage handicap ramp is another victim of the rains. We are planning on staining it and then doing a planting to help obscure the ramp.

Jarod Walters and Tip Top Maintenance has been a good find and fit for the Church. I think we are looking good inside and outside. Thanks, Jarod.

We are looking **forward** to the time when we can be back to normal in our Church life. The benefits from Covid are the expansion of our outreach via Zoom and broadcasting of services. We are fortunate to have Paul Looney who has led this effort and continues to be our Zoom Director. Thanks, Paul!

Thanks for all the helpers and patrons of this summer's Chicken Bar B Cue! As always, it was a good time of fellowship!
For the Trustees
Dale, Chair

A Note from the Deacons

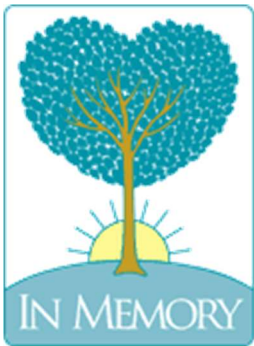
Our deacon of the month of September is Becky Pearson.

Minna Good

Women's Fellowship Dine-in Night **Wednesday, September 8 at 6:30pm**

Come join us on Wednesday for a fun night of dinner and trivia in Fellowship Hall. The meal will be provided, but you need to sign up. There is a sheet in Fellowship Hall. We will have appetizer, salad, lasagna, garlic bread and dessert. Then we will have a game of Women's Fellowship Trivia. Can you remember when? So, mark your calendar and we'll see you then.

Hosts: Peg W, Betty P, Linda G and Sue K.



The Memorial Committee – September 2021

As a new member of the Memorial Committee this fiscal year 2021-22, I admit that I have a lot to learn! Pat Kingsbury, our other new member, and Sandy Pickering, who is starting her second year, round out the committee.

Let's start with the **MEMORIAL BIBLICAL GARDEN**. In the winter of 2007, Susan (Sudbury) Scott, a master gardener and church member, was asked to help plan and create a memorial garden on the north lawn of the church. Sue embraced this project and after much research, chose both the design and plantings to reflect many symbols of Christianity. The project was completed in June 2008. Sue continues to maintain the garden a few times a year, and we are so grateful for her ministry.

Her attention to such detail is truly amazing: a circular garden, for example, is a symbol of friendship, fellowship, family, and love; a five-pointed star inside the circle symbolizes the five scars of Jesus; the cross in the very center of the garden is perhaps the best-known religious symbol of Christianity.

Sue tried to choose plants that were mentioned in the Bible or find others to represent them. Some are white, a symbol of purity, birth, light, joy, and glory – white is also the liturgical color of Christmas and Easter; some are purple, the color used during Advent and Lent; and

some are red, denoting the Holy Spirit – the color of Pentecost. Fragrant plants were chosen to make the garden soothing and calming to the spirit.

Great attention was paid to the numerology and its significance mentioned in the Bible. Sue created a detailed list of plants, stones, lights, shrubs, and trees and their relationship to the numerology in the Bible. You can see this list on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We hope you will visit and enjoy the garden and find comfort and peace.

Who left the water bottle attached to one of the chairs in the garden, you ask? That bottle is meant to stay there for INSIDE the bottle is a description of the garden for anyone to read.

PAVERS

Church members can memorialize deceased loved ones by having a paver placed in the garden. They are 4" x 9" granite cobblestones which include the first and last name of the person being remembered. Order forms can be found by the church mailboxes and requests are handled by the Memorial Committee.

ALTAR FLOWERS What better way to remember a loved one, honor an anniversary or birthday, or other special event than to place an arrangement of flowers on the altar? Please sign up on the form on the table in Fellowship Hall – feel free to share flowers from your summer gardens (or ask one of your neighbors!) As cold weather approaches, the Village Blooms and Halladays make beautiful arrangements. Please help brighten our sanctuary and create beautiful color on the altar.

AS OF THIS WRITING, THE BRASS CONTAINER OFTEN USED ON THE ALTAR IS STILL MISSING (IT LOOKS A BIT LIKE A SPITTOON). Please check your homes to see if perhaps it may have migrated there and return it.

Look forward to a future article in the Parish Visitor when we'll talk about Memorial Giving.

Ellie Shaw

Packing Boxes for Chiredzi

We packed up 22 boxes. 21 boxes go to our sister church in Chiredzi and 1 box goes to Seasons of Hope in Zimbabwe. Below is a photo of our team. Kraig Harlow, Walpole Recreation Dept, collected sports equipment: basketballs, bats and gloves, soccer balls and cleats. This leads us having to deflate all those balls. Then we put them all into boxes. We collected shoes, glasses, tools, clothes, personal items, and medical supplies. On August 31st, we loaded them all into Dale Woodward's truck and brought them to Spalding HS. Thank you so much for your help. Missions in Action team.



