



## Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

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2022

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Friends,

The First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC is more than just a pretty church.

We have received a goodly inheritance and a sacred trust in our beautiful sanctuary and landmark edifice. As good stewards of our home for worship, every generation must resolve that the sight of our steeple rising above the Common proclaims good news to all who see it.

More than just a pretty church, we want everyone who sees it to know that is where they will find people committed to justice in a troubled and troubling world, where all who enter find a warm welcome. May we always take The Bible seriously, and interpret it faithfully, with relevance to the real lives we live now.

In that spirit, I offer the following prayer.

Faithfully submitted,  
Richard Malmberg, Pastor

#### **A Prayer for Eastertide**

Creator of all,  
For the ancient reliability of turning seasons  
We thank you.  
For new blossoms, singing birds, budding trees,  
We thank you.  
For the gift of human love that speaks to us of you,  
We thank you.  
We pray that in our life and ministry together, you will  
Sustain us.  
We pray that our ancient faith and traditions will  
Guide us.  
As we face new times, new challenges, and opportunities  
You will inspire us.  
In the name of Christ, who triumphs over death we  
Hope and pray.  
Amen.



The following books have been donated to our library by Nicole Wood.

*A Girls Life Application Study Bible*

Two Books are written by Chad Eastham, a tour speaker for teenagers:

*Guys Are Waffles, Girls are Spaghetti* and  
*The Truth About Dating, Love and Just Being Friends.*

*Angels in My Hair* by Lorna Byrne. In this autobiography a modern-day Irish mystic Shares her encounters with angels and spirits.

Peace,

Judy

#### A Message from Minna

The deacons would like to thank each of you for your assistance with Holy Week. The readers, greeters, ushers, and palm separators.

We are grateful for all who attended the Palm Sunday, Sunrise, and Easter services.

The deacons would also like to thank you for the very kind words you gave us for the Holy Week services.

Three of our deacons will be leaving the diaconate as of July. Please consider joining us as the spirit moves you. We will be happy to have you join us. As with being a member of any committee in our church, to be a deacon is most humbling, satisfying, and exciting. Please consider joining the diaconate.

Peace be with you.

Minna Good

#### A message from Marilyn

There is much for which to be grateful as we welcome Spring, starting with the volunteers. Thank you to everyone who serves on a committee, bakes a pie or other refreshment, provides alter flowers, organizes a rummage sale, scrutinizes the budget, oversees the care of buildings and grounds, acts as ushers, and greeters... and the list goes on!

This is "committee nomination" season. If you are reading this, you probably have served or are serving on a committee. Thank you! Please keep at it!

Peace,

Marilyn Shriver

#### A Message from Gwen

Women's Fellowship Meeting! Eight ladies met at the church on Wednesday, April 13th for an evening of socialization, getting reacquainted after several years of not meeting. We also talked about the future of the Women's Fellowship and for the time being, we are not planning to meet every month. The next scheduled meeting is set for Wednesday, August 13th at 5:00 p.m. on the church lawn. We will be enjoying a potluck supper after playing croquet and trying our luck at "corn hole".

The next meeting planned will be on December 14th and will feature a pizza party, ornament swap, and maybe some caroling. Put these dates on your calendar now and plan to be there. Gwen Yardley

## A Note from Dale

Spring has arrived! That means spring clean-up day is the next Trustee project. We have chosen Saturday, May 14th for 'Clean-Up Day'. This will involve inside and outside cleaning. We will do our best to post the 'To Do Lists' for each. Window washers are always needed!

The outside signboard will be undergoing some needed repair as the door needs to be replaced due to wood rot.

MAB Landscaping will be planting around the handicap ramp at the Parsonage as well as relaying the walk from the porch to the sidewalk. Thank you, Memorial Committee, for funding this project.

The Miller's, Chris and Tom, seeded the lawn area by the back door. Thank you, Chris and Tom.

The men's room has been repainted. Our cleaner, Jerod Walters (Tip Top Landscaping and Cleaning) generously painted the men's bathroom and provided all the supplies as his gift to the Church. Thank you!

The Parsonage will soon have a new washer and dryer. The aged washing machine died beyond repair, after twenty-three years of service.

The hardwood floors were polished, and the carpets were cleaned to freshen the Church prior to Easter Services.

The Finance Committee is working with the Trustees on a funding plan for the steeple and future church maintenance.

We're almost done with our work in the Church basement area. Christian Ed folks are sorting and restocking the Christian Ed room. We'll be getting the main room ready for the Missions Committee to begin their work on the Spring Rummage Sale on May 21st.

The Greater Falls Co-op will be holding their annual meeting in the Church Fellowship Hall on April 21st. This will be the first rental use of the Fellowship Hall since the onset of Covid 19 restrictions.

Anxiously waiting for the lilacs to bloom!

For the Trustees,  
Dale Woodward, Chair.

## Easter Breakfast

**A BIG THANK-YOU** to all who helped put on the Easter breakfast. We had about 30 people and good fellowship. Chris and Tom Miller, Lester Phillips, Dave Ramsay, and Frank Sibley were there at 6am. Tom Murray delivered scrambled eggs at 6:45. Breakfast casseroles and baked sweets were donated by Chris Miller, Ellie Shaw, Becky Pearson, Gwen Yardley, Betty Prentiss, and Linda Graff. Peg Winnen brought a wonderful fruit salad. Kathy Yardley helped on clean-up, especially with the sterilizer. I may have forgotten someone; I apologize if that is the case. The event was enjoyed by all. Sue Krebs



Easter Pie Sale 2022 We made \$802!

