



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

603-756-4075

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www.walpolenhucc.org

Hi Friends,

Thank you all so much for such a warm welcome. If I haven't met you yet, I certainly look forward to that moment.

A brief introduction: I live in Peru, Vermont, where I once served the UCC church. I also worked at the Pawlet Community Church as their minister, at the Unitarian Church in Saratoga as an interim, and as a hospital and hospice chaplain. I have too many degrees: St. Lawrence undergraduate and UVM and Fordham for graduate degrees. I grew up in Saratoga Springs, where my parents, Ann and Tom, still live. I have 3 siblings, 3 children and live with my wonderful partner, Sverre Caldwell, who is a retired nordic ski coach (and teacher and headmaster) who spent his entire 40-year career at Stratton Mountain School, and our pup, Buster, a very busy 4-month-old yellow Lab. You will hear me talk about these people (and pet) a lot because I love them all so very dearly.

I am very involved with projects related to aging and end of life. My son, Sam, and I have been working to use technology to solve the problem of lack of spiritual care, in particular for seniors living in senior communities. And I work with an organization in Vermont involved with medical aid in dying.

I am really looking forward to working with the Walpole Congregational Church (WCC) as an interim, and to helping this wonderful congregation prepare itself to find the best imaginable settled minister out there. When I am not "working" I love to ride my bike, swim, ski (we are a big alpine skiing family), skate, garden, walk the pup, eat, read, sleep ... be with my kids. I love it all.

Please feel to reach out to me at 802-325-2345 or melissa519@me.com. I'd love to have a cup of coffee with you and learn more about why you care about WCC.

Warmest blessings, Melissa



My crew: daughter, Coco, sons, Sam and Nate up top. Spouses, Mišel and Gretta below. Stars in stripes!

Interim Search Committee - GREAT NEWS!!

Many of you were in church to hear **Melissa O'Brien** on Sunday, August 23 and September 27. After meeting with her, the Interim Search Committee asked her to be our Interim Minister. And she said YES! She is warm, engaging and enthusiastic. She's excited to start working and believes we have a great core of members with lots of potential to grow.

Jana Sellarole, Ann and Paul Looney, Peg Winnen
Interim Search Committee



We are happy to welcome Melissa O'Brien as our Interim Minister. There are a few days she won't be with us. So, on October 18 and November 8, Rev. Patrick McCloud will be leading us in worship. Patrick was here previously on September 20th.

We still have a vacant seat on our committee. Perhaps you may feel called to serve as a deacon – if so, please let a deacon know, 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 October is Deb McCollister.



Our next Council Meeting will be on October 31 at 9 a.m. It is important that all committees have representation.

We received two books for our library - thanks to Linda Jeffrey.

"WAKING UP IN HEAVEN" by Crystal McVea. Experience waking up in Heaven with a woman that stopped breathing for 9 minutes.

"IMAGINE HEAVEN" by John Burke. This book tells about common experiences share by thousands of near-death survivors.





BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 25 at 3 p.m.

Bring your pet and join us on the Walpole Common as we join with St. John's Church in this always enjoyable event. Pets of all kinds are welcome.

HALLOWEEN!!

It's hard to believe that we are talking about Halloween already. Chuck always loved this time of year. The plan this year is to have an Addams Family theme. We have most of our characters already. Hope you will join us.



MISTLETOE MART IS COMING NOV. 21!!

Yes, that's right. November 21st will be our Mistletoe Mart. Now is the time to start canning, making jellies, baked goods, crafts, and thinking what can I do to make this year's Mistletoe Mart special. So, put on your thinking hats and get busy.



The next event for the Missions Committee will be the Thanksgiving Food Drive on Saturday, Nov. 21st. That is also the date for Mistletoe Mart. This might be a happy coincidence! We will collect Thanksgiving dinner-type food from 10:00 am-noon in front of the church that morning.

Please remember that we also bring non-perishable food items from the church to the food shelf monthly. You can leave your donations in a bag in the entry near the name-tag stand.

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

Becky Pearson



CROP WALK, October 10, 9:15 a.m.

The annual Walpole Crop Hunger Walk will be held Saturday, October 10 at 9:30. Crop Walks are held throughout the country every year, and Walpole churches and community groups have joined in each fall for the past 25 years.

Funds raised go to Church World Service (CWS) to alleviate hunger, assist in disaster situations, sustainable agriculture, and clean water practices both locally and beyond. Twenty-five percent of what our walk receives in donations goes to our chosen local recipient, the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. In recent years, that amount has been between \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Please mark your calendar and join us on Walk Day, Saturday, October 10th at 9:15 a.m. The walk is an approximately three-mile stroll around the village. There is also a shorter route option. We meet at the First Congregational Church on the Common, where you can check in or register if you have not already done so online. The walk begins at 9:30.

To participate in the walk, to register, to donate, or to find out more about the CROP Walk, go to www.crophungerwalk.org/walpolenh. If you are not able to participate in the walk, but would like to donate, please consider donating, using this secure link.

The need is especially great this year due to federal funding cuts. The reduction is felt both locally and globally. Along with other food shelves, the NH Food Shelf lost nearly \$1,000,000 in Federal funds this year leading to a drop in certain types of donations such as fresh produce, dairy products and proteins.

Thank you for supporting the Walpole Crop Walk. Your support is very much appreciated. CWS is a 501(c) (3) organization with a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. Please talk to Jana Sellarole or Ellie Shaw if you have any questions.





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



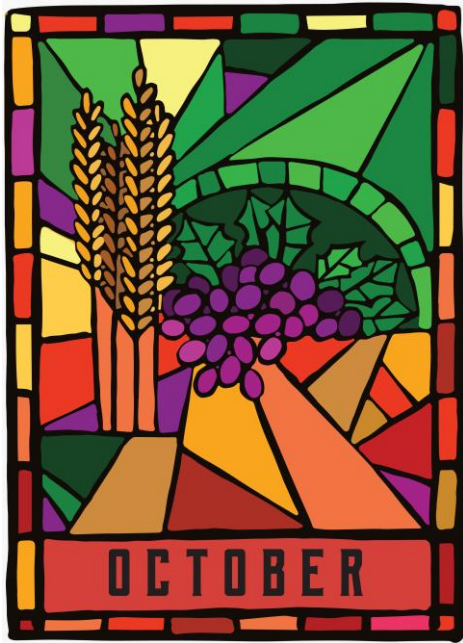
October 4 Steve Hill
 October 5 Chuck Shaw
 October 7 Brian Shriver
 October 16 Melissa Hill
 October 20 Becky Hubbard
 October 24 Curt Congdon
 October 26 Cindy Westover
 October 29 Sue Krebs



Sunday, Oct. 4	Worship Service with Communion in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Saturday, Oct. 10	Crop Walk	9:15 am
Sunday, Oct. 11	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, Oct. 18	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Monday, Oct. 19	Senior Potluck Lunch , program to follow	12 noon
Sunday, Oct. 25	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, Oct. 4	Blessing of the Animals (on the common)	3-4:00 pm
Saturday, Oct. 31	Council Meeting	9:00 am
Saturday, Oct. 31	Halloween	4:30 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday - Friday, 10 am to noon

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



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First Congregational Church
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