



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

walpolechurch@yahoo.com

www.walpolenhucc.org

2022

Hope, love, peace, and joy

Friends,

Advent marks the new year on the Christian calendar. As we begin this new season and new year, I offer this prayer with all of you in my heart:

God, as the days grow colder and shorter, we light our first candle of hope. We pray that this hope might shine within us, and kindle hope in others. We trust that you guide us through long nights ahead, and so embrace the light that the darkness will not overtake us.

As we light the candle of love, God, we pray your love will burn within us and warm everyone we meet and everyone we know. We remember Christ commanded us to love one another as he has loved us.

God, in a world torn by violence and war, as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends serve in harm's way, we pray for their safety. We light a candle for peace, yearning for the Prince of Peace to rule our hearts so that we might be instruments of your peace in a troubled and torn world.

O God, we light a fourth candle, thankful for the gift of joy that enriches our lives. We are grateful for blessings of fellowship, freedom, simple pleasures, and the presence of your Spirit. We savor the festivities of the season and renewed relationships and ask that you would grant us a spirit of hospitality, generosity, and sensitivity, so our joy might be fulfilled by sharing it.

All this we pray in the name of the one we await, the child who will lead us, in a world without end. Amen.

May the waiting of this Advent Season be a time of fruitful contemplation, and prayerful reflection to guide us past materialistic distractions, and consumer frenzy. May we each have deeper truths and profound blessings of the season.

Yours in Christ,
Richard

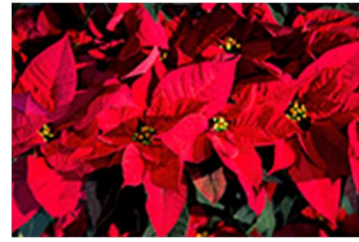
From Our Council

I had the privilege of serving soup at the church on November 19 during the Farmer's Market. As I was getting ready to leave, I said to Sue Krebs and Pastor Richard, "Thank you. I needed that." It felt good to be part of a team, to welcome familiar and new faces, and to help serve and clean up. I also got to eat some excellent soup.

I realize that I am out of the habit of raising my hand and saying, "I will help." During the worst of COVID times, there was little for which to volunteer. But I've passed up other opportunities – too busy, I'd rationalize. The soup experience reminded me how much I benefit from volunteering. It was like a muscle I hadn't exercised in a while, and it felt good.

The sanctuary is open for in-person worship but our numbers on Sunday are low. I wonder if others have experienced the same thing as me and have forgotten how much they benefit by showing up for worship and fellowship. It may be a muscle that needs some exercise.

Peace,
Marilyn Shriver



Again, this year, you will be able to buy poinsettias to decorate the church sanctuary during Advent, and then to take home after Christmas. You can choose a red or white poinsettia in 2 different sizes. The pricing is as follows:

Small (1 plant) - \$20.00

Medium (2 plants) – \$35.00

You can sign up for poinsettias in Fellowship Hall. Look for the board with the sign-up sheet and the envelope for checks. Or you can email me your order. Checks should be made out to First Congregational Church of Walpole. Please write "flowers" in the memo. Please note: Orders are due no later than Sunday, December 4.

Thank you so much,
Jana Sellarole
jgsellarole@gmail.com
603-313-4076

From Linda Jeffrey

In Fellowship Hall is a Christmas-wrapped box for donations for the Maplewood Nursing Home residents. On the front of the box is a list of suggestions for what they need. Any questions please call Linda Jeffrey at 603-756-3376. Linda will be collecting the box on December 11th. Thank you.



Sunday, November 20th Thanksgiving Circle



On Sunday after morning worship, members of First Congregational Church and Walpole Unitarian Church gathered for a Thanksgiving Circle on the Common. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!



Trustees Report

We are entering the slow-down season! One last little project before we settle in for the winter season.... The Trustees will light the little outside tree and set up the Carolers.

Rules for the winter:

- Bring a sweater to Church, it may seem chilly.
- Make sure the thermostat is turned down if you are the last to leave.

Please enjoy the Holidays!
For the Trustees,
Dale

Happy Holidays from the Deacons

November was a quiet month for the deacons. Our only special service was held on Sunday, November 13th, in honor of Veterans. We read poems from several past conflicts that were chosen by Pastor Richard. The deacons then took turns reading a list of the veterans' names. This included not only citizens past and present from Walpole, but also family members and friends of church members who served in all branches of the armed services. Amy Cann made sure to play at least a portion of each branch's anthem. It was followed by the playing of taps. It was a moving and meaningful service.

Sadly, we lost another cherished member of our congregation in November. Peg Graves, who devoted so much time and energy to our church, and was the mother of deacon, Peter Graves, passed peacefully on November 9th. She was remembered at a graveside service and a reception at Town Hall on November 19th. Peg and another cherished member of our congregation, Betty Prentiss, were the original producers of the live

nativity that is still held every year on the common on Christmas Eve!

Some of the deacons helped with the soup sale during the Walpole Farmers market on Nov. 19th. And many others helped the incomparable trustees pull off another pie sale before Thanksgiving. There are so many hard-working committees within our walls. We are blessed.

Finally, this will hopefully mark the last year that the "Breakfast with Santa" event will NOT happen due to health concerns. We will aim for a merry, healthy event next December. 🙏

I am the deacon of the month for December. 603-860-0221. Remember the Christmas Eve service on Saturday, Dec. 24th. at 7 pm. There will be a regular church service on Christmas Day at the usual time.

Have a happy, stress-free holiday season 😊🙏

Becky Pearson

Ladies Night Out
Wednesday, December 14th
7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
Come for an evening of
friendship, food, and merriment.
Please RSVP to Gwen.
603-756-3677 or
gyardley@myfairpoint.net

Fall Mountain Food Shelf

Gift bags were handed out last Sunday for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Please put a label on your bag for:

Family

Children

Man or Woman

They would like:

Toiletries

Toothpaste, toothbrushes

Candy

Crayons

Coloring books

Child items

Stamps and envelopes

They would like anything you can give.

Gift bags are due back to church by December 11th

Thank you - Bonnie Caserta



Finance and Stewardship Committees

Since July 1, 2022, the Finance Committee and Stewardship Committee have been following the progress on pledges. We set an ambitious goal of \$120,000 based on the anticipated loss in revenue from loose offering: \$3,600, contributions: \$2,000, fundraising: \$4,000, and Women's Fellowship: \$5,000. We were extremely fortunate to receive a grant last December for \$10,000 thanks to the work of Marilyn Shriver. Sadly, we can't count on that source this year. So far, we are already \$14,000 under budget for income 4 months into the new fiscal year, a budget that was approved at the annual meeting last June with a \$67,549.78 deficit.

