

CROSSWORD

*First Congregational Church of Pelham
United Church of Christ*

Rev. William Ferguson, Pastor
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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

In the evening of the first day of the week, Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you" and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord and again he said to them, "Peace be with you."
John 20: 19-21

Dear Friends,

Christ is risen!

Easter is not limited to the thoughts of an empty tomb! For us, our joy and celebration can be found in that first encounter with the risen Christ to his disciples. We can find so much joy in the way that Christ greeted the new leaders of His church in that small room following his resurrection. In the midst of their grieving and loss, hope found them in the encounter with Jesus, reminding them, and in effect, us, that we have a role to serve the world and change the wrongs of our lives through the power and strength which He gives us.

That first Easter evening the disciples were full of fear, mixed no doubt with uncertainty. So much had happened to make them uncertain of the future, leading them to be afraid. However, in their moment of greatest need, Jesus came and stood among them. At least they believed that He suddenly appeared to them. Because, since they saw him die on the Cross, they believed that everything had ended and the Master had abandoned them. But, fear, weakness and locked doors could not keep Jesus from his disciples... then or now! He appeared to them and renewed their faith.

In giving the disciples the conventional greeting "Peace be with you," Jesus sought to ease the hearts of his anxious and troubled disciples. He showed them his hands and his side to convince them of his identity as the one recently crucified. Fear and doubt were replaced by joy. Today we too, live in fear and perplexity. We too need to see the Risen Lord, in order to take away doubt and fear because of all that is happening around us and in us, so to replace our fear and anxiety with peace and joy.

The joy Easter does not end there. The new joy is a mission which we are called to bring to the world. Jesus sent them to the troubled world as a whole in order to bring to every one its joy and peace.

Pastor's Message contd.

So Jesus says: "As my Father has sent me, even so send I you." We are called at Easter to

demonstrate that we are followers of a God who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to die and give us everlasting life! We have the joy to tell people there is hope and love that comes in believing and sharing the Good news of Christ's resurrection!

So, as we greet each other this Easter, demonstrate your faith in showing your personal belief in a Risen and Glorified Lord in finding ways to serve others in need of that same Spirit of Love we have received from God!

Christ is Risen! Alleluia and Amen!

Rev. Bill

FIRST FOLKS

On March 7th five new members joined our church family. Welcome to **Gerri Pelligreni, Betty & Walter Bradford, and Dave & Alicia Hennessey.**

On March 14th we celebrated the baptisms of **Jackson Aiden, Taylor Anne and Rowan Brynne Bomba**, the children of **Garrett and Dawn (Daggett) Bomba.**

We send our condolences to: the **Sauer Family** on the death of Kelly's dad, **Bill Ryan**; the **Henderson Family** on the death of Wendy's grandmother, **Opal Richards**; the **Rutherford Family** on the death of Karen's Dad, Harold Zeller.

We also send special prayers and condolences to **Warren & Mildren Luteritz** and their family. Their sister-in-law, **Jerrie**, was recently killed in a bus crash in Florida. Warren's brother, **Raoul**, was also very badly injured in the crash.

Get well wishes go to **Elaine Hornbeck**, who is recovering from carpal tunnel surgery; **Jonathan Yourtee**, who is recovering from a broken arm; **Joyce McDevitt**, who is recovering from pneumonia.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Tim Reid and Liz Donovan**, who were married here on March 18th. Tim is the son of **Judy and Bruce Reid.**

Sophia Beverly McCully arrived March 6th. Congratulations to new grandparents **Maryann and Warren Bennett** and new parents **Meredith and Mike McCully.**

THE BARNABUS CORNER

Barnabus was a disciple who roamed the countryside honoring those who performed anonymous good deeds for the benefit of others. In that spirit, we do likewise.

~ **Dick Koch** for creating the beautiful Lenten Cross for our sanctuary.

~ **The Harris Family** for letting us gather for Easter Sunrise Worship on the grounds of The Harris Pelham Inn.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 1st ~ MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 PM Supper
7:00 PM Service of Tenebrae

Friday, April 2nd ~ GOOD FRIDAY

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Sanctuary is open for prayer and meditation

Sunday, April 4th ~ EASTER

6:00 AM ~ Sunrise Service @ Harris Pelham Inn
10:00 AM ~ Easter Worship

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Join us on April 18th after worship as we get our church home spruced up for Spring. There is a list of some of the tasks that need attention posted on the Hall bulletin board.

