



## **Parish Visitor**

First Congregational Church UCC

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### **May 2026**

*Friends,*

May fifteenth will mark six years since Jane and I came to the First Congregational Church of Walpole; a strange time to begin a pastorate. The Covid 19 lockdown had just begun. We always wore masks when we were together indoors. Two weeks after we got here, George Floyd was murdered by police in broad daylight on a busy street in Minneapolis. Riots and protests erupted all over the country. There was a vigil on The Common, a march in Bellows Falls, and together we prayed for peace and healing. For the first months I was here, I led worship over Zoom from the front parlor of the parsonage. We have seen a bit of history together in the last six years.

As we enjoy the fragrant beauty of spring in New Hampshire, we are still overwhelmed by events around the world. Our country is at war with Iran. A weak economy is stressed further by unstable oil prices because shipping has been disrupted by the war. I am sure you have heard the expression that it is a curse to live in interesting times.

Interesting times require each of us to be a blessing in a troubled world. Charles III addressed a joint session of Congress on the last Tuesday of April. He got a prolonged standing ovation when he invoked his Christian faith, saying, "it is why it is my hope – my prayer - that, in these turbulent times, working together and with our international partners, we can stem the beating of ploughshares into swords."

As King of England, Charles III is the head of the Church of England. He can thank Henry VIII for that. In the next sentence of his speech, he added, "I am mindful that we are still in the season of Easter, the season that most strengthens my hope. It is why I believe, with all my heart, that the essence of our two Nations is a generosity of spirit and a duty to foster compassion, to promote peace, to deepen mutual understanding and to value all people, of all faiths, and of none."

Enjoy the long-awaited spring weather. Celebrate Easter. The first three Sundays of May are still Easter season. Let the delicious spring days inspire gratitude, compassion, and creativity. "Taste and see that God is Good." (Psalm 34:8) Thrive where you stand. Be a blessing, in a world without end. Amen.

*In Christ,*

Richard Malmberg



The **Spring Rummage Sale** will be held on Saturday, **June 13, from 9 am to 1 pm**. This is now an all-church event as the Missions Committee does not have the womanpower to do it alone. 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:

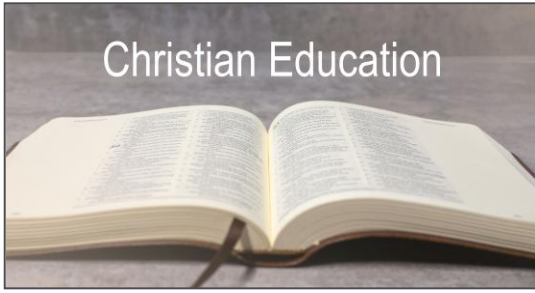
Monday,	June 8	10 am-12 pm and 12 pm-3 pm
Tuesday,	June 9	10 am-12 pm and 12 pm-3 pm
Wednesday,	June 10	10 am-12 pm and 12 pm-3 pm
Thursday,	June 11	10 am-2 pm and 2 pm-6 pm

Tables will be set up on Sunday, June 7 after church. Cleanup will take place on Sunday, June 14 after church. Signups will be posted in Fellowship Hall. We will need **ALL HANDS ON DECK**. Linda Smith is in charge of the food sale during the rummage sale. Suggested items are baked beans, mac & cheese, breads, cookies, whoopie pies, fudge, pies, chex mix, caramel corn. Please package or wrap your items to avoid handling. You can leave your items on Friday or early Saturday. Remember, it takes a lot of hands to make a successful sale. We need your help. Thank you.

**June 7, Pentecost Sunday**, 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 7<sup>th</sup>.



Jane Malmberg



Christian Education is planning a **Movie and Pizza Night** on Saturday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m. This is always a great time together as we share pizza and a good movie.

I ordered a movie about a dog called Ruby. The movie is "Rescued by Ruby", but I'm not sure if it will be in on time. So, my back up movie is "Soul on Fire", about the life of a boy with disabilities. Both are good movies that I'm sure you will enjoy.

Linda Wright



On **May 6th & 7th**, Women's Fellowship will be hosting the **UNH Child Welfare Workshop**. The group will be meeting in Fellowship Hall from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. We will be providing them a Continental breakfast and lunch. We may be calling you for help with to provide either a breakfast coffee cake, fruit or a lunch dessert (cookies, cupcakes).

Peg and Bonnie



Church Council Update

Church Council will be meeting on **Saturday, May 9th** at 9:00 am. We will discussing and finalizing our budget for 2026-27.

We will also be starting our plans for moving forward after Pastor Richard's retirement. The process begins with selecting a new interim minister with help of the UCC NH Conference. An ad hoc committee will need to be formed to receive and discuss possible candidates for our interim. If you are interested in being on this committee, just let me know. That will save me from calling you.

Our **Annual Meeting** will be on **June 28th** after the Sunday service.

Peg Winnen, Council Chair



Annual Meeting



**MAY**  
ANNIVERSARIES

Austin and Sandy Pickering May 9



**MAY**  
BIRTHDAYS

Joe Graff	May 17
Eric Graff	May 20
Bennett Shriver	May 20
Amy Winnen	May 20
Marjorie McGill	May 23
Marilyn Shriver	May 23



*Happy Mother's Day!*

*May 10*

*Thank you for all you do.*



On April 2, Maundy Thursday, the Deacons hosted/shared a light dinner of soup and fruit as we contemplated the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples. Dinner was followed by our Tenebrae/ Candle Service of scripture verses leading up to Jesus' arrest. Friday, April 3, was a solemn day of individual prayer and meditation as some parishioners found a quiet haven in the Sanctuary. With umbrellas in hand, some hearty worshippers gathered for the Sunrise Service at the Hooper Golf Course, which was followed by a light breakfast at the church.

Our Deacons are: Kathy Yardley, Michael Brodeur, Ann Looney, Peter Graves, Linda Wright, and Deb McCollister. If you know someone who would like a call or a visit, please reach out to a Deacon.

The Deacon of the Month for May is Kathy Yardley. Kathy's phone number is 1-603-313-1443.



Sunday, May 3	Worship Service with Communion in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wed., May 6	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Wed., May 6 & 7	<b>UNH Child Welfare Workshop</b> in Fellowship Hall	8:30 am – 4 pm
Saturday, May 9	Church Council Meeting in Fellowship Hall	9:00 am
Sunday, May 10	Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom <b>Mother's Day!</b>	10:00 am
Wed., May 13	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, May 17	Worship Service in church or on Zoom	10:00 am
Wed., May 20	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, May 24	Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wed., May 27	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, May 31	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom <b>Trinity Sunday</b>	10:00 am

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

**June 2026 Parish Visitor Articles Due:** Monday, May 25, 2026



MAY 2026

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PO Box 393  
Walpole, NH 03608