This year we have 52 pledges totaling \$89,005 while one year ago we had 72 pledges that totaled \$105,726. We have formed a team to investigate why there is such a shortage of pledges. We're hoping many of those are from members who forgot. There was a lot of energy and outreach for the steeple project so maybe things got complicated. We'll see. We don't want this deficit to be new news next June at the Annual Meeting when we may be facing a deficit the endowment can't cover.

The good news is that committees have been very conservative with expenditures. Also, we got a reasonable price on oil, \$3.699/gal, but it represents an added cost of \$4,000 this winter over last year. The budget is a topic at every council meeting.

The really good news is that we have a solid core of committed people who keep this church being just that, church! We're reinventing ourselves to adapt to projects we can handle, often looking at new ideas. Why just recently we had a Community Supper which raised over \$700 for the World Central Kitchen and a Soup and Bread fundraiser during the Farmer's Market on November 19.

Thank you for being the church! We're on God's time you know. It will be fine.

Finance Committee & Stewardship Committee

Our Nativity Arrangement



The Ceramic Nativity Arrangement on our altar

The Origin of the Nativity Set: Back during the time Reverend Evelyn Clowes was here, Doris Brainard purchased the greenware and at a couple of evening workshops a group of ladies got together and painted it. Gwen took the set to Alstead to Erin Relehans ceramic shop and she fired it. Gwen cannot remember who helped paint the set. She is thinking most of them have either moved or passed on. One person Gwen remembers was Karen Pickard who with her husband owned the now Malnati Farm. If you helped with this project please call Gwen and your name can be added to the list.

For many years Sandy Pickering and Marjorie McGill were in charge of setting up the display.

Gwen Yardley

Organ Recital

**First Congregational Church of Walpole,
UCC**

Sunday, December 4, 2022, 3:00 p.m.



Seth Phoenix is a local church substitute organist serving all denominations. He started playing the organ as a teenager at Townsend Church in Townsend, VT. His love of the organ and organ music is evident in his playing.

The recital program includes pieces Seth plays at church services: preludes, offertories, meditation music, and postludes. These include pieces for manuals and pedals as well as just manuals. The organ has many different sounds he hopes you enjoy learning about as you listen to the program.

Admission: a freewill offering for the musician

Birthdays in December

Nancy Hamblet Lightner 12/21
Russell Pickering 12/24
Janet Wilson 12/25
Tara Bemis 12/27
Kendra Johns 12/27
William Winmill 12/29

Anniversaries in December

Mark and Nancy Hamblet Lightner
12/ 5

STEEPLE FUNDING UPDATE

Isn't the steeple beautiful? Brian Shriver took a photograph of it for the December Clarion. Dale particularly likes the steeple at night with the new lighting. The members of First Congregational Church, UCC, in Walpole have contributed over \$73,000 towards the repairs and upgrades of the steeple. THANK YOU!! Community members near and far have contributed another \$33,000 bringing the total raised so far to \$106,000.

We have paused the outreach for funds until we have a better picture of the total cost. The lightning protection has yet to be done which is holding up the electricians from completing their work. Also, there is a little painting to be done, probably in the spring. There will most likely be a need for more funds when everything is completed.

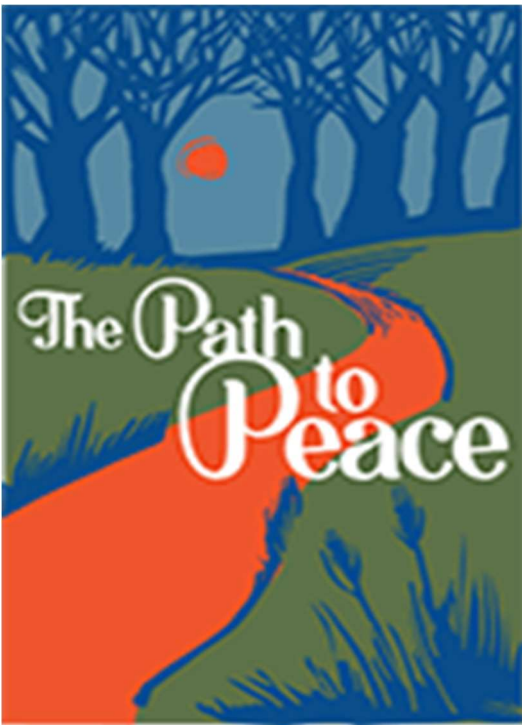
Contributions continue to trickle in. We have received \$900 from three members in the last month. We appreciate the added funds that are sure to help. Thank you.

The Steeple Committee

Church Calendar for December 2022

Sunday, December 4	2nd Sunday in Advent Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, December 4	Organ Recital – Seth Phoenix	3:00 pm
Wednesday, December 7	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, December 11	3rd Sunday in Advent Worship live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wednesday, December 14	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, December 18	4 th Sunday in Advent Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Worship Service live and on Zoom	7:00 pm
Sunday, December 25	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Monday, December 26	Parish Visitor Deadline	
Church Office Hours:	9 am to 12 noon, T-F	
	The office is closed on Mondays	

PARISH VISITOR



First Congregational Church, UCC
PO Box 393
Walpole, NH 03608

«AddressBlock»



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

walpolechurch@yahoo.com

www.walpolenhucc.org

2022

Hope, love, peace, and joy

Friends,

Advent marks the new year on the Christian calendar. As we begin this new season and new year, I offer this prayer with all of you in my heart:

God, as the days grow colder and shorter, we light our first candle of hope. We pray that this hope might shine within us, and kindle hope in others. We trust that you guide us through long nights ahead, and so embrace the light that the darkness will not overtake us.

As we light the candle of love, God, we pray your love will burn within us and warm everyone we meet and everyone we know. We remember Christ commanded us to love one another as he has loved us.

God, in a world torn by violence and war, as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends serve in harm's way, we pray for their safety. We light a candle for peace, yearning for the Prince of Peace to rule our hearts so that we might be instruments of your peace in a troubled and torn world.

O God, we light a fourth candle, thankful for the gift of joy that enriches our lives. We are grateful for blessings of fellowship, freedom, simple pleasures, and the presence of your Spirit. We savor the festivities of the season and renewed relationships and ask that you would grant us a spirit of hospitality, generosity, and sensitivity, so our joy might be fulfilled by sharing it.

All this we pray in the name of the one we await, the child who will lead us, in a world without end. Amen.

May the waiting of this Advent Season be a time of fruitful contemplation, and prayerful reflection to guide us past materialistic distractions, and consumer frenzy. May we each have deeper truths and profound blessings of the season.

Yours in Christ,
Richard

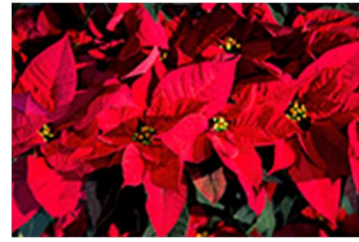
From Our Council

I had the privilege of serving soup at the church on November 19 during the Farmer's Market. As I was getting ready to leave, I said to Sue Krebs and Pastor Richard, "Thank you. I needed that." It felt good to be part of a team, to welcome familiar and new faces, and to help serve and clean up. I also got to eat some excellent soup.