## May 2022

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

Sunday, May 1	Communion Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Tuesday, May 3	Finance Meeting	4:30 pm
Wednesday, May 4	Bible Study on Zoom	4:00 pm
Saturday, May 7	Council Meeting	8:30 am
Sunday, May 8	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Wednesday, May 11	Bible Study on Zoom	4:00 pm
Sunday, May 15	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, May 15	Pastor Richard's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Open House	4 – 6 pm
Wednesday, May 18	Bible Study on Zoom	4:00 pm
Sunday, May 22	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, May 22	Phyllis Pickering's Memorial Service	TBD
Wednesday, May 25	Bible Study on Zoom	4:00 pm
Sunday, May 29	Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am

**Wednesday, May 25**      **Parish Visitor Deadline**

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

## A Note from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has been meeting often, struggling with next year's budget and an expected net loss. Last year's numbers at the end of our fiscal year June 30, were a deficit of \$54,000. With inflation, extreme increase in oil prices and many other unusual expenses, we're looking at an even larger deficit. How can we proceed?

By supporting the church in any and every way we can...by making and maintaining our pledges, making specific donations as opportunities arise, and participating in all our fund-raising functions each year, i.e., baked goods sale, chicken BBQ, rummage sales, and this year, Old Home Days projects.

Thanks to our history of forward-thinking members who left monetary legacies to our church, we do have our Endowment Fund which has continued to support our work throughout centuries—but we can legally draw only a small amount (7%) each year. That is the most important part: we must be fiscally responsible to sustain and nurture that endowment.

Our thanks to our IAT team, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and the entire Finance Committee for their incredible efforts and expertise!

Janet and Jan



## Mission and Action

We are happy to report that our church has donated \$1000 to the UCC One Great Hour of Sharing effort. Many people used the little boxes that we distributed to save coins and bills. We used a little from our budget to round up to \$1000. Thank you so much to all who participated in this important mission!

### RUMMAGE/YARD/FOOD Sale

Saturday, May 21, 9am to 1 pm

12 noon bag sale

You may bring any-season clothing clean and in good repair, or yard sale items, to the church from 9 am to noon on Tuesday May 17 or Thursday May 19, or from 3 to 6 pm on Wednesday May 18. Remember that we cannot take items with cords. Items for the bake sale can be brought on Friday or Saturday morning. If you want to help in any way, please speak to a member of Mission Committee: Bonnie Woodward, Peg Winnen, Ellie Shaw, Linda Jeffrey, Betty Prentiss, Bonnie Caserta, Chris Miller. We will need help with set up and of course with pick up and clean up.

The UCC in Brattleboro is helping an Afghan family to settle in Vermont and are particularly looking for electric tea kettles, rugs, irons/ironing boards, round dining table, bikes, sewing machines. Any of these items can be brought into the church along with items for the sale.





### An Invitation to our church Members:

You are cordially invited to an open house celebrating the second anniversary of Rev. Richard Malmberg and his wife Jane being called to our church to serve.

Place: First Congregational Church

Date: May 15

Time: 4-6 p.m.,

### Memorial Committee:

The choir wore their new choir robes on Easter Sunday! We are so grateful that we were able to use memorial funds given in memory of Nancianne Houghton, a longtime member of the choir, to purchase the robes.

Three pavers have been ordered for the Memorial Garden for Rick Prentiss, Harley Prentiss, and Phyllis Pickering. Soon the Memorial Garden will be in full glory with the blooming of spring flowers and shrubs. Thank you to Janet Wilson who came up with the idea many years ago, and to Susan Scott, our master gardener.

Altar flowers for May:

May 1: Becky Pearson

May 8: Sandy Pickering

May 15: Ellie Shaw

May 22: Chris and Tom Miller

May 29: Linda Jeffrey

### May Birthdays

Ed Potter 5/7, Nicholas Roentsch 5/7, Joe Graff 5/17

Abigail Brown 5/20, Eric Graff 5/20, Bennett Shriver 5/20

Amy Winnen 5/20, Marjorie McGill, 5/23, Marilyn Shriver 5/23, Bruce Martin 5/30

### Anniversaries in May

Austin and Sandy Pickering 5/9

Jeremy and Tania Johns 5/12



Lovely New Choir Robes



Pastor Richard - Easter Sunrise

**Save this date: May 1, 2022**

**This?**

Remember the informational meetings we used to have before Covid-19 struck? Well, the leadership of the church has decided it's time to get back to a somewhat normal routine, once again, ensuring the membership is "in the know" about what is going on.

The meeting on May 1st, right after the church service, will be an informational session concerning the structural condition of our steeple, the beautiful spire that has been one of the focal points of the town for years.

Dale Woodward, one of our trustees, will present a short PowerPoint Presentation showing the damage and repairs that must be done to preserve our beautiful steeple. Options for accomplishing this work will be discussed. There will be a question-and-answer period following the presentation. Please plan to come and learn about this important project.



**Or This?**



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