

NORTH STAR

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
October 2024

NORTH STAR



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UCC
October 2024

Gathered Since 1730
Serving, Welcoming,
Growing in Christ

79 Clinton Street
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-225-5491

Email:
secretary@concordsfirstchurch.org

Website:
www.concordsfirstchurch.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday:
9:30am – 1pm
Worship: Sunday 10:30am

Senior Minister
Rev. Emilia Halstead

Interim Musician
Annie Papinsick

Church Secretary
Kathleen Akerman

Historian
Kenneth Kalloch

Treasurer
Carol Hovey

Financial Secretary
Brandie Lyons

Council Chair
Susan Lauze

Council Vice Chair
Phil Kimball

Council Recorder
Sara Nichols

Technology Integrator
Jock Irvine

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
October 2024

Ministry of Spiritual Life

The changing leaves remind us that we are entering a new season. For many, this is their favorite season; for others, it is a reminder that winter is coming. For the next several weeks, we'll be enjoying the reds, yellows, oranges of the turning leaves. Later, the colors will change to gold and russet. All of the kaleidoscope of color reminds us that there is beauty in every season—in every day, when we are open to it—even winter!

Another change that fall ushers in is what we often refer to as the busy time of year—the holidays. If we aren't careful, we can get caught up in the hectic pace that seems the hallmark of our culture. Pastor Renee reminded us that we have been blessed with sabbath, a day of rest and restoration. Hopefully, we will make certain we have included sabbath in our schedules this fall.

We said our goodbyes to Pastor Renee Rouse on September 29. We presented her with a thank you card with notes from members, and a pot of lovely mums. We enjoyed fellowship time after service with a coffee hour. All expressed appreciation for the inspiration and challenges of her sermons and for her faith-filled joy.

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Emilia's return and hearing all that she will be sharing with us of her sabbatical. Her first Sunday preaching will be October 6. We will have a welcoming coffee hour reception following our worship service. We will also be celebrating World Communion Sunday on October 6.

The monthly Havenwood Gathering will be held at Havenwood's chapel on October 10 at 1:30. All are welcome.

Jazz Sanctuary will be held on October 20. Watch for details.

UCC NH Conference Annual Meeting will be held on October 26. See the NHUCC Conference web site for details.

Council has asked the SLMT to review some of the items we're currently holding in storage.

Considering our current situation, we may want to reconsider whether we want to keep some of the items. We are hoping to accomplish this task within the next few months.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
October 2024

Page Turners will be meeting October 28 to decide on our list of books for the coming year. We meet from 2 to 3 in the chapel and on zoom. Watch for further details. All are welcome.

The Racial Justice Steering Team will be meeting to review and make plans for the upcoming year and will publish a report. In the meantime, here are some notes of interest:

We met up with Rev. Renee Rouse at the NAACP Booth at the Multi-Cultural Festival. There was a sign-up sheet for individuals interested in joining a Concord NH NAACP branch. There is no Concord NAACP branch at the moment. The closest one is Manchester.

In Dunbarton, on October 19 at 10:00 a.m. The Black Heritage Trail of NH and Dunbarton Historical Awareness Committee will be unveiling a marker honoring Scipio Page, a black veteran of the French & Indian and Revolutionary War, and Captain of a Regional Black Militia. All are welcome. Bring a chair. Ceremony will be followed by a guest fiddler and refreshments.

May you enjoy the beauty of the fall season and make opportunities for Sabbath Rest.

Spiritual Life Ministry Team
Eleanor Kimball



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
October 2024

Ministry of Outreach

School Kits:

We have approximately 20 completed school kits and we have approximately 20 kits that need bags.

Clean Up Buckets:

Please continue to buy the item of the month for the Clean Up Buckets. A final tally of items we need will be listed at the end of the year. Over 1,500 CWS kits were distributed to people in Louisiana after Hurricane Francine made landfall as a Category 2 storm. With the recent hurricanes, more kits will need to be distributed. Our work will help keep the supply depots stocked.

Strengthen the Church:

Thank you to all who contributed to Strengthen The Church offering which we collected this summer. A final total will be published in the next North Star.

Zimbabwe:

We have a gift from our sister church in Harare. Rev. Keller and his wife were recently part of a delegation to Zimbabwe. Sometime soon, we will receive this gift and news about the trip. Evidently hunger is a real but hidden problem in Zimbabwe.