I realize that I am out of the habit of raising my hand and saying, "I will help." During the worst of COVID times, there was little for which to volunteer. But I've passed up other opportunities – too busy, I'd rationalize. The soup experience reminded me how much I benefit from volunteering. It was like a muscle I hadn't exercised in a while, and it felt good.

The sanctuary is open for in-person worship but our numbers on Sunday are low. I wonder if others have experienced the same thing as me and have forgotten how much they benefit by showing up for worship and fellowship. It may be a muscle that needs some exercise.

Peace,
Marilyn Shriver



Again, this year, you will be able to buy poinsettias to decorate the church sanctuary during Advent, and then to take home after Christmas. You can choose a red or white poinsettia in 2 different sizes. The pricing is as follows:

Small (1 plant) - \$20.00

Medium (2 plants) – \$35.00

You can sign up for poinsettias in Fellowship Hall. Look for the board with the sign-up sheet and the envelope for checks. Or you can email me your order. Checks should be made out to First Congregational Church of Walpole. Please write "flowers" in the memo. Please note: Orders are due no later than Sunday, December 4.

Thank you so much,
Jana Sellarole
jgsellarole@gmail.com
603-313-4076

From Linda Jeffrey

In Fellowship Hall is a Christmas-wrapped box for donations for the Maplewood Nursing Home residents. On the front of the box is a list of suggestions for what they need. Any questions please call Linda Jeffrey at 603-756-3376. Linda will be collecting the box on December 11th. Thank you.



Sunday, November 20th Thanksgiving Circle



On Sunday after morning worship, members of First Congregational Church and Walpole Unitarian Church gathered for a Thanksgiving Circle on the Common. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!



Trustees Report

We are entering the slow-down season! One last little project before we settle in for the winter season.... The Trustees will light the little outside tree and set up the Carolers.

Rules for the winter:

- Bring a sweater to Church, it may seem chilly.
- Make sure the thermostat is turned down if you are the last to leave.

Please enjoy the Holidays!
For the Trustees,
Dale

Happy Holidays from the Deacons

November was a quiet month for the deacons. Our only special service was held on Sunday, November 13th, in honor of Veterans. We read poems from several past conflicts that were chosen by Pastor Richard. The deacons then took turns reading a list of the veterans' names. This included not only citizens past and present from Walpole, but also family members and friends of church members who served in all branches of the armed services. Amy Cann made sure to play at least a portion of each branch's anthem. It was followed by the playing of taps. It was a moving and meaningful service.

Sadly, we lost another cherished member of our congregation in November. Peg Graves, who devoted so much time and energy to our church, and was the mother of deacon, Peter Graves, passed peacefully on November 9th. She was remembered at a graveside service and a reception at Town Hall on November 19th. Peg and another cherished member of our congregation, Betty Prentiss, were the original producers of the live

nativity that is still held every year on the common on Christmas Eve!

Some of the deacons helped with the soup sale during the Walpole Farmers market on Nov. 19th. And many others helped the incomparable trustees pull off another pie sale before Thanksgiving. There are so many hard-working committees within our walls. We are blessed.

Finally, this will hopefully mark the last year that the "Breakfast with Santa" event will NOT happen due to health concerns. We will aim for a merry, healthy event next December. 🙏

I am the deacon of the month for December. 603-860-0221. Remember the Christmas Eve service on Saturday, Dec. 24th. at 7 pm. There will be a regular church service on Christmas Day at the usual time.

Have a happy, stress-free holiday season 😊🙏

Becky Pearson

Ladies Night Out
Wednesday, December 14th
7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
Come for an evening of
friendship, food, and merriment.
Please RSVP to Gwen.
603-756-3677 or
gyardley@myfairpoint.net

Fall Mountain Food Shelf

Gift bags were handed out last Sunday for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Please put a label on your bag for:

Family

Children

Man or Woman

They would like:

Toiletries

Toothpaste, toothbrushes

Candy

Crayons

Coloring books

Child items

Stamps and envelopes

They would like anything you can give.

Gift bags are due back to church by December 11th

Thank you - Bonnie Caserta



Finance and Stewardship Committees

Since July 1, 2022, the Finance Committee and Stewardship Committee have been following the progress on pledges. We set an ambitious goal of \$120,000 based on the anticipated loss in revenue from loose offering: \$3,600, contributions: \$2,000, fundraising: \$4,000, and Women's Fellowship: \$5,000. We were extremely fortunate to receive a grant last December for \$10,000 thanks to the work of Marilyn Shriver. Sadly, we can't count on that source this year. So far, we are already \$14,000 under budget for income 4 months into the new fiscal year, a budget that was approved at the annual meeting last June with a \$67,549.78 deficit.

This year we have 52 pledges totaling \$89,005 while one year ago we had 72 pledges that totaled \$105,726. We have formed a team to investigate why there is such a shortage of pledges. We're hoping many of those are from members who forgot. There was a lot of energy and outreach for the steeple project so maybe things got complicated. We'll see. We don't want this deficit to be new news next June at the Annual Meeting when we may be facing a deficit the endowment can't cover.

The good news is that committees have been very conservative with expenditures. Also, we got a reasonable price on oil, \$3.699/gal, but it represents an added cost of \$4,000 this winter over last year. The budget is a topic at every council meeting.

The really good news is that we have a solid core of committed people who keep this church being just that, church! We're reinventing ourselves to adapt to projects we can handle, often looking at new ideas. Why just recently we had a Community Supper which raised over \$700 for the World Central Kitchen and a Soup and Bread fundraiser during the Farmer's Market on November 19.

Thank you for being the church! We're on God's time you know. It will be fine.

Finance Committee & Stewardship Committee

Our Nativity Arrangement



The Ceramic Nativity Arrangement on our altar

The Origin of the Nativity Set: Back during the time Reverend Evelyn Clowes was here, Doris Brainard purchased the greenware and at a couple of evening workshops a group of ladies got together and painted it. Gwen took the set to Alstead to Erin Relehans ceramic shop and she fired it. Gwen cannot remember who helped paint the set. She is thinking most of them have either moved or passed on. One person Gwen remembers was Karen Pickard who with her husband owned the now Malnati Farm. If you helped with this project please call Gwen and your name can be added to the list.

For many years Sandy Pickering and Marjorie McGill were in charge of setting up the display.

Gwen Yardley

Organ Recital

**First Congregational Church of Walpole,
UCC**

Sunday, December 4, 2022, 3:00 p.m.



