



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

walpolechurch@yahoo.com

www.walpolenhucc.org

2021

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Friends,

Thanksgiving is our holiday. By that I mean, Congregationalists are the direct theological and ecclesiastical descendants of the Puritans who settled in New England in the 1600s. Some members of First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC trace their family line back to those first New England Puritans.

For a long time, Thanksgiving has been my favorite holiday. Thanksgiving is America's only official religious holiday, and it transcends religious differences. Thanksgiving is built for diversity. I also love that it is somewhat resistant to commercialism. There are cultural traditions of the meal, like turkey and cranberries. Cherished family dishes complete holiday tables across the country.

Our Thanksgiving myth describes pilgrims and indigenous people coming together after the harvest to share a meal and give thanks to their Creator. When I say "myth," I do not mean that it is untrue, just not literally true. I Googled a definition, calling myth: "a traditional story, especially one concerning the early history of a people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events." I think that fits well. The myth ignores the fact that indigenous peoples were not generally thankful for the arrival and eventual dominance of white Europeans.

Even so, I do cherish the holiday. There are historical and mythic foundations we can still embrace. It is literally true that forty-five of the 102 passengers on the Mayflower died during their first winter in New England. Since the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic, over 700,000 Americans have died so far. Last year, many of us scaled back our Thanksgiving celebrations out of an abundance of caution. This year, with vaccines and boosters, a lot of us feel more comfortable gathering with family and friends to celebrate and give thanks that we have made it this far.

Clearly, we are not out of the woods, but we have reason to be thankful. We have enough to eat and, roofs over our heads. As we ask God's blessing on our Thanksgiving dinner, let's pray for the conviction and creativity to increase the peace and justice in the world and our corner of it and beyond. As always, we are all in this together.

In Christ,
Richard Malmberg



Deacons Notes for November

Happy November everyone. The first Sunday in November, which is All Saints' Sunday, everyone attending the service, either on zoom or in the sanctuary will be participating in the service.

The youth of our church will be greeters, ushers, and readers. Communion will be served with remembrance of our loved ones who have passed over the last year. Also, our new members shall be formally introduced to the congregation. Due to Covid, our new members had to wait until now to be formally introduced.

November 8th we will be celebrating our veterans with the entire service being dedicated to them.

As the deacons did last year, there will be many poems read, music and the reading of the names of our veterans and those veterans related to or friends of our church members.

November 28th is the first Sunday of Advent and the first candle on the Advent wreath will be lit during the service. Please remember Daylight Savings starts Nov. 7th so please turn your clocks BACK before going to bed on Saturday, Nov. 6th.

Peace be with you all.
Minna Good

The November DOM is Minna!

Co-Chair Message for November Parish Visitor

We have some good news to share. The church has been awarded a \$10,000 grant through the Pandemic Emergency Relief Fund, which is Cheshire County's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act – Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("LFRF"). Its purpose is to provide economic assistance to help nonprofits impacted by COVID-19. And we sure were impacted! So many cancelled fundraisers. Anyway, we caught wind of the program and applied, and it worked! Huzzah!

The grant does not in any way lessen the need for support from every church member, as you are able. Thank you for everything you do to keep the First Congregational Church of Walpole strong!

Marilyn Shriver and Sue Krebs



November



**WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR THE BRASS
URN THAT IS A FAVORITE FOR ALTAR
FLOWERS. HERE'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN
THE PHOTO ABOVE:**

A Note from the Memorial Committee

Many thanks to those of you who have signed up to provide flowers for the altar for the month of November.

November 7 — Janet Wilson

November 14 — Bruce and Jan Martin

November 21 — Minna Good

November 28 — Chuck and Ellie Shaw

FINANCE NEWS

The Finance Committee continues to meet on a regular basis. At our last meeting our net loss for this fiscal year was reported at \$11,503, not quite as low as anticipated. Pledges and loose offering received were at an all-time low in September. The church relies heavily on our pledges for income, since loose offering is a non-factor due to limited participation in church due to Covid-19. We very much appreciate receiving your pledges on time.

