



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

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Dear Friends,

What a joy these first weeks have been! I have loved making visits and getting to know you. I am slowly learning things and finding my way around town. Some of my favorite moments have come from just standing outside the church on these beautiful fall days and meeting people as they walk by. There are a lot of walkers and dog walkers in Walpole! The Blessing of the Animals was really fun, with Kathy and her big white horse, lots of dogs and a guinea pig! Sverre and I found that there are a bunch of folks here that we know from other parts of our lives.

Fall is a season of transition, and our lives follow that same path. As we head toward winter, hunker down and turn to quieter things, it's a good time for contemplation. I hope to create new opportunities for us to gather in that spirit. If you have ideas, I would love to hear them.

One thing I love about this community is how much positivity there is here. That gives me real hope. We are living in tumultuous times, and we need to keep asking how we can meet the needs of our faith community and of the wider community around us. Being willing to try new things is a good place to start.

We have many wonderful seasonal events ahead, and two are coming up soon. On Saturday, November 14, at 10:00 a.m., I hope you will join me in Fellowship Hall for an open conversation on all things having to do with the end of life.

On Sunday, November 15, my friend Tom Raglan will be with us in worship, bringing his guitar and his music. Anyone who would like to share a song or an instrument on a Sunday morning is always welcome. We love these moments together.

Please call me at 802-325-2345 or email me at melissa519@me.com anytime. I would love to visit with you.

Warmest blessings,
Melissa



We are getting excited and grateful for our new minister, Melissa O'Brien. She will be attending our next Council Meeting on October 31 at 9 am. We will be discussing the upcoming Holiday season and making plans. Our committees have been working and hopefully will fill us in on what they are doing. This is an exciting time in our church as we begin to change directions and look to the future. We hope you are too. Peg W., chair



In October the Deacons helped to co-host the Blessing of the Animals with the Episcopal Church on October 25. We had 1 horse, 2 cats, 1 guinea pig and lots of dogs. Thanks to all who attended and helped out. It was a great time and the weather was great, too.

On November 8 we will be holding our annual Veteran's Day Service. This is a time when the Deacons read poems from the different wars and recite the names of veterans who are familiar to our church. Rev. Patrick McCloud will also be leading us in worship that day. This is always a moving service, ending with Anna playing taps.

Our deacons are: Linda Wright, Kathy Yardley, Michael Brodeur, Ann Looney, and Deb McCollister. The Deacon of the Month for November is Linda Wright.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE



TURKEY COLLECTION - Sunday, November 8

In years past, the NH Food Bank has supplied turkeys to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf to be distributed with the Thanksgiving food baskets. This year they are donating ZERO. That's right...ZERO! This is when we as a church can step in. We're asking you to bring frozen turkeys to church on Sunday, November 8. Some folks from the Food Shelf will pick them up.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE - Sunday, November 15

The Thanksgiving Food Drive takes place the following Sunday, November 15, right after church from 11 - 1. Items for Thanksgiving dinner requested are canned goods, potatoes, squash, onions, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, etc. Monetary donations gladly accepted; checks should be made payable to The Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Please remember that we also bring non-perishable food items from the church to the food shelf monthly.

The Mission and Action committee currently has four members. Kat Graves, Bonnie Woodward, Linda Jeffrey and Becky Pearson. We would love to have volunteers to add to our committee 🙌🙏



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

MISTLETOE MART, November 21, 2026



We're getting ready, soon we'll be setting up Thursday, November 19th at 9 am, then it's go time on November 21st!! Mark your calendars for an all-day (or as long as it takes) to set up for Mistletoe Mart on the 19th. We'll be setting up tables, making displays and making Fellowship Hall ready for Christmas by decorating. We need all hands on deck to make this quick and easy.

Then on Saturday, we should arrive by no later than 8 am for the final touches. We open at 9 am and will be busy selling EVERYTHING by 2 pm. Lunch starts at 11:30 and will end at 2 pm.

Hope you're at home making things to sell. Everything from candies, cakes, cookies, you name it, we'll eat it or sell it. Gifts, crafts, plants, let's get busy. Below are the tables and the ladies manning them (or should I say womaning them).

