



## Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC  
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www.walpolenhucc.org

September 2025

Friends,

I always enjoy our summer services in the Fellowship Hall. I enjoy the intimacy and informality of the café-style seating. Even so, I look forward to worshipping in the sanctuary again on September 14. In the meantime, we will again join with St. John's Episcopal Church for an outdoor worship service on the Common, on September 7 (rain date Sept. 14). Our last service in Fellowship Hall will be Labor Day weekend, Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. I have already met with Fred Chisolm, their priest, and got the approval of the Select Board to hold the service and to use electricity from the gazabo.

Our Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 17. At our last session in May, we decided to start the Fall reading the Gospel According to John. I hope you all are as excited as I am to start up again in the Fall.

I hope you have had a relaxing and refreshing summer. I look forward to seeing you soon.

In Christ,  
Richard

We have some beautiful cookbooks written by the parish of St. Peter's church in North Walpole. These are some of their favorite recipes. They sell for \$20 each and are on Chuck's table in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to purchase one, please put your payment in the file in my mailbox marked Cookbooks. Thank you. Jane

## Pie Ministry 2025

Kudos to all our loyal piemakers and pie makers for a very successful pie sale summer.

We held eight sales, no cancellations. We moved one sale to the town hall due to rain. Our total in sales was \$2,481, an impressive figure. Many, many thanks to all involved with this uplifting project. The community really appreciates it.

Sue Krebs

## Missions

The Missions Committee did not meet this summer but look forward to meeting in September and welcoming new members Bonnie Woodward and Kat Graves.

Looking ahead, here are some dates to mark on your calendar: Sunday, September 14 is our monthly Food Shelf offering. This offering is the third Sunday of every month, and we welcome either bags of non-perishable groceries or a check (payable to First Congregational, write Food Shelf on the memo line).

Sunday, October 5 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 is given to the Council for American Indian Ministry. The remaining two-thirds supports the Justice and Witness Ministries through

grants to UCC churches and organizations, including the UCC Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington, DC. Look for a donation envelope in your bulletin on Sunday, October 5, and please give generously.

We are planning a Fall Rummage Sale on October 18. Stay tuned for more information!

Jane Malmberg

## Church Council News

Our next meeting is on Saturday, the 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Please make sure you have a representative from your committee attend. We cover the business side of our church's work. We need your input to keep us up to date on what's happening. Remember, we also need a committee list with addresses, phone and email address. Zoom will be available but let us know if this is how you plan to attend.

It's time to look forward to our church's goals for the coming year. I look forward to hearing what you have planned and how we can help. An involved church is a moving church.

If there is a specific idea you want to discuss, let me know and I will put it on the agenda. Peg Winnen:

[winduke1@gmail.com](mailto:winduke1@gmail.com), 603-313-9291.

Thank you and I am looking forward to a great year.

Peg, Chair

## Women's Fellowship Update

We've been busy this summer. We are working with the Trustees to refresh the kitchen. Jason Beam has been doing the work. Fixing sliding doors, replacing the floor and painting. We're almost done. It's important to keep it looking new. It's your second home. Wipe up spills, clean out refrigerator and put things away or take them home.

Doing this project reminded me of all the things Women's Fellowship has done to add to our church family home. Over the years, we redone the kitchen with new appliances and kept it stocked with supplies. Coffee, paper products and other supplies have been provided by us. We purchased all the dishes, glassware and silverware for our use. The round tables for easier get together meals and receptions were our gifts. Plus supporting the church with a yearly pledge.

We hosted the NE Male Chorus on August 8<sup>th</sup>. We provided supper for 32 members and their wives. It was a will received dinner with many compliments and thank yous. Thanks to Bonnie Woodward, Jane Vesper and myself, for putting together this meal. This helped to add funds to our account.

Which brings me to OUR BIG EVENT. Mistletoe Mart!! Yes, it's time to start preparing for the big day on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you were a chairwoman of a table and wish to do it again, let me or Bonnie Woodward know. Kim Ramsey and Deb Clark already said yes to Christmas/gift table. And Bonnie and I are doing the luncheon. If you want to be a helper on any table, let us know, too. We need many hands to make it work. We'll need to get together to start planning. We had a VERY successful year last year, so let's do it again. The success of this event allows us to do the above things mentioned.

Peg Winnen, chair

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

September 13	Paul Looney	Frank and Pamela Brown
September 16	Linda Graff	
September 20	Mark Houghton	
September 21	Linda Jeffrey	
September 22	Annie Ewaskio	
September 25	Ellie Shaw	

## Stewardship

Pledge drive update. GREAT NEWS! We have received commitments for over \$110,000, which is an increase of \$25,000 over last year. This will have a huge impact on the finances of our church. Thank you to all of you who have pledged and those of you who don't pledge but make regular cash contributions. We knew when we approved the budget for this fiscal year at Annual meeting in June that we were facing a very large deficit. Your commitment to the financial stability of our church is vital. We're still hopeful of receiving more pledges.

Membership list. Over the last several years we have worked diligently on the membership list for our church. We will present to the church council this fall the names of people who over 2 years have not had any relationship with the church. This means they have not contributed financially, participated in any of the church committees or participated in any of the church activities. We're sorry to lose them but we tried to reach out to them.

Our church is relatively small. By being a small congregation, we have the opportunity to know each other and to know that God is with us if we listen, pray and live by our Covenant. We're on God's time.

Peace, Stewardship committee

Jana Sellarole

Chuck Shaw

Marilyn Shriver

Ann Looney

## Church Calendar for September 2025

Sunday, September 7 10:00 am	Outdoor Worship Service on the common with St. John's Episcopal Church (rain date is September 14 <sup>th</sup> )
Saturday, September 13 8:30 am	Council meets in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, September 14 10:00 am	Worship Service returns to the sanctuary and on Zoom
Wednesday, September 17 4-5 pm	Bible Study resumes after the summer break on Zoom
Sunday, September 21 10:00 am	Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom
Wednesday, September 24 4-5 pm	Bible Study on Zoom
Sunday, September 28 10:00 am	Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom

**Church Office Hours:** M-F 9 am – 12 pm

**October Parish Visitor Articles Due:** Thursday September 25, 2025



First Congregational Church  
PO Box 393  
Walpole, NH 03608

# Parish VISITOR

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