Seth Phoenix is a local church substitute organist serving all denominations. He started playing the organ as a teenager at Townsend Church in Townsend, VT. His love of the organ and organ music is evident in his playing.

The recital program includes pieces Seth plays at church services: preludes, offertories, meditation music, and postludes. These include pieces for manuals and pedals as well as just manuals. The organ has many different sounds he hopes you enjoy learning about as you listen to the program.

Admission: a freewill offering for the musician

Birthdays in December

Nancy Hamblet Lightner 12/21
Russell Pickering 12/24
Janet Wilson 12/25
Tara Bemis 12/27
Kendra Johns 12/27
William Winmill 12/29

Anniversaries in December

Mark and Nancy Hamblet Lightner
12/ 5

STEEPLE FUNDING UPDATE

Isn't the steeple beautiful? Brian Shriver took a photograph of it for the December Clarion. Dale particularly likes the steeple at night with the new lighting. The members of First Congregational Church, UCC, in Walpole have contributed over \$73,000 towards the repairs and upgrades of the steeple. THANK YOU!! Community members near and far have contributed another \$33,000 bringing the total raised so far to \$106,000.

We have paused the outreach for funds until we have a better picture of the total cost. The lightning protection has yet to be done which is holding up the electricians from completing their work. Also, there is a little painting to be done, probably in the spring. There will most likely be a need for more funds when everything is completed.

Contributions continue to trickle in. We have received \$900 from three members in the last month. We appreciate the added funds that are sure to help. Thank you.

The Steeple Committee

Church Calendar for December 2022

Sunday, December 4	2nd Sunday in Advent Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, December 4	Organ Recital – Seth Phoenix	3:00 pm
Wednesday, December 7	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, December 11	3rd Sunday in Advent Worship live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wednesday, December 14	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, December 18	4 th Sunday in Advent Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Worship Service live and on Zoom	7:00 pm
Sunday, December 25	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Monday, December 26	Parish Visitor Deadline	
Church Office Hours:	9 am to 12 noon, T-F	
	The office is closed on Mondays	

PARISH VISITOR



First Congregational Church, UCC
PO Box 393
Walpole, NH 03608

«AddressBlock»



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

walpolechurch@yahoo.com

www.walpolenhucc.org

2022

Hope, love, peace, and joy

Friends,

Advent marks the new year on the Christian calendar. As we begin this new season and new year, I offer this prayer with all of you in my heart:

God, as the days grow colder and shorter, we light our first candle of hope. We pray that this hope might shine within us, and kindle hope in others. We trust that you guide us through long nights ahead, and so embrace the light that the darkness will not overtake us.

As we light the candle of love, God, we pray your love will burn within us and warm everyone we meet and everyone we know. We remember Christ commanded us to love one another as he has loved us.

God, in a world torn by violence and war, as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends serve in harm's way, we pray for their safety. We light a candle for peace, yearning for the Prince of Peace to rule our hearts so that we might be instruments of your peace in a troubled and torn world.

O God, we light a fourth candle, thankful for the gift of joy that enriches our lives. We are grateful for blessings of fellowship, freedom, simple pleasures, and the presence of your Spirit. We savor the festivities of the season and renewed relationships and ask that you would grant us a spirit of hospitality, generosity, and sensitivity, so our joy might be fulfilled by sharing it.

All this we pray in the name of the one we await, the child who will lead us, in a world without end. Amen.

May the waiting of this Advent Season be a time of fruitful contemplation, and prayerful reflection to guide us past materialistic distractions, and consumer frenzy. May we each have deeper truths and profound blessings of the season.

Yours in Christ,
Richard

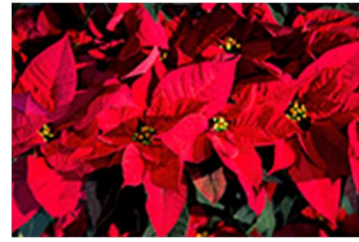
From Our Council

I had the privilege of serving soup at the church on November 19 during the Farmer's Market. As I was getting ready to leave, I said to Sue Krebs and Pastor Richard, "Thank you. I needed that." It felt good to be part of a team, to welcome familiar and new faces, and to help serve and clean up. I also got to eat some excellent soup.

I realize that I am out of the habit of raising my hand and saying, "I will help." During the worst of COVID times, there was little for which to volunteer. But I've passed up other opportunities – too busy, I'd rationalize. The soup experience reminded me how much I benefit from volunteering. It was like a muscle I hadn't exercised in a while, and it felt good.

The sanctuary is open for in-person worship but our numbers on Sunday are low. I wonder if others have experienced the same thing as me and have forgotten how much they benefit by showing up for worship and fellowship. It may be a muscle that needs some exercise.

Peace,
Marilyn Shriver



Again, this year, you will be able to buy poinsettias to decorate the church sanctuary during Advent, and then to take home after Christmas. You can choose a red or white poinsettia in 2 different sizes. The pricing is as follows:

Small (1 plant) - \$20.00

Medium (2 plants) – \$35.00

You can sign up for poinsettias in Fellowship Hall. Look for the board with the sign-up sheet and the envelope for checks. Or you can email me your order. Checks should be made out to First Congregational Church of Walpole. Please write "flowers" in the memo. Please note: Orders are due no later than Sunday, December 4.

Thank you so much,
Jana Sellarole
jgsellarole@gmail.com
603-313-4076

From Linda Jeffrey

In Fellowship Hall is a Christmas-wrapped box for donations for the Maplewood Nursing Home residents. On the front of the box is a list of suggestions for what they need. Any questions please call Linda Jeffrey at 603-756-3376. Linda will be collecting the box on December 11th. Thank you.



Sunday, November 20th Thanksgiving Circle



On Sunday after morning worship, members of First Congregational Church and Walpole Unitarian Church gathered for a Thanksgiving Circle on the Common. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!



Trustees Report

We are entering the slow-down season! One last little project before we settle in for the winter season.... The Trustees will light the little outside tree and set up the Carolers.

Rules for the winter:

- Bring a sweater to Church, it may seem chilly.
- Make sure the thermostat is turned down if you are the last to leave.

Please enjoy the Holidays!
For the Trustees,
Dale

Happy Holidays from the Deacons

November was a quiet month for the deacons. Our only special service was held on Sunday, November 13th, in honor of Veterans. We read poems from several past conflicts that were chosen by Pastor Richard. The deacons then took turns reading a list of the veterans' names. This included not only citizens past and present from Walpole, but also family members and friends of church members who served in all branches of the armed services. Amy Cann made sure to play at least a portion of each branch's anthem. It was followed by the playing of taps. It was a moving and meaningful service.

Sadly, we lost another cherished member of our congregation in November. Peg Graves, who devoted so much time and energy to our church, and was the mother of deacon, Peter Graves, passed peacefully on November 9th. She was remembered at a graveside service and a reception at Town Hall on November 19th. Peg and another cherished member of our congregation, Betty Prentiss, were the original producers of the live

nativity that is still held every year on the common on Christmas Eve!