Food table: Ann Looney, Deb McCollister and Marilyn Shriver

Candy: Ellie Shaw, Bonnie and Jackie Caserta

Nick Nacks, Plants, etc: Gwen Yardley, Linda Jeffrey, Pat Kingsbury

Christmas cards: Kathy Yardley

Christmas/gifts: Jane Vesper and Deb Dupell

Kitchen: Bonnie Woodward and daughters Heidi and Hillary, Betty Prentiss and daughter Hope, Jana Sellarole and Peg Winnen

Wait staff Coordinator: Erin Bowen plus 4 waiters

Luncheon check out: Linda Wright. Tips Accepted

White Elephant: Sue Krebs, Judy Foley and Linda Smith. They need one more.

If you want to be a part of this, just talk to someone on the table where you'd like to be. All hands are needed and accepted. We will accept cash, checks or Venmo. So spread the word and let's make this day special.

Co-Chairs: Bonnie Woodward and Peg Winnen

MISTLETOE MART MENU

SOUPS - \$4.00. Vegetable Beef, Corn Chowder, Butternut Squash with apple.

SANDWICHES - Chicken Croissant \$8.00. Sloppy Joe \$8.00. Grilled Cheese \$6.00. All come with chips and veggies.

DESSERT \$4.00 Peppermint ice cream brownie sundae, Pumpkin roll with nuts (or without) and caramel sauce



Bakers Needed

For Mistletoe Mart

Saturday, November 21st

Popular items include:

*Cakes, Pies, Yeast and Quick Breads, Bars, Cookies,
Macaroni and Cheese, Baked Beans, Jams and Jellies.*

*Please package cookies, bars and rolls by the dozen or half dozen,
and not for individual sale.*

Thank you.

Ann Looney and Deb McCollister



FROM THE TRUSTEES

We need all our pie maker's one more time this year! The Trustees **Thanksgiving pie sale is coming soon!** We hope you are in! It will be the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, at 8:30 am in front of the post office. We hope you're able to help out by making one or more pies. Please leave them at the Church or the post office. Please make it happen!

The Trustees are working on refreshing the entry area of the Church. It's about first impressions!

The siding project for the south side is projected for the summer of 2027. We have to work with the Finance Committee to find the funding, for sure! Refreshing bids is first up for us.

Fall clean up should be happening now. Trustees are struggling to find a date that works for all. So far, it's November 7th at the Church at 9:00 am. Maybe this will be done individually as time is available. The to-do list doesn't change much. If you have time to help, speak with a Trustee. Who likes to wash windows and can climb a step ladder? If you see something that needs to be done, let us know!

That's all for this month.

Your Trustees

Below is a letter from our sister church in Zimbabwe.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN ZIMBABWE



Est. 1893

(FORMERLY AMERICAN BOARD MISSION)

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Greetings Brothers & Sisters

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying thus far the Lord has helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12).

This year we are celebrating 133 years as a Denomination. Since its inception in 1893 the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe has transformed lives and communities through Evangelism, Education, Health and Agriculture.

We have trained over 200 Lay Evangelists. Through this training we have opened Worshipping Groups in Mola, Mhondoro, Nyagadzi, Landos, Mvuma, Chigodora and Makocheredze. Our evangelism has moved outside our borders to countries like Malawi, the United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, Zambia and USA Online Group.

We have added two more Conferences, North Eastern and North West. This will enable our Superintendents to visit churches efficiently. We have added one more Council, the Christian Men's Fellowship. We have Women of Virtue Group which is comprised of widows and single mothers. We have introduced Chaplains in our schools, hospitals and clinics. This will enhance our evangelism activities in our Institutions.

In the area of infrastructure, we are nearly completing our state-of-the-art Head Office. We are building our first school in town Waterview in Dangamvura Mutare. We are in the verge of opening a university as a Church, Gazaland University in Chipinge.

The Church is like a body with many parts. Since 1893, we have seen tremendous support from our partners: Global Ministries, United Church of Christ in Canada,

Poulner Baptist Chapel, Ukama Partnership in NH, African Indian and Slavlands Christian Fellowship and Higherlife Foundation. We have so many individuals within and outside the Church who have been supporting this Church since its inception in 1893 to be where we are at the moment.

We have a big future ahead of us. We are looking forward to have our first UCCZ Convention from 19 -22 August 2027 at Mt Selinda Mission. Our theme for 2027 is Unshakable Faith (Kutenda kusingazunguzuki) (Daniel 6:23, 2 Timothy 4:7, Romans 4:20-21)

Jesus says in John 13: 34 *“A new commandment I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you, so you must love one another.* We have reached where we are so far by working together as a team, uplifting each other in this Christian journey. Let us remain united. We all desire to see the church moving forward as we glorify God.

