



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

walpolechurch@yahoo.com

www.walpolenhucc.org

April 2026

Friends,

When Jane and I arrived in Walpole, nearly six years ago, the pandemic was just starting. The lockdown had begun. I led worship on ZOOM, from the parsonage. We all wore masks in closed spaces. Welcome baskets we received when we moved in, full of local delicacies, also included handmade COVID masks, which were beautiful.

It was sad when the CDC determined cloth masks were not terribly effective. We should wear K95 masks, if we could find them. I still have some of the homemade masks. Each one reminds me of the person who made it. Believe me, I don't miss wearing a mask everywhere. I guess I can get sentimental about anything.

As you know, this will be my last Easter as your pastor. I can't help thinking back on my time in Walpole, as well all thirty-three years of ministry since I was ordained in 1993. Preparing for retirement, I am grateful for my time here at First Congregational Church of Walpole, a church that has been here longer than the United States has been a country. The opportunity to be a small part of a proud history means a lot to me.

Now in Holy Week, we prepare for resurrection and new life at Easter. As of this summer, Jane and I will be preparing for our next chapter. That will not begin until after Jane retires early next year. The time to say goodbye is not yet, though I think it is on all our minds. We still have more time together and more memories to make. In the meantime, let's keep the faith, pray for God's guidance, and continue to serve God and God's people in Walpole and beyond, in a world without end.

In Christ,

Richard Malmberg



Let's fill up the altar, the chancel, and the steps leading up to the altar with bright, beautiful blooms on **Easter Sunday! Lilies, tulips, daffodils!!** The plan is for you to bring in a plant(s) from home to church on Sunday morning and then take it home after the service. Look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall— write down your name and what you are bringing. **THANK YOU!** Ellie

Altar Flower Schedule for April:

April 5 - Easter flowers from congregation

April 12 - OPEN

April 19 - Deb McCollister

April 26 - OPEN



Our **Maundy Thursday** service with Communion and Tenebrae will be on April 2nd at 6:30 p.m. It will be held again in Fellowship Hall with a light meal before the service. Deacons will be providing the meal.

The **Good Friday Prayer Vigil** will be on April 3rd from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall for those who wish to participate. An area will be set up in the Sanctuary for prayer and meditation. Easter is on Sunday, April 5th. We will have our annual **Sunrise Service** at the Hooper Golf Course on the 8th tee at 6:30 a.m., followed by **Easter Breakfast** back at the church. At 10 a.m. is our traditional **Easter Worship Service**.

Deb McCollister is our Deacon of the Month for April. Our other Deacons are: Michael Brodeur, Ann Looney, Peter Graves, Linda Wright, and Kathy Yardley.

If you know of someone who would like a call or a visit, please reach out to a Deacon.

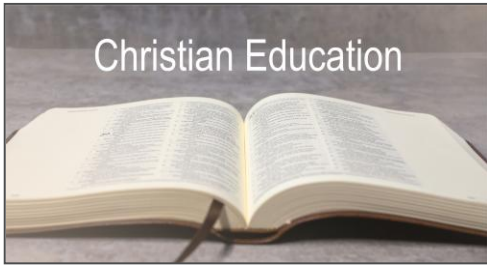


This month Missions is donating \$350 from our budget to support the Walpole Schools.

On Saturday, April 18, we will host the Annual **Peanut Butter and Jelly Drop Off Drive**. Members will be at the church from 10 am-12 pm for drop offs. All items collected will be delivered to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Save the date! Our **Spring Rummage Sale** will take place Saturday, June 13th. **We will need help from the congregation, especially with setup and cleanup.** Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Jane Malmberg



Christian Education is planning a **movie and pizza night** on Saturday, May 9. Stay tuned for further information on what the movie will be.

Linda Wright



Finance Committee

Easter Greetings from Finance!

We are looking forward to our **annual pie/bake sale** this Saturday, April 4. It is a good chance to get some pies for your Easter dinners! Please stop by to see the choices at 9 a.m. They go quickly, so come early. We hope to see you there.

We will be starting our budget considerations next week, so I hope you have your committee requests in to Tracey. We have been fortunate this year not to need money from the endowment until last month, when we took a disbursement of \$30,000 to support our current expenses. The committees have all been very frugal, and our congregation generous, so our finances have been in a better place.

Thank you all for your steadfast support of this church as we look forward to some new challenges.

In Christ,
Sue Krebs

A DATE TO REMEMBER

Our next Potluck Dinner will be on **April 25, at 5:30 p.m.** We will need help with setting up and taking down tables.



Potluck Dinner



Sandy Pickering	
Eric Malnati	April 3
Kathy Yardley	April 8
Linda Smith	April 13
Dave Westover	April 13
Linda Wright	April 14
Patrick Murray	April 16
Kathleen Malnati	April 24
Don Sellarole	April 29
Phoebe Shriver	April 30



Church Council Update

The Council met on March 14th. We discussed Pastor Richard's retirement and what steps we need to take next. We have ideas we're looking at and will keep you posted.

We also discussed the upcoming budget for next year. Remember to get those budget requests in VERY soon. Each committee gave their reports, which are probably posted further in the PV. Committee member vacancies were discussed. If you're interested in a committee, now's the chance to volunteer. This is when we will also plan on finalizing the budget for our **Annual Meeting** which is on June 28th after the Sunday service. Our next council meeting is on May 9th at 9 am.

Peg Winnen, Council Chair



The next **Annual Chicken Barbecue will be on July 4th** in celebration of the country's 250th Birthday. More information to come.





Thursday, April 2	Maundy Service with Communion and Tenebrae In Fellowship Hall, including a meal before service	6:30 pm
Friday, April 3	Good Friday Prayer Vigil	8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday, April 4	Pie and Bake Sale , in front of the Post Office	9:00 am
Sunday, April 5	EASTER Sunrise Service , at Hooper, 8 th tee	6:15 am
Sunday, April 5	EASTER Breakfast	after sunrise service
Sunday, April 5	EASTER Worship Service , with Communion, in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wed., April 8	Bible Study on Zoom	4:00 pm
Sunday, April 12	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wed., April 15	Bible Study on Zoom	4:00 pm
Sunday, April 19	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wed., April 22	Bible Study on Zoom	4:00 pm
Saturday, April 25	Community Potluck Supper	5:30 pm
Sunday, April 26	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wed., April 29	Bible Study on Zoom	4:00 pm

New Church Office Hours: 10 am – 1 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
(Closed on Wednesday, unless otherwise requested.)

May 2026 Parish Visitor Articles Due: Friday, April 24, 2026



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First Congregational Church
PO Box 393
Walpole, NH 03608