



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC
603-756-4075
walpolechurch@yahoo.com
www.walpolenhucc.org

Friends,

2025

In the bursting new life of Spring, we see visions of Easter resurrection everywhere. Blossoms and budding trees, softening fragrant earth, lengthening days and shorter nights speak of life. But let's not surrender to sentimentality. Let's draw strength and reassurance from the stubborn renewal of the earth that we so long for in the cold dark of winter. Because we need to be strong, and we live renewed lives and set about the work of renewal.

Remember. The Easter story begins in a grave. Stunned by the forces of death and oppression, Christ's disciples went to the tomb and found they were looking in the wrong place. They found that the Good News that had so enthralled and inspired them could not be contained by the forces of death.

These days it is all too easy to dwell in the shadows and be intimidated by the forces of death. They are real and we witness their power in the news every day. Famine, war, plague and global environmental devastation are real, and it is hard to pay attention without falling into a stupor. I am sure that Sunday morning in Jerusalem, the disciples tried to believe what happened on Friday was not true. But denial of death only obscures the power of resurrection. The disciples discovered the power of resurrection and death no longer had power over them.

More than ever, we are needed to be a people whose lives are ordered around resurrection. We live in a wounded world of broken covenants on a battered planet. And yet we can be repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in. (Isaiah 58:12) We can heal a wounded sky. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

With faith, we can move mountains, even if we have to do it a pebble at a time. We just have to stoke our spirits with what William Sloane Coffin called "A passion for the possible."

May God's peace be with you.

In Christ, Richard

News from Christian Education

Pizza and a Movie Night

Come join us for some food, fellowship and fun on Saturday, April 5th! Starting at 5:30pm you can create your own mini pizza (all ingredients plus toppings will be provided), then we will pop them in the oven to bake. Drinks will be provided – coffee, tea and punch – and brownies and ice cream for dessert. Our feature film for the evening will be “Jesus”, a film of the production from Sight & Sound Theater which was scheduled to be performed just as the Covid pandemic shut everything down in 2020. What a perfect time to see the story of Jesus as we are nearing the Easter season. It’s a wonderful production complete with live animals and elaborate sets. You will feel like you are right there in the theater! So, mark your calendar and be sure to join us on April 5th. Can’t wait to see you! Kathy Yardley

Women's Fellowship

Just an update. We purchased a refrigerator for the downstairs to be used when we need extra space.

We are still waiting on an estimate for updates to the kitchen. Jason Beam will be doing the updating.

That's all for now,

Peg

Memorial

Please share your Easter lilies, tulips and potted daffodil plants with us on Easter Sunday! Let's have the chancel and the altar full of Easter blooms. You may bring them into church with you that morning and then take them home to enjoy afterwards.

Here's the flower schedule for April:

4/6 Janet Wilson

4/13 Palm Sunday

4/20 Easter flowers from congregation

4/27 OPEN

Thank you,
Ellie

April Birthdays

Sandy Pickering	April 1
Eric Malnati	April 3
Kathy Yardley	April 8
Sarah Keith	April 11
Jason Bemis	April 13
Linda Smith	April 13
Dave Westover	April 13
Linda Wright	April 14
Patrick Murray	April 16
Woodward Winmill	April 18
Kathleen Malnati	April 24
Don Sellarole	April 29
Phoebe Shriver	April 30

April Anniversaries

Charles & Linda Wright
April 15

Deacons

The Deacons assisted with the Ash Wednesday celebration on March 5th. There were 22 people in the sanctuary and one person on Zoom. April will be a busy month for the deacons. The palms have been ordered for Palm Sunday which falls on April 13th. We will hand out palms that morning before the service. There will also be a container holding palms in front of the church on Saturday, the 12th, for people to pick up if they prefer. If you are unable to come to the church, please call the secretary and we will deliver one to your door.

The following Thursday is Maundy Thursday. The deacons will hold the somber Tenebrae service in Fellowship Hall starting at 6:30.

Easter falls on April 20th this year. Details for the sunrise service will also be announced in a Thursday email.

*We are excited to be hosting a brand-new Cantata/Passion play at our church on Friday, April 11 at 7 pm! It is being performed by a choir (with visiting soloists) from the Anglican Church in Charlestown. The cost of the play is \$10. Children are free. We are inviting all of the churches in Walpole and surrounding areas. Please spread the word! It is called, "Cast of Witnesses". Tickets are available through "Eventbrite".

The Deacon of the month for April is Mike Brodeur.

(Also, we are updating the pew cards in the sanctuary. If you would like to submit a request or comment, please speak to a deacon).

Becky Pearson
860-0221



Sunday, June 29, 2025

First Congregational Church of Walpole
15 Washington Square

Take out ½ Chicken or Chicken Dinner
(Chicken, potato salad, bean salad, roll,
Lemonade or iced tea, and a brownie)

Tickets are available at Galloway Real Estate
or call Betty Prentiss at 603-313-4801.





Missions – Happy Spring!

Missions had a successful Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive last month. Donations totaled 142 jars of peanut butter, 51 jars of jelly, and 4 snack packs. Thanks to all who contributed and helped with the collection and drop-off.

Easter Sunday, April 20, will be our monthly food offering for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Save the Date! The Annual Spring Rummage Sale will take place on Saturday, May 31, 2025. Details to come.
Jane Malmberg

Stewardship

Three months to go in our fiscal year. Spring is here, we're in the season of Lent (and baseball) with Easter soon to come. Our church can close out the fiscal year strongly IF we respond to the financial needs if they arise. Please keep the First Congregational in your heart as we go forward. The more of us that make special contributions the less we withdraw from the endowment.

Peace, Chuck

News From Finance

Another Easter Pie Sale is upon us!! On April 19, at 9am in front of the Post Office until we run out. We will need pies, rolls, and any other goodies that might go with Easter. We will also need some manpower from other committees, as we are so few. Please let me know if you can help. This is usually a fun activity, especially if the weather is nice.

Thank you in advance for any help you can provide.

Sue



Church Calendar April 2025

Sunday, April 6	Worship Service w/ communion in the sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Friday, April 11	Cantata/Passion play held at First Congregational Church It's called "Cast of Witnesses: \$10, Tickets available through "Eventbrite"	7:00 pm
Sunday, April 13	Palm Sunday Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom Palms will be available in front of the church starting Saturday.	10:00 am
Thursday, April 17	Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae Service starting with a simple meal In Fellowship Hall.	6:30 pm
Sunday, April 20	Easter Sunrise Service at Hooper Golf Course on the 8 th tee	5:50 am
Sunday, April 20	Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall immediately following the Sunrise Service	
Sunday, April 20	Easter Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, April 29	Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Church Office Hours:	M-F 9 am – 12 pm	
Friday, April 25 Deadline	May Parish Visitor	



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

Parish VISITOR