

# NORTH STAR

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

May 2015

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UCC

May 2015

Gathered Since 1730

Serving, Welcoming, Growing in Christ

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**COME TO WORSHIP**

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177 North Main Street

Concord, NH 03301

**Phone:** 603-225-5491

**Email:** [secretary@concordfirstchurch.org](mailto:secretary@concordfirstchurch.org)

**Website:** [www.concordfirstchurch.org](http://www.concordfirstchurch.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 1 pm

**Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.**

**Jazz Sanctuary** every third Sunday at 12:30 pm

### Ministers of the Church

All the People

### Senior Minister

Rev. Emilia Halstead

### Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Donald F. Jennings

### Director of Music

Mr. William Metevier

### Church Secretary

Shelley Westenberg

### Treasurer

Linda Baines

### Financial Secretary

Carolyn Andrews

### Sexton

AJ Adjutant

### North Star Editor

Linda Sims

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## FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings Beloved in Christ,

“Arise, my love, my beautiful one,  
and come away,  
for behold, the winter is past;  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.  
The fig tree ripens its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my beautiful one,  
and come away.”  
(Song of Solomon 2:10-13)

As I sit down to compose this reflection for the May newsletter, it occurs to me that May 27<sup>th</sup> will be my First Anniversary at First Church! Time certainly does fly when we’re having fun! I think that time flies even faster when that fun is doubled with deep faith and rich experiences – of which we have had many this past year. I am tremendously grateful to all members and friends of First Church who have helped to make this year so rich and rewarding, not only for me, but for our whole community.

My call to each of us this month of May is to get outside and experience God’s stunning creation as it buds and blooms into new life. Wear your sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses for protection. Bring your water for hydration. Then offer prayers, thanksgiving, and praise to our Creator to become spiritually refreshed. No matter your level of physical ability, whether you sit and ponder in the shade or you run marathons, we can all step out into the beautiful world that we have been given.

As you head outdoors, I also invite you to be mindful of our fellow humans in California who are so very in need of

water. I invite you to be mindful of our fellow humans in Nepal who are reeling from the recent earthquake and are in need of help from the world. I invite you to be mindful of our fellow humans in Chile, near the Calbuco volcano that recently erupted tons of ash, blanketing the area with an average of 20 inches of ash. These and so many more need our prayers as we enter out into the sunshine.

As we head outdoors, after this long season of winter, let us endeavor to be mindful of the blessings that God continues to rain down upon us. Their number is vast and too many to count. My invitation is to always begin every prayer with “Thank you,” as it will enhance and strengthen the connection felt in your spirit to the One Spirit. Spring is here! Let us celebrate with prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise!

Blessings,  
Pastor Emilia

### **I Dream of a World of Peace**

I dream of a world of peace,  
Where people can live a life of ease.  
World where there is no difference between rich and poor,  
Life being pleasant for living ever more.

I dream of a world of happiness,  
Where there is no sight of selfishness.  
Where each and everyone can get their needs,  
And have belief in their deeds.

I dream of a world of kindness,  
Where people can know that value of love is priceless.  
Where people could realize that of earth we are all children,  
And to have a kind heart is better for all men.

I dream of a world of loving mates,  
Where people can realize all are great.  
Where people can know that in this earth,  
With a kind heart people must give birth.

I dream of a world of peace,  
Where people can live a life of ease!

**Riken Shrestha (Nepal)**

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## THE CABINET

As I prepare this article for the May North Star, I suddenly realized my 2-year term as President of Cabinet will be ending at the annual meeting. I have mixed feelings about this, but I also know it's time to relinquish my duties to the next member filling this position. I can say I will not be far away.

This year has been filled with challenges, but it also has been a year of healing and a feeling of working together for God's mission as a church. It has been a blessing to have such a great and wonderful staff to work with and to attend Cabinet meetings with members who all have a mutual desire to accomplish our purpose together and yet have an element of enjoyment and fun.

I look forward to the next year with excitement as we determine new ways to best use our building and to make some much needed improvements. I truly believe we will begin to see growth.

Thank you for letting me serve as your church President for the last 2 years.

*Everett Sims, for the Cabinet*

## THE DEACONS

The only thing that remains the same is change! We have all heard that comment and as it applies to worship it might be a bit disconcerting but change seems to be bringing new excitement and infusing life into First Church.

Following a very meaningful Holy Week we have settled into the post-Easter season leading up to Pentecost. Feedback has been positive for those attending the Sanctuary Third Sunday Jazz service and these will continue. Plans are underway with South Church for the United Summer Ministry. In addition, during this time the deacons have been looking at some new ideas and ways to

provide meaningful worship and encourage participation in fellowship activities.

New member Sunday has been set for May 31<sup>st</sup>. Deacons have discussed what might be done to attract new members and help familiarize them with what it means to be a member of a UCC church. Pastor Emilia will hold a teaching session for anyone interested in becoming a member of First Church and any current members who would like to attend.