Some of the deacons helped with the soup sale during the Walpole Farmers market on Nov. 19th. And many others helped the incomparable trustees pull off another pie sale before Thanksgiving. There are so many hard-working committees within our walls. We are blessed.

Finally, this will hopefully mark the last year that the "Breakfast with Santa" event will NOT happen due to health concerns. We will aim for a merry, healthy event next December. 🙏

I am the deacon of the month for December. 603-860-0221. Remember the Christmas Eve service on Saturday, Dec. 24th. at 7 pm. There will be a regular church service on Christmas Day at the usual time.

Have a happy, stress-free holiday season 😊🙏

Becky Pearson

Ladies Night Out
Wednesday, December 14th
7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
Come for an evening of
friendship, food, and merriment.
Please RSVP to Gwen.
603-756-3677 or
gyardley@myfairpoint.net

Fall Mountain Food Shelf

Gift bags were handed out last Sunday for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Please put a label on your bag for:

Family

Children

Man or Woman

They would like:

Toiletries

Toothpaste, toothbrushes

Candy

Crayons

Coloring books

Child items

Stamps and envelopes

They would like anything you can give.

Gift bags are due back to church by December 11th

Thank you - Bonnie Caserta



Finance and Stewardship Committees

Since July 1, 2022, the Finance Committee and Stewardship Committee have been following the progress on pledges. We set an ambitious goal of \$120,000 based on the anticipated loss in revenue from loose offering: \$3,600, contributions: \$2,000, fundraising: \$4,000, and Women's Fellowship: \$5,000. We were extremely fortunate to receive a grant last December for \$10,000 thanks to the work of Marilyn Shriver. Sadly, we can't count on that source this year. So far, we are already \$14,000 under budget for income 4 months into the new fiscal year, a budget that was approved at the annual meeting last June with a \$67,549.78 deficit.

This year we have 52 pledges totaling \$89,005 while one year ago we had 72 pledges that totaled \$105,726. We have formed a team to investigate why there is such a shortage of pledges. We're hoping many of those are from members who forgot. There was a lot of energy and outreach for the steeple project so maybe things got complicated. We'll see. We don't want this deficit to be new news next June at the Annual Meeting when we may be facing a deficit the endowment can't cover.

The good news is that committees have been very conservative with expenditures. Also, we got a reasonable price on oil, \$3.699/gal, but it represents an added cost of \$4,000 this winter over last year. The budget is a topic at every council meeting.

The really good news is that we have a solid core of committed people who keep this church being just that, church! We're reinventing ourselves to adapt to projects we can handle, often looking at new ideas. Why just recently we had a Community Supper which raised over \$700 for the World Central Kitchen and a Soup and Bread fundraiser during the Farmer's Market on November 19.

Thank you for being the church! We're on God's time you know. It will be fine.

Finance Committee & Stewardship Committee

Our Nativity Arrangement



The Ceramic Nativity Arrangement on our altar

The Origin of the Nativity Set: Back during the time Reverend Evelyn Clowes was here, Doris Brainard purchased the greenware and at a couple of evening workshops a group of ladies got together and painted it. Gwen took the set to Alstead to Erin Relehans ceramic shop and she fired it. Gwen cannot remember who helped paint the set. She is thinking most of them have either moved or passed on. One person Gwen remembers was Karen Pickard who with her husband owned the now Malnati Farm. If you helped with this project please call Gwen and your name can be added to the list.

For many years Sandy Pickering and Marjorie McGill were in charge of setting up the display.

Gwen Yardley

Organ Recital

**First Congregational Church of Walpole,
UCC**

Sunday, December 4, 2022, 3:00 p.m.



Seth Phoenix is a local church substitute organist serving all denominations. He started playing the organ as a teenager at Townsend Church in Townsend, VT. His love of the organ and organ music is evident in his playing.

The recital program includes pieces Seth plays at church services: preludes, offertories, meditation music, and postludes. These include pieces for manuals and pedals as well as just manuals. The organ has many different sounds he hopes you enjoy learning about as you listen to the program.

Admission: a freewill offering for the musician

Birthdays in December

Nancy Hamblet Lightner 12/21

Russell Pickering 12/24

Janet Wilson 12/25

Tara Bemis 12/27

Kendra Johns 12/27

William Winmill 12/29

Anniversaries in December

Mark and Nancy Hamblet Lightner
12/ 5

STEEPLE FUNDING UPDATE

Isn't the steeple beautiful? Brian Shriver took a photograph of it for the December Clarion. Dale particularly likes the steeple at night with the new lighting. The members of First Congregational Church, UCC, in Walpole have contributed over \$73,000 towards the repairs and upgrades of the steeple. THANK YOU!! Community members near and far have contributed another \$33,000 bringing the total raised so far to \$106,000.

We have paused the outreach for funds until we have a better picture of the total cost. The lightning protection has yet to be done which is holding up the electricians from completing their work. Also, there is a little painting to be done, probably in the spring. There will most likely be a need for more funds when everything is completed.

Contributions continue to trickle in. We have received \$900 from three members in the last month. We appreciate the added funds that are sure to help. Thank you.

The Steeple Committee

Church Calendar for December 2022

Sunday, December 4	2nd Sunday in Advent Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, December 4	Organ Recital – Seth Phoenix	3:00 pm
Wednesday, December 7	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, December 11	3rd Sunday in Advent Worship live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wednesday, December 14	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, December 18	4 th Sunday in Advent Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Worship Service live and on Zoom	7:00 pm
Sunday, December 25	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Monday, December 26	Parish Visitor Deadline	
Church Office Hours:	9 am to 12 noon, T-F	
	The office is closed on Mondays	

PARISH VISITOR



First Congregational Church, UCC
PO Box 393
Walpole, NH 03608

«AddressBlock»



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

walpolechurch@yahoo.com

www.walpolenhucc.org

2022

Hope, love, peace, and joy

Friends,

Advent marks the new year on the Christian calendar. As we begin this new season and new year, I offer this prayer with all of you in my heart:

God, as the days grow colder and shorter, we light our first candle of hope. We pray that this hope might shine within us, and kindle hope in others. We trust that you guide us through long nights ahead, and so embrace the light that the darkness will not overtake us.

As we light the candle of love, God, we pray your love will burn within us and warm everyone we meet and everyone we know. We remember Christ commanded us to love one another as he has loved us.

God, in a world torn by violence and war, as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends serve in harm's way, we pray for their safety. We light a candle for peace, yearning for the Prince of Peace to rule our hearts so that we might be instruments of your peace in a troubled and torn world.

