

November 2023

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



Friends,

There will be a lot going on in November, as usual. Starting on the 5<sup>th</sup>, we will remember friends and loved ones who have died over the past year, as we observe All Saints Sunday. As in past years, the names of Saints and friends of the First Congregational Church of Walpole in the Communion liturgy, in the prayer of consecration. The Communion of the Saints is an ancient Christian belief that underscores our relationship with members of the church in all times and places, we live, or whether we die, through the mystical communion in the Body of Christ. If you would like name(s) of loved ones, please contact the church office by noon on November 1.

In the annual Veterans Service, we will honor the men and women who served our country in the military. As before, the worship service will be organized around poetry written by combat veterans of various American wars. The idea is to focus on the voices of those who fought and faced the grim realities of war on our behalf. We recognize the tragedy of war without glorifying it to underscore the service and sacrifice of our veterans.

Those are some of the highlights in worship. There is also the Mistletoe Mart, the Thanksgiving Pie Sale AND MORE!

Yours in Christ,  
Richard Malmberg

## Deacon Information

Fall is always a busy time for the deacons in the church. In September we hosted an old-fashioned town-wide picnic. We had a great turnout and lots of fun. There were many requests to make this an annual event so we will plan on doing it again next September.

On October 15th we co-hosted the "Blessing of the Animals" with the Episcopal church. Lots of dogs, three cats and Kathy Yardley's beautiful quarter horse, "Sunny," all received blessings and St. Francis medallions. It was very well received. There was also a donation box for Heifer International.

We are putting together plans for the Veterans' service on November 12th. As in the past, the deacons will read poems selected by Pastor Richard, as well as the names of veterans associated with members of the congregation.

Jane Vesper, our wonderful church administrator, has stepped down as deacon (she's busy!!!) but has assured us that she is there any time we need her help. Thanks, Jane!

The deacon of the month is Linda Wright. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!

Becky Pearson  
603-860-0221

## News from our Council

As November looms, we are becoming energized and optimistic about the resurgence of Mistletoe Mart on November 18. This was very evident at the last Council meeting. That gives us just a few weeks more to organize what will be a scaled-down event but nonetheless a welcome one. We still need more volunteers to run the tables. Please let Jane know what table you would like to work on. While I think about it, I want to remind you all that anyone is welcome to attend the Council meetings. We welcome input, questions, observations, ideas about our church and how it functions. Only Council members can vote, however. We have much to be thankful for, to have

such a dedicated group of people working toward a common goal.

Many thanks to Chuck for keeping us up-to-date on the financial status of the church. We are grateful to all who have pledged and contributed to make this year so far much more positive. We have a solid foundation in place that we can continue to build upon.

May the spirit of Thanksgiving remain with you all this holiday season. See you at Mistletoe Mart!

Sue

## Stewardship Committee

Four pledges came in recently. That is very exciting. We now have 48 pledges for \$96,300. This is \$3,700 shy of our goal of \$100,000. There will be one more appeal shortly to members who have not pledged this year.

We are digging into our membership list and defining:

1. Active members who pledge or contribute financially to the projects of the church.
2. Active members who don't pledge or contribute financially to the church.
3. Those who are not active should be invited to support the church or be placed on the inactive list. Keeping the list up to date is important because it impacts membership fees from the New Hampshire Conference and the Southwest Association.

Of course, we would love for everyone involved with the church in any fashion to financially support the church. This is how we will thrive going forward.

We have so many examples of the wonderful stewardship outreach done by the members and friends of our church. Thank you. See you in church, at an activity, or on Zoom.

Peace, Chuck  
Chair, Stewardship Committee

## Trustees

We can report that the steeple has been resurfaced with a copper sheathing; thanks to Dale for completing this very important effort.

In October the Trustees led by Don worked with our contractors Blanc and Bailey to rework the Louvers on the steeple. This is still an in-process effort, but it is progressing well. You may remember we had one louver that fell out. We also captured and released a pigeon that had become trapped in the steeple they were happy to be released.