Following up on a discussion that started last year, the Deacons feel that serving coffee hour in the Assembly Room attracts a larger crowd and encourages interaction among more people. When this was tried last year, some who serve coffee hour felt that it was difficult to carry all the supplies from the kitchenette to the Assembly Room. It was suggested that a small restaurant cart would be helpful and this is being investigated to determine if it would be feasible cost-wise and how this could be funded.

The Deacons are grateful for church members who are willing and able to preach and provide music when Pastor Emilia or organist, Bill Metevier are unable to be at worship. We are blessed with the talents of our members who serve in many ways.

The Board of Deacons



## BOARD OF MISSIONS

### One Great Hour of Sharing

Thank you to all who contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing. We were able to raise \$574.37. Your gifts provide for health, education, refugee, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. We can make a positive difference in this world!

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## Blankets Plus

What are you getting your mother for Mothers' Day? Board of Missions is ready to help! The two Sundays before Mothers' Day, a member of the board of missions will be in the assembly room ready to help you with your shopping. You can donate money in memory of or in honor of your money. On Mothers' Day, a list will be in the bulletin listing all those special mothers. The money donated goes towards making a difference in the lives of disaster survivors. A blanket can provide warmth when the nights are cold. or they can be folded to help carry belongings or used to make a tent. Please give generously.

## Magazines

Thank you for your donations of magazines for the Merrimack County Nursing Home. They have received so many magazines that they are able to be selective on what they receive. The magazines are most appreciated are ones about animals, birds, cars, trucks, boats, country, flowers (plants), good old days, history, National Geographic, ocean, Readers Digest, reminiscing, sports (recent) travel, and Yankee. If any of your recent magazines fit any of those categories, please don't throw them away. Bring them to church and put them in the box in the assembly room.

*Sara Nichols* and the Board of Missions

## Food Pantry

I have been telling everyone how it appeared that the food pantry is slowing down. Maybe it was all the bad weather that we had, but we are now getting back to normal. The month of April brought us 32 new families. This increased our count by 64 more people for the month of April.

We are asking for your help once again. The Post Office will be having its annual food drive in the month of May. If you would please take the time to put something out for us. The Post Office then distributes the food they have received between all of the different food pantries in

the area. The people who come to our pantry love it when we get the extra things that they can't afford to get for themselves.

Thank you for all help,

*Linda Strand*, for the Food Pantry Volunteers

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



### **Eastertide- The Great 50 Days from Easter to Pentecost**

This time in the church year is full of joy. It is a time to read the resurrection stories from the gospels and learn about how the early church got started. The "Good News" of Easter comes as a gradual dawning. Jesus returns and emphasizes the commandment to love one another and promise to send a "Helper" to be with the disciples to guide and strengthen them. The season will come to a joyous culmination in the celebration of Pentecost, as the Spirit comes to the disciples as their promised Helper and the Christian church is born. We, too, celebrate God's spirit in our midst and the gifts of the Spirit that we each have been given. We, too, are challenged to move into the world removing barriers and loving one another as Jesus did. We are promised that, like the first disciples, we will be empowered do as Jesus did by the Holy Spirit, and our lives will be fruitful

The Church School logo for this season pictures what fruit looks like- People caring for creation and each other- a harmony of relationship between people of different races, ages, abilities, gender and all of creation. The sun

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represents God's love always with us and we imagine the Holy Spirit as fresh air enabling the bird to fly and all of us to live and breathe. This is God's wonderful world! We are called to move fully into it, sharing God's love- letting resurrection flow through us as we follow Jesus' example. (Above excerpts are from the Whole People of God curriculum)

We ask that members our church family consider becoming a volunteer in our Christian Education Ministry in the months ahead or participate in future Faith Formation opportunities in the upcoming church year.

The Board of Christian Education is planning to co-sponsor a Fellowship Luncheon welcoming new members on Sunday, May 31. Church School classes will be held through Sunday, June 14 when we will celebrate our Christian Education program.

*Sheila Swenson*, for the Board of Christina Education



The Beyer Group's  
Annual Banquet will  
be held on Thursday,  
May 14<sup>th</sup>

at the

Red Blazer.

We can start arriving  
at 11:30!

BON APPETIT!



## DID YOU KNOW...

First Congregational Church, Concord UCC (known at that time as the First Church of Christ) is the only organization that was formed at the time of the early settlers of Penny Cook and is still in existence!

Contrary to popular belief, The Rev. Timothy Walker was not the first pastor of First Church. Prior to his tenure in the pulpit, two other Congregational ministers provided spiritual leadership for the parishioners and first settlers of Penny Cook: From 1726 to 1730, The Rev. Enoch Coffin and The Rev. Bezaleel Toppan, both Congregational ministers, were considered employees of the plantation of Penny Cook.

In the first meeting house, an ecclesiastical council was held for the purpose of ordaining and installing The Rev. Timothy Walker, the first ordained, settled pastor of First Church and we know that for 52 years he was the spiritual leader as well as the civic leader of the settlement that we now know as Concord!