O God, we light a fourth candle, thankful for the gift of joy that enriches our lives. We are grateful for blessings of fellowship, freedom, simple pleasures, and the presence of your Spirit. We savor the festivities of the season and renewed relationships and ask that you would grant us a spirit of hospitality, generosity, and sensitivity, so our joy might be fulfilled by sharing it.

All this we pray in the name of the one we await, the child who will lead us, in a world without end. Amen.

May the waiting of this Advent Season be a time of fruitful contemplation, and prayerful reflection to guide us past materialistic distractions, and consumer frenzy. May we each have deeper truths and profound blessings of the season.

Yours in Christ,
Richard

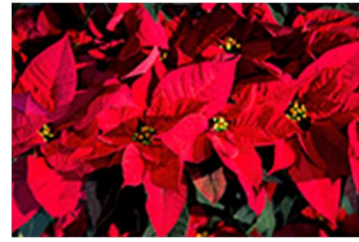
From Our Council

I had the privilege of serving soup at the church on November 19 during the Farmer's Market. As I was getting ready to leave, I said to Sue Krebs and Pastor Richard, "Thank you. I needed that." It felt good to be part of a team, to welcome familiar and new faces, and to help serve and clean up. I also got to eat some excellent soup.

I realize that I am out of the habit of raising my hand and saying, "I will help." During the worst of COVID times, there was little for which to volunteer. But I've passed up other opportunities – too busy, I'd rationalize. The soup experience reminded me how much I benefit from volunteering. It was like a muscle I hadn't exercised in a while, and it felt good.

The sanctuary is open for in-person worship but our numbers on Sunday are low. I wonder if others have experienced the same thing as me and have forgotten how much they benefit by showing up for worship and fellowship. It may be a muscle that needs some exercise.

Peace,
Marilyn Shriver



Again, this year, you will be able to buy poinsettias to decorate the church sanctuary during Advent, and then to take home after Christmas. You can choose a red or white poinsettia in 2 different sizes. The pricing is as follows:

Small (1 plant) - \$20.00

Medium (2 plants) – \$35.00

You can sign up for poinsettias in Fellowship Hall. Look for the board with the sign-up sheet and the envelope for checks. Or you can email me your order. Checks should be made out to First Congregational Church of Walpole. Please write "flowers" in the memo. Please note: Orders are due no later than Sunday, December 4.

Thank you so much,
Jana Sellarole
jgsellarole@gmail.com
603-313-4076

From Linda Jeffrey

In Fellowship Hall is a Christmas-wrapped box for donations for the Maplewood Nursing Home residents. On the front of the box is a list of suggestions for what they need. Any questions please call Linda Jeffrey at 603-756-3376. Linda will be collecting the box on December 11th. Thank you.



Sunday, November 20th Thanksgiving Circle



On Sunday after morning worship, members of First Congregational Church and Walpole Unitarian Church gathered for a Thanksgiving Circle on the Common. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!



Trustees Report

We are entering the slow-down season! One last little project before we settle in for the winter season.... The Trustees will light the little outside tree and set up the Carolers.

Rules for the winter:

- Bring a sweater to Church, it may seem chilly.
- Make sure the thermostat is turned down if you are the last to leave.

Please enjoy the Holidays!
For the Trustees,
Dale

Happy Holidays from the Deacons

November was a quiet month for the deacons. Our only special service was held on Sunday, November 13th, in honor of Veterans. We read poems from several past conflicts that were chosen by Pastor Richard. The deacons then took turns reading a list of the veterans' names. This included not only citizens past and present from Walpole, but also family members and friends of church members who served in all branches of the armed services. Amy Cann made sure to play at least a portion of each branch's anthem. It was followed by the playing of taps. It was a moving and meaningful service.

Sadly, we lost another cherished member of our congregation in November. Peg Graves, who devoted so much time and energy to our church, and was the mother of deacon, Peter Graves, passed peacefully on November 9th. She was remembered at a graveside service and a reception at Town Hall on November 19th. Peg and another cherished member of our congregation, Betty Prentiss, were the original producers of the live

nativity that is still held every year on the common on Christmas Eve!

Some of the deacons helped with the soup sale during the Walpole Farmers market on Nov. 19th. And many others helped the incomparable trustees pull off another pie sale before Thanksgiving. There are so many hard-working committees within our walls. We are blessed.

Finally, this will hopefully mark the last year that the "Breakfast with Santa" event will NOT happen due to health concerns. We will aim for a merry, healthy event next December. 🙏

I am the deacon of the month for December. 603-860-0221. Remember the Christmas Eve service on Saturday, Dec. 24th. at 7 pm. There will be a regular church service on Christmas Day at the usual time.

Have a happy, stress-free holiday season 😊🙏

Becky Pearson

Ladies Night Out
Wednesday, December 14th
7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
Come for an evening of
friendship, food, and merriment.
Please RSVP to Gwen.
603-756-3677 or
gyardley@myfairpoint.net

Fall Mountain Food Shelf

Gift bags were handed out last Sunday for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Please put a label on your bag for:

Family

Children

Man or Woman

They would like:

Toiletries

Toothpaste, toothbrushes

Candy

Crayons

Coloring books

Child items

Stamps and envelopes

They would like anything you can give.

Gift bags are due back to church by December 11th

Thank you - Bonnie Caserta



Finance and Stewardship Committees

Since July 1, 2022, the Finance Committee and Stewardship Committee have been following the progress on pledges. We set an ambitious goal of \$120,000 based on the anticipated loss in revenue from loose offering: \$3,600, contributions: \$2,000, fundraising: \$4,000, and Women's Fellowship: \$5,000. We were extremely fortunate to receive a grant last December for \$10,000 thanks to the work of Marilyn Shriver. Sadly, we can't count on that source this year. So far, we are already \$14,000 under budget for income 4 months into the new fiscal year, a budget that was approved at the annual meeting last June with a \$67,549.78 deficit.

This year we have 52 pledges totaling \$89,005 while one year ago we had 72 pledges that totaled \$105,726. We have formed a team to investigate why there is such a shortage of pledges. We're hoping many of those are from members who forgot. There was a lot of energy and outreach for the steeple project so maybe things got complicated. We'll see. We don't want this deficit to be new news next June at the Annual Meeting when we may be facing a deficit the endowment can't cover.

The good news is that committees have been very conservative with expenditures. Also, we got a reasonable price on oil, \$3.699/gal, but it represents an added cost of \$4,000 this winter over last year. The budget is a topic at every council meeting.

The really good news is that we have a solid core of committed people who keep this church being just that, church! We're reinventing ourselves to adapt to projects we can handle, often looking at new ideas. Why just recently we had a Community Supper which raised over \$700 for the World Central Kitchen and a Soup and Bread fundraiser during the Farmer's Market on November 19.

Thank you for being the church! We're on God's time you know. It will be fine.

