



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC
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October 2024

Friends,

Autumn is upon us. Leaves are beginning to turn. I heard one meteorologist predicting an especially colorful fall in New England. The prediction was based on weather conditions over the summer that were in the Goldilocks range. They were “just right” for spectacular fall foliage.

We have some great events coming up at our church, as well. The Blessing of the Animals will be held on the Common on October 6 (with a rain date of 10/13). As we did last year, we will host the event with Saint John’s Church. The Reverend Fred Chisholm and I will lead the service. As before, all species are welcome.

Sunday, October 20, we will observe *Ukama* Sunday. This is a special day for the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ. Since 1996, The NH Conference has had a special partnership with the United Church of Christ, Zimbabwe. *Ukama* means “family.” It can also mean the unity of past, present, and future generations, not unlike the traditional Christian concept of the Communion of the Saints. *Ukama* can also refer to humanity’s relatedness to all of the natural order.

The motto of the United Church of Christ comes from Jesus’s prayer at the Last Supper: “That they all may be one” (John 17:21). The motto appears beneath the word *Ukama* on the page of the NH Conference website devoted to the partnership. The motto seems an appropriate translation of the UCC motto, given the context.

Worship on *Ukama* Sunday will include African music, and the altar will be decorated with gifts from our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe. You may recall that this is where our Pilgrim Hymnals are still in use every Sunday. This year we sent one of our communion sets with the 2024 NH Conference delegation, who delivered it to Chiredzi when they visited Zimbabwe last summer.

Sunday October 20 promises to be a wonderful celebration of the *Ukama* partnership and our sister-church relationship with the church in Chiredzi.

In Christ,
Richard Malmberg

STEWARDSHIP 2024

I spent some time this weekend going over the pledge list with Linda. Her job is complicated! We have 11 people/families who are sending money weekly, monthly or yearly without filling out a pledge card. So, we have received 37 pledge cards for a total of \$88,464 and, added to the cash contributions, make 48 pledges which is a good number. Thank you. Our goal is \$105,000 and we will do our best to monitor the income going forward. And if you see Linda, please thank her for keeping track of this challenging yet vital source of income for our church.

Chuck

From Council Co-Chair Peg Winnen

Healthy School Snacks

The Church Council will be collecting Healthy Snacks for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf during the month of October. There will be a box in Fellowship Hall for your contributions.

Other news: our Council is looking at new signage for our church. We're looking at new signs out front in of the church, on South Street and our sandwich boards that announce our upcoming events.

We are also happy to announce we are in the black for September's financial review. Good job. With upcoming work on the church siding, let's keep it up.

We'll keep working for you to keep our church active and engaged in the community, state, national and international actions. The next Council Meeting is October 19th, 2024, at 8:30am in Fellowship Hall.

September 20, 2024

To the members and staff of the First Congregational Church of Walpole:

Dear Friends,

We want to thank you for the kindness you extended to our family after the death of our mother Jean Washer. The service and reception were beautiful, and the cards and words of sympathy were heartwarming. We felt well taken care of.

*Yours in Peace, Faith, and Love,
Ann and Paul Looney*

Anniversaries in October

Frank and Katherine Sibley	October 10
Brian and Marilyn Shriver	October 12
Paul and Ann Looney	October 15

Birthdays in October

October 1	Brody Keller
October 4	Rachel Watson
October 5	Chuck Shaw
October 7	Brian Shriver
October 20	Becky Hubbard
October 21	Zachary Bemis
October 24	Curt Congdon
October 26	Cindy Westover
October 28	Bruce Potter
October 29	Sue Krebs

MISSIONS

Happy October! We recently received news from the New Hampshire delegation from the United Church of Christ who visited Zimbabwe. Here are some of the highlights:

THE CHURCHES OF THE UCCZ ARE THRIVING! The churches we visited are blessed by dedicated and faithful pastors. Along with the Councils (Ruwadzano, Volunteers, Men's Fellowship, Christian Youth and children), there is a new local church position called "Evangelist." The Evangelist has a variety of duties, including leading worship and preaching.

THERE ARE MORE ORDAINED WOMEN SERVING PARISHES AND LAY WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP. It seems as if the denomination has fully embraced women in leadership positions, lay and ordained.

THE UCCZ HAS UNDERTAKEN TWO MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. After years of dreaming, the foundation for the UCCZ-affiliated Gazaland University has been poured, and the church is seeking funding and other support for continuing construction. The University is situated on land outside Chipinge.

PRESIDENT MATIZA IS INVOLVED IN AFRICAN AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES OF FAITH. He has attended conferences in Europe and elsewhere in Africa, including a recent Climate Change Justice conference organized by the All-Africa Council of

Churches. Leading the UCCZ since 2021 Rev Matiza has been leading the church with a lot of positive developments witnessed within the church and beyond the country including church beyond the pulpit initiatives.



Our church hosted Rev. Matiza and his wife at a potluck in June 2023. Sara Marean, our Associate Conference Minister, who was a member of the delegation, sent an email to Richard reporting that our sister church in Chiredzi received the communion set. She has gifts from Chiredzi for our church that she hopes to deliver to us sometime in October.

THE HOSPITALITY OF OUR HOSTS IS AS EXTRAVAGANT AS EVER. In churches, we were welcomed with special events. In people's homes, we were honored guests. While conversations about Zimbabwe's political situation were rare, our hosts were well informed about American politics and very interested in our impressions of our situation. Thanks to them, our visit truly was a family reunion!

