



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

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June 2026

Friends,

A few weeks ago, I announced a summer read in a Thursday email. Because, as usual, Bible Study concludes at the end of May. The group and I decided that we would follow up with a book study. Together we agreed to read *People of the Book*, by Geraldine Brooks.

Inspired by a true story, *People of the Book* is a novel of sweeping historical grandeur and intimate emotional intensity by an acclaimed and beloved author. Called “a tour de force” by the San Francisco Chronicle, this ambitious, electrifying work traces the harrowing journey of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, a beautifully illuminated Hebrew manuscript created in fifteenth-century Spain. When it falls to Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, to conserve this priceless work, the series of tiny artifacts she discovers in its ancient binding—an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair—only begin to unlock its deep mysteries and unexpectedly plunges Hanna into the intrigues of fine art forgers and ultranationalist fanatics.

One of the fascinating elements of this story is how the ancient manuscript passes through Jewish, Muslim, and Christian possession before it reaches the hands of a rare book expert in the 1990s. *People of the Book* is still widely available in print and audio. The Walpole Public Library has arranged for several copies of the book to be available and they are now in. If you wish to participate in the conversations about the book, the first session will be on Zoom on Wednesday, June 17, from 4-5 pm, when we will discuss the first two sections. As with Bible Study, we will send out a reminder on the morning of each discussion with the Zoom link included.

In Christ,

Richard Malmberg

Hello from Finance!



The Finance Committee would like to invite anyone interested in helping to manage the finances of the church to join us for the next fiscal year. We meet about 8 times a year,

monitoring our finances, overseeing our investments, creating the annual budget. We have recently held our meetings on Zoom, which has really worked very well. For more information on the committee, please refer to the by-laws or ask any committee member listed: Sue Krebs, Chuck Shaw, Charlie Lennon, John McCollister, Don Sellarole, Janet Wilson, Marilyn Shriver.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sue Krebs

A Recycling Refresher

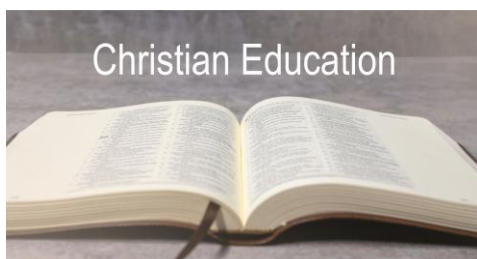
The Senior Citizens group recently hosted Shana Hakey from the Walpole Recycling Center. She gave an informative talk on recycling, including the recycling of plastics. The Center can now take #5 plastics, and a wide variety of other plastics. These are “forever materials” which will never really degrade, so it is even more important to recycle when possible.



Important to remember, plastic **storage and freezer bags** can be put in with the grocery bags we return to the stores. Any plastic, **wrap or film**, any bread wrappers, paper product packaging, any plastic that has “stretch” can be put in with those bags. However, there can be absolutely **no** paper mixed in. I try to cut paper labels out of these bags so I can include them in the recycling.

This church voted a few years ago to avoid buying any more plastics or styrofoam to use at our events. We are, however, still trying to use up some supplies which were purchased long ago. It has been a slow process. Please do not donate anything plastic or styrofoam for us to “use up”. Eventually we hope to have only paper and compostable cups and plates.

Thank you for your efforts on this matter. Let us all try to do what we can to benefit this fragile planet.



Our Movie and Pizza night in May went well. We didn't have a lot of people attend, but those who did enjoyed themselves and saw a great movie.

On June 21, we will have our annual Children's Sunday when we hand out certificates and flowers to the children. This also begins our summer break, so there won't be any Sunday School during the summer.



It's almost time for the **Spring Rummage Sale** and we need your help! The date is Saturday, **June 13**, from 9 am to 1 pm. We welcome clean, gently worn clothing — all seasons. No underwear, no shoes or furniture unless it is small and approved by a member of the committee. Tag sale items also, but no electronics and nothing with a

cord. Pre-sale items cannot be removed from the church under any circumstances but may be set aside with a tag by church members who are working/volunteering leading up to the sale. We will need help collecting items during the following days/times:

Monday,	June 8	10 am-12 pm and 12 pm-3 pm
Tuesday,	June 9	10 am-12 pm and 12 pm-3 pm
Wednesday,	June 10	10 am-12 pm and 12 pm-3 pm
Thursday,	June 11	10 am-2 pm and 2 pm-6 pm



We will also be selling food during the rummage sale. Suggested items are baked beans, mac & cheese, breads, cookies, whoopie pies, fudge, pies, chex mix, caramel corn, etc. Please package or wrap your items to avoid handling. You can leave your items on Friday or early Saturday. Remember, many hands make light work. Thank you for your support.