Information has been posted on the bulletin board outside the chapel. Please take time to read this. A fundraiser for the hunger crisis will be held on Ukama Sunday, Oct. 20th at Jazz Sanctuary.

Neighbors in Need Offering:

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. One third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches. The theme this year is "Mental Health Justice for All!" We collect this offering as part of World Communion Sunday Oct. 6, 20

Crop Walk:

The 40th annual Crop Walk was held Sat. Sept. 21 at 10:00 AM. There were over 50 walkers from 13 faith communities and 2 dogs who walked the 2.5 miles. The final count will take some time but so far \$10,980.18 has been raised. Our church has raised approximately \$100 but donations can still be made. The money raised will make a difference, helping to combat hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster, around the world and in our own backyard.

Sara Nichols, Outreach

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
October 2024

Jazz Sanctuary

With Pastor Emilia back in the First Church fold, Jazz Sanctuary will enthusiastically feature her "voice" both as worship leader and as vocalist on Sunday October 20 at 2:30 PM in "The Jazz of Changing Perspectives." The changing of the seasons with the arrival of fall in New England is so palpably beautiful that it reminds us around every corner of the beauty of "the Divine One" as our Sabbatical Pastor Renee refers to God. In addition, October 14 is Indigenous Peoples' Day, so Jazz Sanctuary will also explore the "changed perspective" that Native American spirituality has brought into the mainstream Christian worldview over the past few decades. It is a spirituality with reverence for both nature and human community - values dear to the heart of Jazz Sanctuary.

Musically speaking, we will be welcoming Pastor Emilia's voice back into our band's circle with wide-ranging selections including Autumn Leaves, Lean on Me, and I Want Jesus to Go with Me. Congregational singing will include taking on some Native American hymns that grace the pages of the UCC's New Century Hymnal. We hope you can join us in person or on Facebook Live on the church's Page.

November's Jazz Sanctuary will reprise one of our most popular themes of the past nearly 10 years - The Beatles!! And in December we will lift up the spiritual implications of Advent and Christmas in a Jazz Sanctuary about Justice and Incarnation.

Blessings on your spiritual journey - we hope you include our Jazz Sanctuary gatherings as part of that journey!

God's Peace
Tim Wildman

13 Online Safety And Technology Tips For Seniors

Reprinted with edits from MedicareSupplement.com

1. Use good passwords

When choosing a password, don't use common keyboard patterns, like QWERTY or 12345. Try mixing it up by adding a combination of numbers, symbols and both lowercase and uppercase letters. Keep track of your passwords somewhere safe (preferably not saved on your computer), and try not to reuse old passwords for new accounts. The simpler the password, the easier it could be to hack.

2. Guard your personal information

Think before you give out your personal information online, especially if the website or email asking for your information was unsolicited by you. Pop-up ads and scam emails are often disguised as something that seems real — such as a notification to update your security software — in order to lure you into giving away personal information.

If you are ever asked to enter passwords, credit card numbers or other personal information from an email or an unfamiliar website, take extra care to be sure you know exactly where the request is coming from and why.

3. Be wary of unrealistic offers

If something seems too good to be true, it probably is an online security threat. Emails and websites that claim you won an extravagant prize or offer "free" giveaways in exchange for your personal information are likely to be scams. Unless you specifically remember entering a contest, it is best to ignore online messages about prizes and special offers.

4. Install reputable security software

It is wise to purchase recognized computer security software. Do your research and read consumer reviews about different antivirus software options and online security tools. Once you have your software installed, be sure to keep it up to date.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
October 2024

5. Use private settings on social media

You can change your privacy settings on Facebook and other social media sites to dictate who can see your posts. If you leave your settings on public, anyone in the world can see the statuses you post and the photos you share.

To ensure only the people you trust can see your posts, change your settings so that only the friends you have connected with can see what you share online.

6. Don't post personal information on social media

Even if you have restrictive online privacy settings, it is still a good idea to avoid overly personal posts on social media, especially anything that contains addresses or phone numbers.

If you're going on vacation, don't share the dates of your trip on social media, and wait until you get home to post photos online. [Burglars can use social media](#) to see who is out of town to find their next victims.

7. Avoid phishing scams

There is a wide range of ways that scammers will try and steal online information from seniors. One common tactic involves scammers sending emails meant to look like they are from credible websites in order to trick you into sending them personal information. Stay up to date on the [latest online fraud tactics](#), and check out these [tips for avoiding phishing scams](#).