DROUGHT CONDITIONS ARE AFFECTING LARGE AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. And the UCCZ has developed an ambitious campaign to meet immediate needs and develop ways to adapt to a drier, hotter climate. Conditions in some areas of the country are terrible. The UCCZ has undertaken a comprehensive effort to address immediate need and long-term solutions. You can support the effort by giving to this year's special appeal. Our gifts will be used to buy food for families in need.

(Continued)

Missions

Some important Dates in October:

Sunday, October 6 is the Neighbors in Need offering, one of the United Church of Christ's special mission offerings. Our church is proud to be a "Five for Five" church as we support Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and the four special mission offerings throughout the year. One third of the Neighbors in Need offering always supports the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two thirds are used by the Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations and to support advocacy efforts, service initiatives and justice initiatives.

This year the Justice and Witness Ministries have chosen to focus on "Mental Health Justice for All.... A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey." Look for a donation envelope in your bulletin on Sunday, October 6, and please give generously.

Sunday, October 20 is **Ukama Sunday**. We will have a special worship service to celebrate our partnership with the Ukama Churches. An offering will be collected that day to support the Ukama Delegation's work in response to the UCCZ's "Drought Alleviation Project"
Jane Malmberg.

Mistletoe Mart Workers

It will soon be November 23rd. I would like us to get together to finalize plans. I am open to the meeting date and time. But how about Friday, October 18th at 11am. Just let me know at 603-313-9291. Thank you, Peg.

From World Central Kitchen:

Dear First Congregational Church of Walpole, NH:

On behalf of World Central Kitchen, I want to thank you for choosing to donate **\$215 on July 31st, 2024**, in support of our work around the globe. We are so grateful for your help as we use the power of food to nourish the world.

Thank you for your belief and trust in our mission.

Sincerely,
Erin Gore
Chief Executive Officer
World Central Kitchen

CROP Hunger Walk 2024

Its CROP Walk time again! This is an annual event coordinated by our church in partnership with St John's Episcopal Church and the Unitarian Church of Walpole. Over the 20+ year history of the Walpole CROP Walk, we have raised many, many thousands of dollars to "transform communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster."

Last year the Walpole CROP Walk raised over \$12,000! Our small but mighty Walk was recognized as a "National 2023 Cream of the CROP top fundraising team", 54th in the country!! A quarter of each year's Walk income goes to a local program, which for us is usually the Fall Mt Food Shelf.

This year's CROP Walk is on **Saturday, October 12 at 9:15 am**. We will meet at our Church to begin our 3 mile route around the village. If you would like to participate in the CROP Walk or just raise money for this important cause, go to crophungerwalk.org/walpolenh. Please do what you can for participation either by walking and seeking donations from friends and family, or by donating to another walker. Thank you.

If you have questions, please call/text me at 603-313-4076, or email me at jgsellarole@gmail.com. Thank you so much!
Jana

Trustees

Quiet times continue, sort of. Trustees did meet on Tuesday the 17th. We spent a bit of time looking at and discussing the automatic door at the office entrance. We had a failure of the opener control, because of improper use over time, resulting in the circuit board failing.

Here's the issue...never ask the handicap door opener to open the door if the crash bar is not locked in the open position. It will send an electronic signal to the circuit board to open the door, and it can't if the door remains in the locked position. Result is the circuit board burns out over time. This scenario just cost the Church over \$1000.00 for repair!

Going forward during the week, we will not turn the automatic door on. The crash bar will be locked in the open position. Just pull the door open. On days Jane is working alone, the door will be locked. For now, knock on the door. Probably more on this. For your information, there are instructions posted beside the door.

Trustee things to look forward to:

Clean-up day/time. We'll put up some suggestions for things to do. You know, wash windows are always on the list November pie sale, Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Plan on doing some baking! Yum homemade pies!

For the Trustees,
Dale

Blessing of the Animals:

**Sunday, October 6,
2024**

(Rain Date October 13rd)

On the town common in front of
the gazebo

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Ushers/Greeters

The Church Council is seeking a coordinator to administer the sign-up list for the ushers and greeters each week. This function can often be managed by 2 people, and we have a sign-up clipboard in Fellowship Hall which is often voluntarily filled in. Jane Vesper has offered a training session for people unfamiliar with usher duties. We really need an individual who can take this responsibility. If you are interested, please contact Jane Vesper or Peg Winnen. Thank you for your consideration.



Church Calendar October 2024

Wednesday, October 2	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Saturday, October 5	Grange Harvest Dinner	Pickup 4:30 – 6 pm
Sunday, October 6	Communion Sunday Worship in the sanctuary and on zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, October 6	Blessing of the Animals on the Common	3-4 pm
Wednesday, October 9	Martha Kingsbury Funeral	10 am
Saturday, October 12	Crop Walk 2024 Meet at the church	9:15 am
Sunday, October 13	Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom	10 am
Wednesday, October 16	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Friday, October 18	Mistletoe Mart planning meeting	11 am
Saturday, October 19	Council Meeting in Fellowship Hall	8:30 am
Sunday, October 20	Ukama Sunday in the sanctuary and on zoom	10 am
Wednesday, October 23	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, October 27	Sunday Worship in the sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Thursday, October 31	Halloween!	
Friday, October 25th	Parish Visitor Deadline	
Church Office Hours:	M-F 9 am – 12 pm	



Parish VISITOR

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