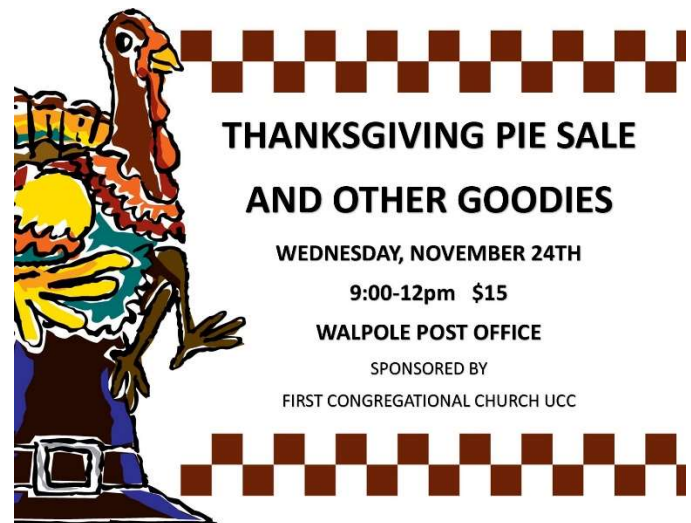
Good News!! Our website, www.walpolenhucc.org, now has a “donate button” where you can make donations online. Please look at our website—our compliments to Linda Wright, our website administrator!

Other fantastic news is that our church was one of the areas 50 businesses and non-profit organizations awarded a \$10,000 grant. This grant was Cheshire County's share of the American Rescue Plan Act to offset losses incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliments to Marilyn Shriver for the hard work in obtaining this grant.

We are so fortunate to have Marilyn who has the expertise and know-how for filing for grants. The Finance Committee will discuss recommendations for the use of these funds at our next meeting November 9th.

The value of our Endowment as of September 30th was \$1,304,732.27. The assets of The Christian Hollow Fund have been rolled into The Legacy Fund.

Co-chairs Janet Wilson and Jan Martin



More Pies Please

November is pie making time. The Trustees will need pies and other baked goods for their annual Thanksgiving sale. It will be November 24th from 9-12 in front of the post office.

Drop off your “goods” at the church on Tuesday or bring them to the sale by 8:30. Thank you! Chris Miller

MISSIONS IN ACTION



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Saturday, November 13th from 11-2

Speaking with Marylou

Huffling, she said there is going to be a shortage of food this Thanksgiving. So, gather up your food items and drive by the church for our **Second Annual Food Drive**. There will be volunteers outside the church to accept your gifts. Besides, the regular canned goods: cranberry sauce, vegetables, pie fillings, pie crusts, sugar, flour, salt, etc., they are also looking for fresh potatoes (sweet or regular), squash, carrots, or beets. It looks like a trip to Pete's Stand is upcoming!! If you cannot come on Saturday, that previous Sunday you can bring to the church canned goods only. We will be handing out grocery bags on Sunday the 31st and November 6th. Thank you in advance for your support of such a much-needed local service.

Peg W-Mission in Action

BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Betty Prentiss 11/2, Rick Prentiss 11/4,
Mark Lightner 11/05, Gwen Yardley 11/9,
Patsy Campbell 11/11, David Ramsey 11/15
Nancy Sloan 11/20, Dale Woodward 11/22

ANNIVERSARIES IN NOVEMBER

Tom and Chris Miller 11/3

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Trustee of the month: October-**George Jeffrey**, November-**Paul Looney**, December-**Tom Miller**.
- Welcome to the gray month of November. The important reminder about November is that the furnace is running! That means no longer can you go off and leave the windows open! We have cool mornings and warm afternoons so it's tempting to forget. Also means for those cool times in church, remember to turn the thermostats down should they be turned up.... fellowship hall 55F and sanctuary 63F.
- The last reminder for this month... check that lights are off if you are last to leave. Seems to be a problem for us.
- Trustees have contracted with Ken Sanders of Sanders Slate and Brick to repair the broken and missing slate on the south side of the Church. Expected to be here in early November.
- Pending: tree work, parsonage plantings, lily bed removal and planting.
- Dehumidifiers in the basement are doing their job. They can be emptied twice a day, taking 5 plus gallons of water out of the basement daily.
- Volunteers needed for cleaning music room, Christian Ed room and nursery. Crew coordinator would be helpful to make this happen. Maybe start on Fall Cleanup Day! (Or sooner)
- Fall Cleanup Day has been set for November 6th beginning at 9:00. Inside and outside work! Job lists will be available. Try to stay socially distanced. Thanks!
- Trustees pie sale is November 24th. Put 'bake pies' on your November calendar. Drop your pies at the church on Tuesday or bring to post office porch on Wednesday morning around 8:30 to 8:45. We will sell until they are gone! (Or near gone)
- Always something to do! Join in and have some fun. **Bring your mask!**

For the Trustees,
Dale Woodward, Chair.

GIVING TREE PROJECT

The Walpole Community Giving Tree Project is getting underway again.

