



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

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www.walpolenhucc.org

2022

I think warm weather and long summer days are greeted with special appreciation in New England, where the winter is so long and, at times, arduous. Though many of us scatter during these months, I hope to see many of you from time to time, whether in summer worship, around town, in or out of doors.

In the meantime, I hold you all in my prayers and offer the following:

A Prayer for the Summer Months

O God of creation and creativity, your love is abundantly apparent to us in the long, fragrant days of summer. As our gardens plump with fruits of the earth, may we each and all sow seeds of reflection, fellowship, discovery, and service. May your Spirit weave us together even as we are apart that we may share our insights and inspirations with one another when we gather again in worship. We pray for safe journeys and restful sojourns whether at home or away. May our recreation refresh and reinvigorate us so we may renew our commitment to becoming the people and community you would have us be, in a world without end. Amen.

In Christ,

Richard Malmberg





Happy summer to all as we enter a change of season, a change within many committees, and even a change in some procedures within the diaconate. As of July 1st, Becky Pearson will be the Chair of the Deacons. I will remain on the diaconate for the next three years. Becky will be a wonderful asset to our church as the lead deacon. Please support her in any way she may need.

We still have openings for two additional deacons, so as I have said previously, "if the spirit moves you" please come and join us. Maybe you would consider a 1-year trial period to see how enjoyable it can be.

There will be two possible changes in our Communion service. We will once again be serving wine in addition to grape juice. Glass cups have been in the deacon's closet, and we will start using glass cups for the juice and wine. We try to protect our environment in any way possible, Pastor Richard will be on vacation from July 1 - 10. We are once again blessed to have Pastor Eric Marean filling the pulpit on July 3rd and July 10th. Pastor Lynn Wickberg will be providing emergency coverage.

Respectfully submitted.

Minna Good



It's official...summer has begun! For the most part, we are all going to slip into the "off-season" for Churches. This summer the Trustees are staying "in season," as our first major project, since the fellowship hall redo, will be starting with the renovation and painting of the steeple, to the tune of \$110,600.00, approved at the Church's Annual Meeting on June 19, 2022. Detail can be made available upon request to the Church Administrator.

There is an active fundraising effort on going to offset this major expense to the Church. If you would like to contribute or desire more information, you can contact Bruce Martin, Chuck Shaw, or Dale Woodward. You can also send a check, made out to the First Congregational Church- Walpole, NH to PO Box 393, Walpole, NH. 03608. Please write "Steeple" on the memo line. Please carefully consider how you can help!

New for the 2022-23 Church year are Trustees Nancy Sloan and Don Sellarole, both returning to the Trustees. We are on the lookout for one more Trustee.

Settle in now and enjoy the summer season!

For the Trustees,
Dale Woodward, Chair.

July/ August 2022

Calendar subject to change due to challenges of Covid-19

Sunday, July 3	Communion Sunday Worship Service Live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, July 10	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, July 17	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, July 24	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, July 31	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, August 7	Communion Sunday Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, August 14	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, August 21	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, August 28	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am

Monday August 22nd

Parish Visitor Deadline

Church Office Hours:

9 am to 12 noon, M-F

STEEPLE PROJECT

June 2022

Built in 1831, the First Congregational church, including the steeple, has been a vital part of the visual imagery of Walpole, New Hampshire. For 191 years the steeple has been the tallest, most visible part of Walpole. It has endured 191 years of weather, the Civil War, WWI, the Depression, WWII, the Korean War, the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, and the wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

The steeple has held up well thanks to the stewardship of the church and community. The good news is that the framework of the steeple is solid. But expensive repairs are needed. There's work to be done: the upper-level roofing needs to be replaced, the water damage around the base and molding repaired, the four louvered windows need new screening and better access to the lighting of the steeple, new ladders, and access planking internally and some internal structural repairs. Electrical upgrades are necessary to serve the interior and exterior steeple lights. Lightning protection needs to be certified and repaired. And, of course, it all needs to be painted.

Two decisions were made this spring. The first was to accomplish all the work that needs to be done to the steeple and the second was to invite the community to participate. Let's face facts: we are a smaller, aging membership no different than many mainline churches. We need your support.

If you wish to help, your tax-deductible contribution may be made to First Congregational Church Steeple Fund, P.O. Box 393, Walpole, New Hampshire, 03608. Our website, walpolenhucc.org, has a donation feature as well.

Thank you for your attention to this vital project.

Peace,
Members and friends of First
Congregational Church



STEWARDSHIP

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY. We are accused of always asking for money. Yet, we have approved deficit budgets for the last three fiscal years, had no problem maximizing the withdrawal of funds from the endowment and voted to spend \$110,600 to repair the steeple with money loaned from the government.

This current fiscal year ends June 30, 2022. We are right on budget with the projected expenses. The problem is on the income side, specifically the pledge income. While we received pledges this current fiscal year, the pledge income has not matched the pledges. Please revisit your current pledge and be sure you're up to date. Thank you. And this is particularly difficult because we're right at the start of the new fiscal year and you're being asked to commit to the church for the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year. So far, we have received 33 pledges for \$64,400. That's great! Thank you for remaining committed to our church. Time really flies when it comes to money!

It has been a rough go since COVID-19 hit 27 months ago. We are blessed by a strong endowment, but not one without risk and limitations. In 2014 we utilized endowment funds for the Fellowship Hall renovation but because we needed the endowment for this fiscal year there is no money for the steeple. The Save the Steeple group has an ambitious fundraising plan to offset the loan, but it would be so great if folks stepped forward and contributed generously. We don't enjoy asking for money, but we recognize that the steeple is an important visual part of the church and the town.

It's not an easy time. There is fear about oil prices, gas prices, and food prices. Our faith will carry us a long way. Being a joyful giver reflects our faith and our assurance that God is still speaking. We just need to be good listeners.

Peace, Chuck

From our Council Co-Chairs Marilyn & Sue

I feel like I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year since it is the start of our new fiscal year. It's a pretty big deal! To those of you who have pledged your financial support for the church for this year: Thank You! We all need to do what we can. I know that can be hard, especially during this time of inflation and, for my family, college expenses. I try to remember to be grateful for what I have and share as best I can.

A new fiscal year feels a little like a blank slate. What do we want to fill it with? How do we want to be of service to the community? How do we want to support each other? How will we model kindness? Generosity? Compassion?

Finally: How many pies will we bake for the Sunday band concerts?!

Have a blessed summer – Marilyn Shriver

Birthdays in July & August

July

Peter Graves 7/4, Emily McNamara 7/4, Christie Winmill 7/8, Nora Larsen 7/9, Felicia Phillips 7/10, Jan Martin 7/21, Sue Perry 7/22, Mike Delaney 7/29.

August

Minna Good 8/6, Carol Malnati, 8/13, Marilyn Blake 8/15, Carol Lamp 6/15, Harry Boynton 8/16, Caitlin Caserta 8/18, Judy Foley 8/18, Frank Sibley 8/20, Betsey Congdon 8/24, Tania Johns 8/31, Gordon Pugh 8/31, Cheryl Watson 8/31.

Anniversaries in July & August

July

Chuck & Ellie Shaw 7/7, Tim & Judy Foley 7/11, Dale & Bonnie Woodward 7/19, George & Linda Jeffrey 7/21.

August Jeanne Cloues & Marcia Weil 8/8, Joe & Linda Graff 8/8, Alan & Linda Smith 8/28, Vincent & Carol Malnati 8/29.

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PO Box 393
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