Finance Committee & Stewardship Committee

Our Nativity Arrangement



The Ceramic Nativity Arrangement on our altar

The Origin of the Nativity Set: Back during the time Reverend Evelyn Clowes was here, Doris Brainard purchased the greenware and at a couple of evening workshops a group of ladies got together and painted it. Gwen took the set to Alstead to Erin Relehans ceramic shop and she fired it. Gwen cannot remember who helped paint the set. She is thinking most of them have either moved or passed on. One person Gwen remembers was Karen Pickard who with her husband owned the now Malnati Farm. If you helped with this project please call Gwen and your name can be added to the list.

For many years Sandy Pickering and Marjorie McGill were in charge of setting up the display.

Gwen Yardley

Organ Recital

**First Congregational Church of Walpole,
UCC**

Sunday, December 4, 2022, 3:00 p.m.



Seth Phoenix is a local church substitute organist serving all denominations. He started playing the organ as a teenager at Townsend Church in Townsend, VT. His love of the organ and organ music is evident in his playing.

The recital program includes pieces Seth plays at church services: preludes, offertories, meditation music, and postludes. These include pieces for manuals and pedals as well as just manuals. The organ has many different sounds he hopes you enjoy learning about as you listen to the program.

Admission: a freewill offering for the musician

Birthdays in December

Nancy Hamblet Lightner 12/21

Russell Pickering 12/24

Janet Wilson 12/25

Tara Bemis 12/27

Kendra Johns 12/27

William Winmill 12/29

Anniversaries in December

Mark and Nancy Hamblet Lightner
12/ 5

STEEPLE FUNDING UPDATE

Isn't the steeple beautiful? Brian Shriver took a photograph of it for the December Clarion. Dale particularly likes the steeple at night with the new lighting. The members of First Congregational Church, UCC, in Walpole have contributed over \$73,000 towards the repairs and upgrades of the steeple. THANK YOU!! Community members near and far have contributed another \$33,000 bringing the total raised so far to \$106,000.

We have paused the outreach for funds until we have a better picture of the total cost. The lightning protection has yet to be done which is holding up the electricians from completing their work. Also, there is a little painting to be done, probably in the spring. There will most likely be a need for more funds when everything is completed.

Contributions continue to trickle in. We have received \$900 from three members in the last month. We appreciate the added funds that are sure to help. Thank you.

The Steeple Committee

Church Calendar for December 2022

Sunday, December 4	2nd Sunday in Advent Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, December 4	Organ Recital – Seth Phoenix	3:00 pm
Wednesday, December 7	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, December 11	3rd Sunday in Advent Worship live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wednesday, December 14	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, December 18	4 th Sunday in Advent Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Worship Service live and on Zoom	7:00 pm
Sunday, December 25	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Monday, December 26	Parish Visitor Deadline	
Church Office Hours:	9 am to 12 noon, T-F	
	The office is closed on Mondays	

PARISH VISITOR



First Congregational Church, UCC
PO Box 393
Walpole, NH 03608

«AddressBlock»



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

walpolechurch@yahoo.com

www.walpolenhucc.org

2022

Hope, love, peace, and joy

Friends,

Advent marks the new year on the Christian calendar. As we begin this new season and new year, I offer this prayer with all of you in my heart:

God, as the days grow colder and shorter, we light our first candle of hope. We pray that this hope might shine within us, and kindle hope in others. We trust that you guide us through long nights ahead, and so embrace the light that the darkness will not overtake us.

As we light the candle of love, God, we pray your love will burn within us and warm everyone we meet and everyone we know. We remember Christ commanded us to love one another as he has loved us.

God, in a world torn by violence and war, as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends serve in harm's way, we pray for their safety. We light a candle for peace, yearning for the Prince of Peace to rule our hearts so that we might be instruments of your peace in a troubled and torn world.

O God, we light a fourth candle, thankful for the gift of joy that enriches our lives. We are grateful for blessings of fellowship, freedom, simple pleasures, and the presence of your Spirit. We savor the festivities of the season and renewed relationships and ask that you would grant us a spirit of hospitality, generosity, and sensitivity, so our joy might be fulfilled by sharing it.

All this we pray in the name of the one we await, the child who will lead us, in a world without end. Amen.

May the waiting of this Advent Season be a time of fruitful contemplation, and prayerful reflection to guide us past materialistic distractions, and consumer frenzy. May we each have deeper truths and profound blessings of the season.

Yours in Christ,
Richard

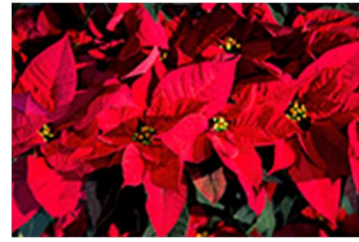
From Our Council

I had the privilege of serving soup at the church on November 19 during the Farmer's Market. As I was getting ready to leave, I said to Sue Krebs and Pastor Richard, "Thank you. I needed that." It felt good to be part of a team, to welcome familiar and new faces, and to help serve and clean up. I also got to eat some excellent soup.

I realize that I am out of the habit of raising my hand and saying, "I will help." During the worst of COVID times, there was little for which to volunteer. But I've passed up other opportunities – too busy, I'd rationalize. The soup experience reminded me how much I benefit from volunteering. It was like a muscle I hadn't exercised in a while, and it felt good.

The sanctuary is open for in-person worship but our numbers on Sunday are low. I wonder if others have experienced the same thing as me and have forgotten how much they benefit by showing up for worship and fellowship. It may be a muscle that needs some exercise.

Peace,
Marilyn Shriver



Again, this year, you will be able to buy poinsettias to decorate the church sanctuary during Advent, and then to take home after Christmas. You can choose a red or white poinsettia in 2 different sizes. The pricing is as follows:

Small (1 plant) - \$20.00

Medium (2 plants) – \$35.00

You can sign up for poinsettias in Fellowship Hall. Look for the board with the sign-up sheet and the envelope for checks. Or you can email me your order. Checks should be made out to First Congregational Church of Walpole. Please write "flowers" in the memo. Please note: Orders are due no later than Sunday, December 4.

Thank you so much,
Jana Sellarole
jgsellarole@gmail.com
603-313-4076

From Linda Jeffrey

In Fellowship Hall is a Christmas-wrapped box for donations for the Maplewood Nursing Home residents. On the front of the box is a list of suggestions for what they need. Any questions please call Linda Jeffrey at 603-756-3376. Linda will be collecting the box on December 11th. Thank you.



Sunday, November 20th Thanksgiving Circle



On Sunday after morning worship, members of First Congregational Church and Walpole Unitarian Church gathered for a Thanksgiving Circle on the Common. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!



Trustees Report

We are entering the slow-down season! One last little project before we settle in for the winter season.... The Trustees will light the little outside tree and set up the Carolers.

