



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

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www.walpolenhucc.org

October 2025

Friends,

Autumn is up and running as we savor the unique beauty of the season in our corner of the world. As we enjoy the season, we brace for the arrival of leaf-peepers who come to view the multicolored display that blesses us every year. We have so much for which to be grateful.

We begin October with our annual Blessing of the Animals, which will be held on the Common, Sunday afternoon, October 5, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Again, this year we will host the event with Saint John's Episcopal Church. Their priest, the Reverend Fred Chisolm and I will both be blessing the beasts.

The reason we do this on the first Sunday in October is because it falls near the Feast of Saint Francis. We almost nailed it this year; his feast day falls on October 4. Saint Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals in Roman Catholic tradition and is remembered for his love for all sentient beings as gifts of God. He believed in the connectedness of all life.

Many of us have animals in our daily lives, whether they are livestock, pets, or the critters that surround us in our rural existence. If you have visited the church office on a weekday morning, you have probably met our beloved American mutt, Roxanne. Though our human relationships and the love we experience in them is more rich and complex, the love we share with our pets is real. It is unlike others.

I make a point of saying "all species are welcome" to the blessing of the animals. I hope you will bring your beloved beast to the blessing on the fifth. You might even want to bring a human friend along with you. I hope to see you there.

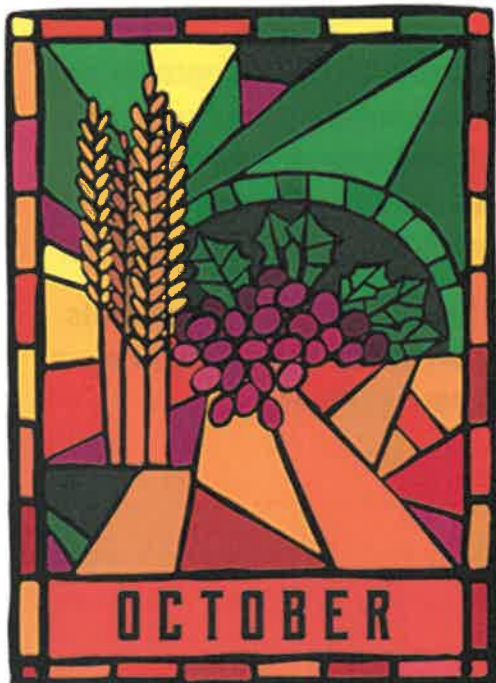
In Christ, Richard Malmberg

October Birthdays

October 4	Steve Hill
October 4	Rachel Watson
October 5	Chuck Shaw
October 7	Brian Shriver
October 16	Melissa Hill
October 20	Becky Hubbard
October 24	Curt Congdon
October 26	Cindy Westover
October 29	Sue Krebs

October Anniversaries

October 10	Frank & Kathryn Sibley
October 12	Brian & Marilyn Shriver
October 15	Paul & Ann Looney



Mistletoe Mart is Coming! November 22

It's that time of year to start thinking about Christmas. I know, I know we haven't had Halloween yet but must get going. We already have most of our table chairpersons: Ann Looney Food, Bonnie Caserta-Candy, Kathy Yardley-Card Making, Kim Ramsey Anderson and Deb Clark-Christmas/Gifts, Sue Krebs and Judy Foley-White Elephant and crew for lunch. So, start making those jams and jellies and canned fruits or vegetables and thinking about bread and baked goods. We've had a request for baked beans already. Think about the yummy treats for the Candy table. What wonderful Christmas crafts or gifts can you make for the Christmas/gift table? There will also be room for plants and new pet items, but we need someone to coordinate that. We also need volunteers to help all our coordinators, please call and help. Set up times and take down times will be announced later.

We also need help decorating Fellowship Hall. We'll let you know when.

This is a great time for fun and fellowship. It is also a fund raiser for Women's Fellowship. We have provided for updating the kitchen, ordering all its supplies and our pledge to the church. Make this another successful year.

Peg Winnen, Chair

CROP Hunger Walk 2025

Its CROP Walk time again! This annual event is 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."

But this year is different! The loss of USAID has resulted in the elimination of food aid globally, which has led to widespread food insecurity with devastating effects, especially on children. Programs providing maternal and child healthcare, nutrition, education and clean water and sanitation were also severely affected or halted.