The inspection of the elevator was completed successfully, and the phones are all in working order.

We hosted a group that is trying to make farmers aware of the negative impact of using sludge on their fields.

We researched an issue with the dishwasher; the dishes did not seem to be washed at a high enough temperature. We found that the dishwasher does not have a supplemental water temperature booster. To resolve this, we have boosted the temperature on the hot water heater from 120 to 134. Jane has put out signs that warn that the water is hot.

The Trustees will be selling pies on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and would greatly appreciate all your donated pies. This is a great fundraiser. It's fun and we get to see a lot of our Walpole friends. We will have 10-inch pie boxes you can pick up at the church in fellowship hall. 8-9 delivery.  
Starts 9am until we sell out!

We are having a church Fall Cleanup Day planned on Saturday, November 4th starting at 9:00 am. A list has been put in fellowship hall for people to sign up for any tasks to do at any time you can.

Thank you,  
Paul

## MISTLETOE MART from Gwen

Is anybody going to??? It is time to get busy putting out 2023 Mistletoe Mart Posters. If anyone is going to or through any neighboring towns in NH, VT or MA, would you be willing to deliver a poster within a 50-mile radius of Walpole? If so, you can come by the church and pick up some posters. The more we advertise, the more visitors we may get. Please consider doing your share. Gwen - Chair of the Mistletoe Mart - 2023 Posters are located under the mailboxes.

### A note from Judy Foley

On Sunday, November 5, Tracey Martin will take a group photo after our service for our website. We haven't had a group photo since Pastor Richard came.

Also, on Sunday, November 5th we will begin our **Secret Prayer Partners** again. We each will write our name on a slip of paper if you wish to participate. We each will draw someone's name from a box.

Shhh...Don't tell who's name you drew. You will pray for that person each day for one month. On December 3rd we will reveal the name we had and draw another name if you wish to participate again. Judy

### Altar Flowers for November

November 5: Janet Wilson  
November 12: Bruce and Jan Martin  
November 19: Sandy and Austin Pickering  
November 26: Chuck and Ellie Shaw

Thank you!

Ellie

## Walpole Community Giving Tree 2023

The Walpole Community Giving Tree Project is getting underway again for the 2023 holiday season. This project helps 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).

We are currently receiving 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.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS: From OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 17th, tags will be available at the following locations during their regular business hours: the Walpole Library, Spencer's Place, The Hungry Diner, Savings Bank of Walpole on Westminster St, and Mascoma Bank. Several local churches will also have tags available for their congregation.

Tags will be attached to a bulletin board. 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 November 30th. Gifts should NOT BE WRAPPED. We will provide wrapping paper so parents can see what their children will receive and then wrap it themselves.

If you wish to help but do not wish to shop, there are 2 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 mail donations directly to us at 192 Upper Walpole Road, Walpole, NH. 03608. Please be sure to make checks out to Jeanne Cloues and put "Giving Tree" in the memo. We also hope to provide wrapping paper for the families. Every little bit helps! THANK YOU!

This is a wonderful project that helps to brighten the holiday season for many of our local families, and we appreciate everyone's help! If you have any questions, you may contact us at [weilcloues8808@gmail.com](mailto:weilcloues8808@gmail.com). Happy holidays to you and yours!

Please stay safe and healthy!

Jeanne Cloues and  
Marcia Weil, project organizers

### More Mistletoe Mart Information

**Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD, is a prime source of Mistletoe Mart income. That means we need every member to think about tasty treats you can cook and/or bring to sell: cakes, cookies, and pies. Savory dishes like baked beans, mac and cheese. Other prepared goodies like pickles, jam, jellies, and fruits are always popular.**

**Janet Wilson is taking charge of the food table and needs help setting up, selling food, or packaging items sometime during the 5 hours we will be open to the public. Please contact her or call the office to get details about food donations and volunteering to help.**

**2023**



**The Crop Walkers**

**CROP Walk 2023 was a big success - despite some very wet weather on Walk day!! As I walked along though, the weather had a spiritual impact on me, as I thought of the CROP Walk saying - "We walk because they walk." A little adversity added to the poignancy of the day, as I felt more connected to the many, many people at home and around the world who benefit from CROP Walk funds.**

**Now the numbers . . .**

**22 walkers!**

**\$11,246, and counting. More donations may still come in.**

**Our Walpole Walk is small compared to some others around the country, but we're mighty!! :)**

**THANK YOU SO MUCH to all who donated, walked or helped in any other way!!**



**November**

## Missions

This is a busy time for the Missions Committee.