## FIRST CHURCH AND CONCORD'S 250TH

As my term as Cabinet President was coming to an end, I did manage to get side tracked. As **Concord 250** became more and more active in the city, I could not sit back without First Church becoming involved. I attended a public forum and requested our involvement in the events of the celebration. On April 16<sup>th</sup> we hosted a Concord chat which was well attended and ended with a great "chat" after the presentation. There will be a re-run of the narrative for church members who were unable to attend on June 7 after Worship. Other church events are in the planning as the 250th anniversary continues throughout the year.

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Other projects have resulted from our involvement in **Concord 250**. We are in the process of refurbishing the old portraits of our Pastors. We are getting quotes for acid-free matting and backing.

Bill Swenson is coordinating getting portraits done of Don Jennings, David Keller and Pastor Emilia. We have received proofs of Don Jennings and will be making a decision which proof to use. Pastor Emilia is scheduled to have her portrait taken on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

We are in the process of reorganizing our archive room and creating proper storage for preserving our historical documents. Terry Blake is giving us the shelving the shelter used which will be a big improvement for storing the documents. I am waiting for an Archivist from the Concord Historical Society to direct us in how to properly store our historical documents.

Everett Sims



**May 17**

**3:00 pm (a special time)**

*May's theme:*

**Mental Health Awareness**

Special Guest

**Helen Fitzgerald, Ph.D.,**

psychologist, family therapist, and contemplative will share with us about the interface of mental and spiritual health on UCC's Mental Health Sunday.

**2:30**- Jazz Set featuring **Pastor Emilia** and the house band, **WildVine Jazz Trio**

with musical guests the

**Joyspring Jazz Ensemble**

from

**South Congregational Church**

**3:00**- Worship Service

*Reminder: Normal worship services will be held at 10:00 am on Jazz Sanctuary days!*

## THE 285TH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE,

WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY OF THE CHURCH ON

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015

AT 11:00 A.M.

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## PRAYER CONCERNS & PASTORAL CARE

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer and would like their name included in our Sunday prayers or put on the church prayer list, please contact Sally Kelly (salking2@yahoo.com) or Pastor Emilia (pastor@concordfirstchurch.org or (603) 225-5491). If you would like a member of the Pastor's Aid Visitation Team to visit with you, please contact Barbara Carlstrand at (603) 224-9792.

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

Harriet Bailey  
Avery, Michael and Tara Brooke  
Helen Dymont  
Ginny Gove  
Elizabeth Hardy  
Rose Kachadoorian  
Norma Ordway  
Mary Pilsbury  
Dot Riley  
Nancy Sanborn  
Janet Smith  
Gertrude Taylor  
Julia and Milton Tasker



**The Coffee Hour will be provided by the Missions Board during the month of May!**

## MAY'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mon., Tues. & Thurs.:** Food Pantry 9:30-11:30am
- Every Monday in May:** Counting Committee 9:00 am
- Every Tuesday:** Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm
- Sunday, May 3:** Choir 9:00 am; Worship at 10; Sunday School in session:  
*Guest Preacher Rev. Eleanor Kimball*
- Tuesday, May 5:** Handbells 10 am  
Female Charitable 1:00 pm  
Choir 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, May 6:** Faith Formation A & B 6:30 pm
- Sunday, May 10:** **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**  
Choir 9:00 am; Worship at 10;  
Sunday School is *not* session:
- Monday, May 11:** -Staff Meeting 10:30 am  
- *Coffee with the Pastor* at Panera 11:30-1:30  
- Women's Guild at Havenwood 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, May 12:** Choir 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, May 13:** Cabinet 6:30
- Thursday, May 14:** Beyer Group Banquet at Red Blazer 12:00
- Sunday, May 17:** **ANNUAL MEETING** following Worship  
Jazz Sanctuary 3:00 pm
- Monday, May 18:** -Spiritual Directors 12 pm  
- *Coffee with the pastor* at Gibson's 2-4 pm
- Tuesday, May 19:** Worship at Havenwood 1:30 pm  
Choir 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, May 20:** Trustees, Deacons and All Boards 6:30 pm
- Monday, May 25:** **MEMORIAL DAY: Church and Food Pantry CLOSED**
- Tuesday, May 26:** -4th Tuesday Prayers in Chapel 1:00 pm  
**NO CHOIR**
- Wednesday, May 27:** Faith Formation A and B 6:30
- Sunday, May 31:** NEW MEMBER SUNDAY  
PENTECOST  
Luncheon following worship

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Bobby Young, 5/3  
Paula Cheney, 5/11  
Tyler Shore, 5/11  
Susan Shore, 5/13  
Sylvia Sleeper, 5/13  
Carol Parker, 5/15  
Nicholas Heath, 5/17  
Ericka Metevier, 5/22  
Jeanne Cate, 5/22  
Rev. Dr. Timothy Wildman, 5/24  
Virginia Gove, 5/31