Sunday, June 7 is a special **Strengthen the Church** offering. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Missions will be sending \$250. Anyone interested in making an individual contribution may do so on June 7th.

Jane Malmberg



Church Council Update

On May 29, Paul and I met with Rev. Linda Hurst who is the Transitional Associate Conference Minister assigned to us by NHUCC. We discussed

our next steps. Rev. Hurst is helping us throughout our Search and Call process. We will keep you updated.

Our **Annual Meeting** will be on **June 28th** after the Sunday service. Please let us know two weeks before the meeting if there are any new people joining your committee. Also, Committee Annual Reports are due no later than one week before the Annual Meeting.

Peg Winnen, Council Chair

Need a Ride?



Are you in need of a ride to church or to an appointment? For a ride to church, you can call either Sue Krebs (603-903-9879), Paul Looney (603-756-4374), or Jana Sellarole (603-313-4076). If you need a ride to an appointment you could call the church office (603-756-4075) or contact CVTC (603-821-0569).

Community Volunteer Transportation Company provides Volunteer Drivers at “no fee” for people who do not have access to transportation because of age, ability, economic situation or other limiting circumstances. These include non-emergency medical & social service appointments, as well as trips to the grocery store, the pharmacy, the bank and post office. CVTC also subcontracts with wheelchair-van providers to coordinate rides for people whose mobility is dependent on a wheelchair.

Requests need to be made by calling the Transportation Coordinator at 603-821-0569 with a minimum of one week’s notice. CVTC will call riders two (2) business days before the ride if there is no volunteer available.



During worship on Sunday, May 24th the deacons paid a special tribute to a long-time deacon Carole Hill, who passed away on April 4th. Pastor Richard led the congregation in saying “The Deacons Prayer” and the choir sang “In the Garden”. Ann Looney gave a wonderful eulogy honoring Carole’s life and her service to both her home church in Lynn, MA and to our church. A bouquet of red carnations on the altar served as a salute to Carole, and in recognition of Pentecost Sunday.

The deacons have begun updating a list of pulpit supply ministers to fill in whenever there is a need. If you know of someone who could be added to the list please let us know. We will also have a vacant seat on our committee next year. Perhaps you may feel called to serve as a deacon – if so, we would love to have you!

Our deacons are: Linda Wright, Kathy Yardley, Michael Brodeur, Ann Looney, Deb McCollister and Peter Graves.

The Deacon of the Month for June is Linda Wright.



The trustees have completed a few projects.

- We had the stairs to the basement painted along with the walls. This was done by Derek who is a new contractor.
- Houghton’s installed 4 new outlets in the kitchen to support crockpots and also performed annual maintenance on the air conditioning in the office and the conference room.

- Keene Pest performed our annual ant service on both the church and the parsonage.

Upcoming activities

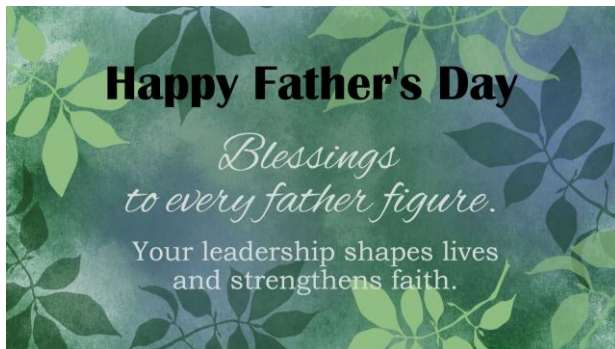
- We are planning to have the property mulched.
- We are getting estimates for new siding in the south facing wall of the church.



Dave and Cindy Westover	June 1
Leroy and Cheryl Watson	June 2
Don and Jana Sellarole	June 4
Bruce and Jan Martin	June 15



June Houghton	June 3
Erin Bowen	June 16
Becky Pearson	June 18
Tim Foley	June 19
Pat Kingsbury	June 21
Lester Phillips	June 24
Eryn Sellarole	June 24
Jane Vesper	June 24
Tom Winmill	June 25
Shirley Byczkowski	June 29



Sunday, June 7	Worship Service with Communion in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Saturday, June 13	Rummage Sale	9 am to 1 pm
Sunday, June 14	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Monday, June 15	Senior Potluck Lunch , program to follow	12 noon
Sunday, June 21	Worship Service in church and on Zoom Father's Day and Children's Sunday	10:00 am
Sunday, June 28	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom Annual Meeting after church, luncheon provided	10:00 am

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 am to 1 pm

July/August 2026 Parish Visitor Articles Due: Monday, June 25, 2026



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PO Box 393
Walpole, NH 03608