Rules for the winter:

- Bring a sweater to Church, it may seem chilly.
- Make sure the thermostat is turned down if you are the last to leave.

Please enjoy the Holidays!
For the Trustees,
Dale

Happy Holidays from the Deacons

November was a quiet month for the deacons. Our only special service was held on Sunday, November 13th, in honor of Veterans. We read poems from several past conflicts that were chosen by Pastor Richard. The deacons then took turns reading a list of the veterans' names. This included not only citizens past and present from Walpole, but also family members and friends of church members who served in all branches of the armed services. Amy Cann made sure to play at least a portion of each branch's anthem. It was followed by the playing of taps. It was a moving and meaningful service.

Sadly, we lost another cherished member of our congregation in November. Peg Graves, who devoted so much time and energy to our church, and was the mother of deacon, Peter Graves, passed peacefully on November 9th. She was remembered at a graveside service and a reception at Town Hall on November 19th. Peg and another cherished member of our congregation, Betty Prentiss, were the original producers of the live

nativity that is still held every year on the common on Christmas Eve!

Some of the deacons helped with the soup sale during the Walpole Farmers market on Nov. 19th. And many others helped the incomparable trustees pull off another pie sale before Thanksgiving. There are so many hard-working committees within our walls. We are blessed.

Finally, this will hopefully mark the last year that the "Breakfast with Santa" event will NOT happen due to health concerns. We will aim for a merry, healthy event next December. 🙏

I am the deacon of the month for December. 603-860-0221. Remember the Christmas Eve service on Saturday, Dec. 24th. at 7 pm. There will be a regular church service on Christmas Day at the usual time.

Have a happy, stress-free holiday season 😊🙏

Becky Pearson

Ladies Night Out
Wednesday, December 14th
7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
Come for an evening of
friendship, food, and merriment.
Please RSVP to Gwen.
603-756-3677 or
gyardley@myfairpoint.net

Fall Mountain Food Shelf

Gift bags were handed out last Sunday for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Please put a label on your bag for:

Family

Children

Man or Woman

They would like:

Toiletries

Toothpaste, toothbrushes

Candy

Crayons

Coloring books

Child items

Stamps and envelopes

They would like anything you can give.

Gift bags are due back to church by December 11th

Thank you - Bonnie Caserta



Finance and Stewardship Committees

Since July 1, 2022, the Finance Committee and Stewardship Committee have been following the progress on pledges. We set an ambitious goal of \$120,000 based on the anticipated loss in revenue from loose offering: \$3,600, contributions: \$2,000, fundraising: \$4,000, and Women's Fellowship: \$5,000. We were extremely fortunate to receive a grant last December for \$10,000 thanks to the work of Marilyn Shriver. Sadly, we can't count on that source this year. So far, we are already \$14,000 under budget for income 4 months into the new fiscal year, a budget that was approved at the annual meeting last June with a \$67,549.78 deficit.

This year we have 52 pledges totaling \$89,005 while one year ago we had 72 pledges that totaled \$105,726. We have formed a team to investigate why there is such a shortage of pledges. We're hoping many of those are from members who forgot. There was a lot of energy and outreach for the steeple project so maybe things got complicated. We'll see. We don't want this deficit to be new news next June at the Annual Meeting when we may be facing a deficit the endowment can't cover.

The good news is that committees have been very conservative with expenditures. Also, we got a reasonable price on oil, \$3.699/gal, but it represents an added cost of \$4,000 this winter over last year. The budget is a topic at every council meeting.

The really good news is that we have a solid core of committed people who keep this church being just that, church! We're reinventing ourselves to adapt to projects we can handle, often looking at new ideas. Why just recently we had a Community Supper which raised over \$700 for the World Central Kitchen and a Soup and Bread fundraiser during the Farmer's Market on November 19.

Thank you for being the church! We're on God's time you know. It will be fine.

Finance Committee & Stewardship Committee

Our Nativity Arrangement



The Ceramic Nativity Arrangement on our altar

The Origin of the Nativity Set: Back during the time Reverend Evelyn Clowes was here, Doris Brainard purchased the greenware and at a couple of evening workshops a group of ladies got together and painted it. Gwen took the set to Alstead to Erin Relehans ceramic shop and she fired it. Gwen cannot remember who helped paint the set. She is thinking most of them have either moved or passed on. One person Gwen remembers was Karen Pickard who with her husband owned the now Malnati Farm. If you helped with this project please call Gwen and your name can be added to the list.

For many years Sandy Pickering and Marjorie McGill were in charge of setting up the display.

Gwen Yardley

Organ Recital

**First Congregational Church of Walpole,
UCC**

Sunday, December 4, 2022, 3:00 p.m.



Seth Phoenix is a local church substitute organist serving all denominations. He started playing the organ as a teenager at Townsend Church in Townsend, VT. His love of the organ and organ music is evident in his playing.

The recital program includes pieces Seth plays at church services: preludes, offertories, meditation music, and postludes. These include pieces for manuals and pedals as well as just manuals. The organ has many different sounds he hopes you enjoy learning about as you listen to the program.

Admission: a freewill offering for the musician

Birthdays in December

Nancy Hamblet Lightner 12/21
Russell Pickering 12/24
Janet Wilson 12/25
Tara Bemis 12/27
Kendra Johns 12/27
William Winmill 12/29

Anniversaries in December

Mark and Nancy Hamblet Lightner
12/ 5

STEEPLE FUNDING UPDATE

Isn't the steeple beautiful? Brian Shriver took a photograph of it for the December Clarion. Dale particularly likes the steeple at night with the new lighting. The members of First Congregational Church, UCC, in Walpole have contributed over \$73,000 towards the repairs and upgrades of the steeple. THANK YOU!! Community members near and far have contributed another \$33,000 bringing the total raised so far to \$106,000.

We have paused the outreach for funds until we have a better picture of the total cost. The lightning protection has yet to be done which is holding up the electricians from completing their work. Also, there is a little painting to be done, probably in the spring. There will most likely be a need for more funds when everything is completed.

Contributions continue to trickle in. We have received \$900 from three members in the last month. We appreciate the added funds that are sure to help. Thank you.

The Steeple Committee

Church Calendar for December 2022

Sunday, December 4	2nd Sunday in Advent Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, December 4	Organ Recital – Seth Phoenix	3:00 pm
Wednesday, December 7	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, December 11	3rd Sunday in Advent Worship live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wednesday, December 14	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, December 18	4 th Sunday in Advent Worship Service live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Worship Service live and on Zoom	7:00 pm
Sunday, December 25	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Monday, December 26	Parish Visitor Deadline	
Church Office Hours:	9 am to 12 noon, T-F	
	The office is closed on Mondays	

PARISH VISITOR



First Congregational Church, UCC
PO Box 393
Walpole, NH 03608

«AddressBlock»