We have collected "Healthy Snacks" in October for the Food Shelf. On November 11 we will be doing a drive-by food drop of Thanksgiving dinner items from 10-12:30 at the church. Also, for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Suggested items: Potatoes, onions, squash, cranberry, stuffing, apples, pumpkin pie, and pie shells. Monetary donations are also gladly accepted (checks made payable to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf)

Also, in November we will be once again handing out Christmas gift bags for the Food Shelf. Bags will be handed out after church on November 26 to be returned by December 10. We ask that you label your bag for child, man or woman or family. A suggested list will be stapled to each bag.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

## Birthdays in November

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Betty Prentiss | November 2  |
| Mark Lightner  | November 5  |
| Gwen Yardley   | November 9  |
| David Ramsay   | November 15 |
| Nancy Sloan    | November 20 |
| Nicole Perry   | November 22 |
| Dale Woodward  | November 22 |

## Anniversaries in November

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Tom and Chris Miller     | November 3  |
| Tom and Christie Winmill | November 23 |



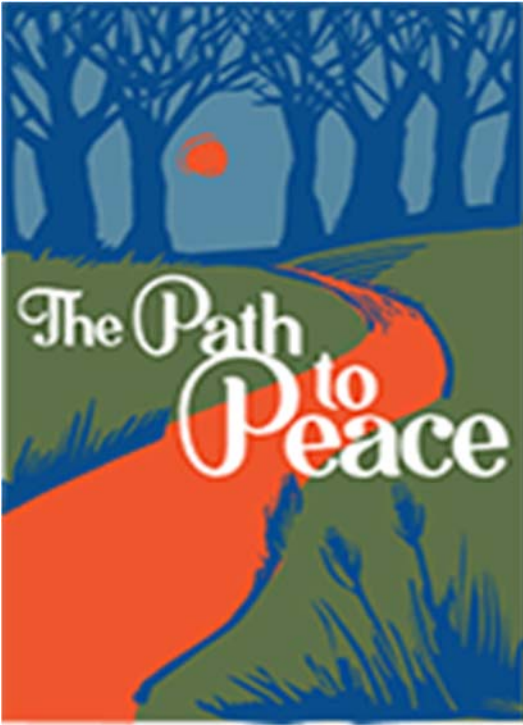
## Church Calendar for November 2023

|                        |   |  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Saturday, November 4   | Fall Clean-up Day                                       | 9:00am                                       |
| Sunday, November 5     | Communion Worship Service Live and on Zoom              | 10:00am                                      |
| Wednesday, November 8  | Bible Study on Zoom                                     | 4-5pm  |
| Saturday, November 11  | Missions for Fall Mountain - Thanksgiving Food Drive-By | 10am-12:30pm                                 |
| Sunday, November 12    | Worship Service live and on Zoom- Veteran's Service     | 10:00am                                      |
| Wednesday, November 15 | Bible Study on Zoom                                     | 4-5pm  |
| Saturday, November 18  | MISTLETOE MART  | 9am to 2pm                                   |
| Sunday, November 19    | Worship Service live and on Zoom                        | 10:00am                                      |
| Wednesday, November 22 | Thanksgiving Pie Sale                                   | 8-9 delivery, sale - starts at 9am until.... |
| Sunday, November 26    | Worship Service live and on Zoom                        | 10:00 am                                     |

**December Parish Visitor Deadline Monday 27 – Firm date**

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

**Church Office will be closed Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving Week**



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