Each year 25% of CROP Walk donations go to local agencies. Our Walk gives that money to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. The reduction in federal support is also being felt locally. Our food shelf is receiving less food and financial support from the USDA and the NH Food Bank.

CROP Walks began over 50 years ago to support the mission of Church World Service (CWS), a faith-based organization that transforms lives around the world and in the US. Of course they cannot completely replace the loss of government support, but they are still working every day to improve lives. CWS has earned a 100% rating from Charity Navigator.

This year's Walpole CROP Walk is **Saturday, October 11 at 9:15 am**. You can participate in a few ways:

- **Donate** at www.crophungerwalk.org/walpolenh
- **Walk with us**. You can register online (www.crophungerwalk.org/walpolenh) or in person on Walk Day. We meet at our Church to begin our 3-mile route around the village. Of course, you can walk the whole way with us or any part of it.
- **Ask your friends and family to donate to CROP Walk**. Register online and gather donations on your own CROP Walk page. Thanks so much! Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Please call/text me at 603-313-4076 with any questions.

Jana Sellarole.

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 have 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 8th. We provided supper for 32 members and their wives. It was a well-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 22nd. 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

Church Council Notes

Our next meeting is Saturday, the 13th at 8:30 am. 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'll put it on the agenda.

Peg Winnen: winduke1@gmail, com, 603-313-9291. Thank you and looking forward to a great year.

Peg Winnen, chair

Missions

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. Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Neighbors in Need grants. Look for a donation envelope in your bulletin and please give generously.

Missions is sponsoring a Fall Rummage Sale on Saturday, October 18, from 9 am to 1 pm. The \$5 bag sale starts at noon. We welcome clean, gently worn clothing — all seasons. No underwear, no shoes. Tag sale items also, but no electronics and nothing with a cord. The drop-off times are Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday (Oct. 14, 15, 16), from 10 to 6. We will also have a food table. Volunteers are needed to receive items prior to the sale, to work on the day of the sale, and to bake for the food table. We also need help setting up tables and racks on Sunday, October 12, after church. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. We appreciate your help!

Sunday, October 19, is Ukama Sunday. We will have a special worship service to celebrate our partnership with the Ukama Churches. A separate offering will be collected during the service in support of the rebuilding of the Daisy Dube Children's Home, which was destroyed by fire last July. Our partners in the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe have created a plan to rebuild. Instead of one large orphanage, they will construct four cottages on the original site. Each cottage will house eight children and a caretaker. This model is both a government requirement and a more nurturing environment for children. In addition, the Zimbabwean government has pledged to install a solar array to power the new cottages. As October 19th is the third Sunday of the month, we will also welcome donations for the Fall Mountain Food Pantry.

Jane Malmberg

Church Calendar for October 2025

Wednesday, October 1 4-5 pm	Bible Study on Zoom
Sunday, October 5 10:00 am	Worship Service with communion in the sanctuary and on Zoom Neighbors in Need Offering
Sunday, October 5 3-4 pm	Blessing of the Animals (on the common)
Wednesday, October 8 4-5 pm	Bible Study on Zoom
Saturday, October 11 9:15 am meet at the church	Crop Walk 2025 Please help with this important event. The loss of USAID has eliminated food aid globally which has led to widespread food insecurity.
Sunday, October 12 10:00 am	Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom
Wednesday, October 15 4-5 pm	Bible Study on Zoom
Saturday, October 18 9-1	Rummage Sale - Please help w/ set up, sorting, or clean up and come to the sale! It's very fun!
Sunday, October 19 10:00 am	Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom
Wednesday, October 22 4-5 pm	Bible Study on Zoom
Sunday, October 26 10 am	Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom
Wednesday, October 29	Bible Study on Zoom
Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am – 12 pm	
November Parish Visitor Articles Due: Monday, October 27, 2025	

Before:



After:



The Trustee Report

The siding project on the back of the church was completed. The photo shows the new siding on the back of the church and repair to the trim around the chimney. Also, by the end of September we expect the Kitchen painting to be completed. We also are working on repairs for 6 doors in the parsonage.



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