This project helps financially stressed families provide holiday gifts for their children ages birth-18 (or older if still in high school). Participating families must be residents of the Walpole township (Walpole, North Walpole, and Drewsville). All personal information for these families is kept entirely confidential.

Due to the continued concern for public health and safety, this project will proceed much as it did last year. We already received requests from families with the help of the local schools. Now we need to get the requests out to potential "shoppers" in the community who would like to help.

From **NOVEMBER 2-24** only, tags will be available at the following locations during their regular business hours: **First Congregational Church** (M-F 9-12, go to back door by ramp), **St. Peter's Church** (during service hours), **St. John's Church** (during service hours), the **Walpole library**, **Spencer's Place**, **The Hungry Diner**, the **Savings Bank of Walpole** on Westminster St, and **Mascoma Bank**.

Tags will be attached to a bulletin board so people will only touch the tags they wish to take. You will fill out your contact information on one half of the perforated tag and leave it in the container. Take the other half of the tag as your "shopping" list, and then attach it very securely to the gift before you return it.

Gifts may be returned to any of the above locations **until the last day of November**. **Gifts should NOT BE WRAPPED.**

If you wish to help but are not comfortable with shopping this year, there are 3 other options. You may choose a tag and leave the whole tag and a donation in an envelope in the tag container, and someone will do the

shopping for you. Or you can just leave a donation to help purchase gifts for tags that are unclaimed. You may also send a check to either Jeanne Cloues (192 Upper Walpole Road, Walpole) or the First Congregational Church, earmarked for the Giving Tree project. Every little bit helps!

Once we collect all the gifts, they will be "quarantined" for a week before we sort them all, and then they will be "quarantined" again before families come to pick them up.

This is a wonderful project that helps to brighten the holiday season for many of our local families, and we appreciate everyone's help so that it can happen during yet another unusual year.

If you have any questions, you may contact us at weilcloues@comcast.net. Happy holidays to you and yours! Please stay safe and healthy!

Jeanne Cloues and Marcia Weil, project organizers



GIVING TREE

NOVEMBER 2021

Calendar subject to change due to challenges of Covid-19

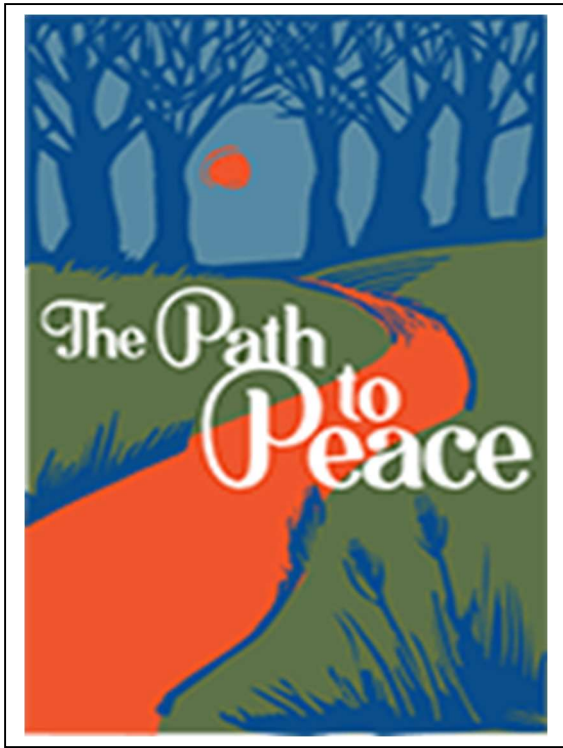
Wednesday, November 3	Bible Study on Zoom	4:00pm
Sunday, November 7	Communion Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00am
Tuesday, November 9	All Saints Sunday Pastor/Parish	3:00pm
Tuesday, November 9	Deacons	5:00pm
Wednesday, November 10	Bible Study on Zoom	4:00 pm
Saturday, November 13	Council Meeting	8:30am
Sunday, November 14	Veterans Sunday Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00am
Wednesday, November 17	Bible Study on Zoom	4:00pm
Sunday, November 21	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00am
Monday, November 22	Parish Visitor and Clarion Deadlines	
Wednesday, November 24	Thanksgiving Pie Sale in front of the PO	9am – 12
Wednesday, November 24	NO BIBLE STUDY TODAY	
Sunday, November 28	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00am

Monday, November 22nd Parish Visitor Deadline

Monday, November 22nd Clarion Deadline

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

PARISH VISITOR



First Congregational Church
PO Box 393
Walpole, NH 03608

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