And here we are. Last year we received \$108,552 from 70 pledges. This year we received \$110,197 from 60 pledges. We are close to our goal of \$120,000. Thank you to all who have pledged so far. Our first mission is to reach out to the 35 - 40 members and friends who have pledged or supported the church financially in the past and ask them to consider First Congregational, UCC, in their giving. We will be fine. It is easy to get mired in buildings and budgets when we are maintaining old buildings and dealing with a sizable deficit. But we have work to do. For God, For Jesus. We are chosen to do the heavy lifting and to become that beacon that shows our faith and our love to our church, our community, our state, our nations, and our world. We know how much need is out there and we are called to be aware of it and speak to it through our faith, our attendance, our participation, our prayers, and our giving. Peace
Chuck Shaw, Chair

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

On vacation in Maine (where else). Before Ellie and I left, I dug out books, handouts, and other materials about stewardship in several piles and bins. September is around the corner and my hope is to formulate a plan with the help of my committee members Linda and Harry, the council and Richard for the year ahead.

It seems that stewardship in our church has had the traditional job of encouraging giving money to support the commitments of the church budget. Usually this has been in the form of pledging prior to the start of the new fiscal year July 1. That is where we are. In the spring the pledge appeal reflected the painful impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the finances on the prior fiscal year of the church and the ability to conduct services. CONGRATULATIONS! We finished the fiscal year on budget. Yes, we projected a deficit but with the help of all of you we succeeded because of extra donations, fundraising and other forms of giving. We received a little money from the government through the PPP program as well. And we used a very generous gift from Gregg Macri to cover the deficit.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

The finance committee did not meet in August. We are so grateful for the various activities promoted by the various committees that helped keep our heads above water. At our next meeting on September 7th We will be looking at new ways to fundraise. We welcome all ideas. Please contact Jan Martin or Janet Wilson.

The Pit Crew



Photos from our Chicken BBQ !



Birthdays in September

Paul Looney 9/13
Ila Mitchell 9/16
Linda Graff 9/16
Mark Houghton 9/20
Linda Jeffrey 9/21
Terry Robinson 9/22
Ellie Shaw 9/25
Sadie Bursky

Anniversaries in September

Greg & Annette Wilson 9/9
Russell and Phyllis Pickering 9/10
Frank and Pamela Brown 9/20

The Kitchen Ladies



PLEASE POST THIS CALENDAR FOR EASY REFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 2021

Calendar subject to change due to challenges of Covid-19

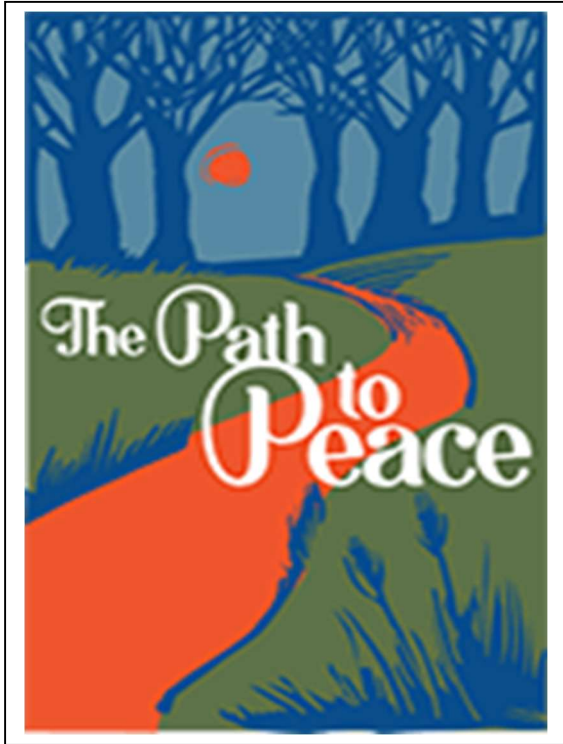
Sunday, September 5	Communion Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00am
Tuesday, September 7	Finance Committee Meeting	4:30pm
Wednesday, September 8	Executive Board Meeting	5:00 pm
Wednesday, September 8	Women's fellowship Dine-In Night	6:30pm
Thursday, September 9	Deacons Meeting	5:00pm
Saturday, September 11	Council Meeting	8:30am
Sunday, September 12	Worship Service live and online via Zoom Blessing of the backpacks during worship	10:00am
Wednesday, September 15	Bible Study Resumes via Zoom	4:00pm
Saturday, September 18	Gregory Macri Memorial Service	10:00am
Sunday, September 19	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00am
Sunday, September 19	Discussion with Pastor Richard <i>Don't Label Me</i> Outside on the lawn or in Fellowship Hall if there is rain. (masks)	2:00pm
Wednesday, September 25	Crop Walk! More details to follow	
Sunday, September 26	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00am
Sunday, September 26	Pastor Richard's Installation as pastor of the First Congregational Church of Walpole, NH UCC	3.00pm

Tuesday, September 22nd Parish Visitor Deadline

Tuesday, September 22nd Clarion Deadline

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

PARISH VISITOR



First Congregational Church
PO Box 393
Walpole, NH 03608