As I conclude, let me thank the missionaries who listened God’s call and left everything for the sake of the Gospel. Some of them we have their graves at Mt Selinda, Chikore and other places. What a great sacrifice, commitment and obedience. Our prayers are with their families. Let me thank all the UCCZ members, those alive and those departed who has raised the UCCZ flag, transforming lives and communities.

Then Peter answered and said to Him *see we have left all and followed you. Therefore, what shall we have?* Jesus said to them, *everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands for my name’s sake shall receive a hundredfold and inherit eternal life”* (Matthew 19:27 & 29).

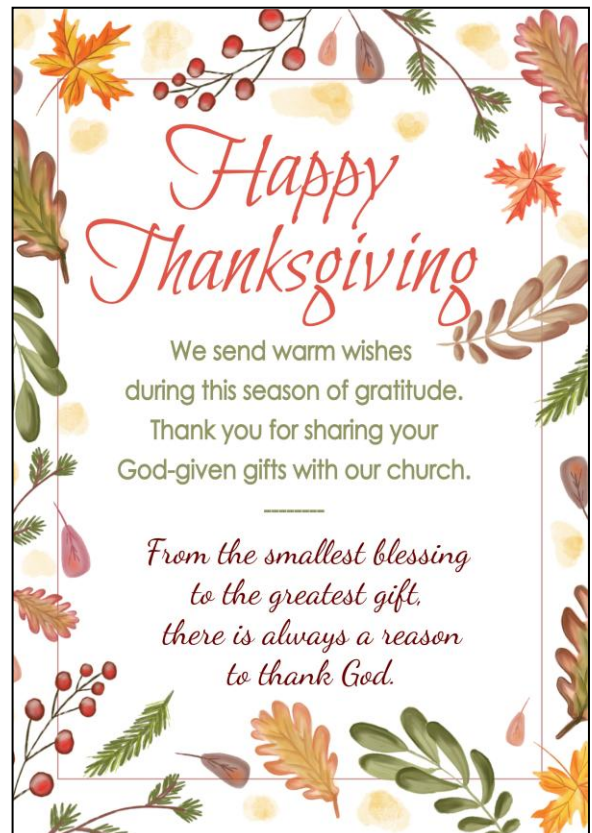
Happy Anniversary UCCZ

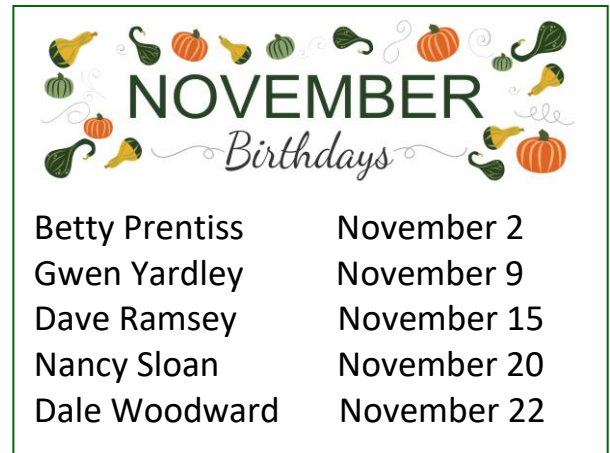


Rev John Matiza
UCCZ President



November 15 – 11 am to 1 pm





Sunday, Nov. 1	Worship Service with Communion in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, Nov. 8	Veteran's Sunday , Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom Frozen turkey donations for Food Shelf	10:00 am
Sunday, Nov. 15	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom Thanksgiving Food Drive	10:00 am 11 am to 1 pm
Monday, Nov. 17	Senior Potluck Lunch , program to follow	12 noon
Saturday, Nov. 21	Mistletoe Mart	9 am to 2 pm
Sunday, Nov. 22	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wed., Nov. 25	Trustees Pie Sale and other goodies in front of the Walpole Post Office	9 am till sold out
Thursday, Nov. 26	Thanksgiving (<i>enjoy the holiday</i>)	
Friday, Nov. 27	Church office is closed	
Sunday, Nov. 29	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom First Sunday in Advent	10:00 am

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday - Friday, 10 am to noon

November 2026 Parish Visitor Articles Due: Wednesday, November 21, 2026



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