8. Report cyber abuse

People often associate the idea of cyber abuse with young children being bullied online, but it also happens to older adults. Do not tolerate anyone sending you mean, threatening, accusatory or excessively angry messages on the internet. It could be a crime.

If you think you are a victim of cyber abuse from friends, family caregivers or anyone else, you can report it to the NH Adult Abuse Hotline at (800) 949-0470.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
October 2024

9. Think before opening attachments

Attachments in emails can contain harmful viruses that could potentially infect your computer. Don't open any attachments that seem suspicious or came from a sender you don't know. It only takes seconds to infect your computer after opening an infected attachment. Once the virus is on your computer, a scammer could have access to all personal information saved on it.

10. Set up two-step authentication

Most email providers and social media sites give you the option to set up two-step authentication, which means you need to go through an extra security step in order to access your accounts.

For example, your email provider will send a text message to your phone every time you try to log into your email. The message contains a code that you then enter on your email sign-on page in order to access your account. Check your email and social media privacy settings to set up two-step authentication.

11. Know where you get your news

Fake news stories have been getting a lot of media attention lately due to their prominence online and on social media. These stories can look like they are from legitimate news organizations and often have dramatic or shocking headlines.

If you aren't familiar with the organization that produced the story, look it up. Look up the author and check for real sources, and be sure the story is not some kind of joke. This guide offers more help with understanding [how to spot fake online news](#).

12. Monitor your online banking accounts

Periodically check your bank statements to ensure you aren't getting charged for purchases you have not authorized. Debit cards may not have the same protections as some credit cards (they may not monitor for unusual purchases), so keeping tabs on when and where you are making purchases can help keep you alert for suspicious online activity.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
October 2024

13. Backup your photos

Back up the photos from your smartphone onto your computer so you don't lose them forever in the event something happens to your phone. To do this, plug your USB connector into your computer and connect the other end into your phone. Follow the prompts on your computer after it is plugged in.

These directions ([for iPhone](#) or [for Android](#)) give you more details on how to backup photos and other files onto your computer.

Jock Irvine, Technology Integrator

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
October 2024

Update on First Congregational Church's gifted Chancel Bells,
by Ken Kalloch

In last month's North Star newsletter, I reported that the chancel bells that First Congregational gifted to the Christian Science church were played for the first time on July 14th. This was not correct. According to Bill Metivier the organ technician had difficulty installing them, so they weren't able to play them on that date. He said, "It's been quite a journey for the organ technician to figure out how to connect them to the console at the Christian Science church, and we've all learned a lot in the process." He also said that they would be played for the first time on Sunday, September 29th. I attended the service to represent First Congregational Church. Many people expressed to me how grateful they were for the gift of the bells. The bells were played during the offertory, and they sounded wonderful! The recognition announcement that I included in last month's North Star article was read during the service. Bill says that he visited our old church building last week. As he got there the education wing door opened, and Bill explained to the contractor who he was and asked if all the organ pipes had been removed. The man invited Bill in to see what they've been up to, and Bill says that "it is mind blowing!" Bill confirmed that all the metal pipes are gone, but the large wooden pipes are still there, and he was offered to have them. I don't think that he took him up on the offer but said that the old wood would be awesome for re-purposing. In closing Bill wrote, "Hope First Church is off to a great new season!" Here are a couple of photos. The first is Bill Metivier standing behind the chancel bells, and the second is Bill and I standing in front of the organ console to our left with the bells to our right.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
October 2024



Rev. Emilia Halstead – 10/2

Linda Baines – 10/4

Kenneth Kalloch – 10/5

Rev. Eleanor Kimball – 10/13

Hannah Irving – 10/26

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you would like your name included in the weekly bulletin prayer list, please contact our church administrator, Kathy. (secretary@concordfirstchurch.org)

The Prayer Circle asks you to keep in prayer for the following members and friends:

Elizabeth Hardy - Hope

Nancy Sanborn - Hope

Dot Cassady - Hope

Hannah Irving - Healing

Carol Emery - Healing

Carol Hovey - Healing

Matt Wildman - Healing

Sammy Holland - Healing

Family of Edith Hausmann - Peace

Jim J - Healing

Paula Kust - Healing