TRUSTEES' CORNER

March is always interesting as Winter melts away and Spring literally floods in. We saw the snow banks disappear and the water rise in the parking lot behind Fellowship Hall, followed by some of the nicest weather we've seen in months.

To make some good news even better, we are happy to report church finances are looking good so far this year. Collections are right on budget and expenses, although a little high, are where we expect them to be since the winter months are usually the most expensive.

This past month the fire alarm system, exit lights, and emergency lighting in the church, fellowship hall and Steepletop were repaired to maintain fire code compliance. This month we plan to hold our annual Spring Clean Up Day on Sunday, April 18th after worship. Some of the work we plan to accomplish includes cleaning the pews and woodwork in the Sanctuary, removing the plastic from the windows, cleaning the windows, cleaning and organizing the kitchen, sweeping the parking lot and patching potholes, raking and cleaning up the church grounds, repairing and re-glazing a few windows, installing a new railing on the wheelchair ramp and painting the ramp deck with a textured finish and many other small jobs around church. We'll be announcing more details in church over the next few weeks. The Fellowship Hall and Kitchen floors will be stripped and waxed on Thursday, April 22nd, so access to those areas will

be restricted that day.

Submitted by Dan Murphy for the Trustees (Angele, Denise, Donna, John, Tom & Pete)

FROM THE DIACONATE

“Blest be the Lord, blest be the Lord, the God of mercy, the God who saves. I shall not fear the dark of night, nor the arrow that flies by day...”

“May we walk each day with God at our side, forever faithful and trusting in the light of Christ.”

Here are some highlights from the March Diaconate meeting:

Lent is a very busy season with activities surrounding Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Simple Supper and Service, and Easter Sunday sunrise and traditional 10AM services.

The Diaconate hosted a table at the Sunday School Lenten Fair on March 21st to discuss communion, how it is prepared, and some of the behind-the-scenes secrets!

New paraments are being considered to freshen up the altar and pulpit.

Transportation to Church Needed? If anyone has a need for transportation to church or a church function (e.g. church dinners/suppers), please contact the church office or a Deacon.

Prayer List

Please help us keep the prayer list current. You may contact Rev. Bill or Peggy to let them know when someone needs to be added or removed from the list or needs a visit or call from Rev Bill.

Worship Coordinators & Greeters

The Worship Coordinators for April are Janne and Shannon Oriole.

Our greeters for April will be members of the Diaconate.

Our next Diaconate meeting is Tuesday, April 13th at 7PM. Please feel free to drop by if you are interested in attending and would like to learn more about the Diaconate. As always, please feel free to contact a member of the Diaconate with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Diaconate Co-Chairs Judy Boucher and Bob Diack.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Boucher

MISSION COMMITTEE

Your Mission Committee continues to work hard to identify opportunities for our church to share their time, talents, and treasures to make this world a better place. One of our key goals for this year is to provide a variety of hands-on mission opportunities for our congregation to express Christ's love for those less fortunate than us. We are working on a number of different potential and real projects, so stay tuned for ones that fit your style. Here are some of those real opportunities that are coming up in April.

Our next quarterly community spaghetti supper will be held on Friday evening, April 16. Although this event will continue to be free, we are trying to emphasize that these suppers are not only for those in need but for the entire community. Towards that end, we are taking a great idea offered by the Diaconate and running with it. Not only will there be a meal served from 5:45 to 7:00 PM, but we will be showing cartoons from 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM and at 7:00 PM, we will be showing the family film "Finding Nemo." Not only do we hope to encourage budding marine biologists to pursue their careers, but we hope to encourage all families to come and enjoy some fellowship and a fun evening out during these difficult economic times. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to help during the supper or bring desert items. If you are not in a position to do either, please come anyway; your presence will be a gift for us all. We'd also like to thank Wally Cibulski and Scott Andrews who have been our anchors in the kitchen for all of the dinners we have had so far.

We are also off to a strong start in our monthly commitment to the Lowell Wish Project. Typically, we travel to Lowell on the first Monday of the month to do whatever is asked of us to support this amazing furniture bank. The need for people to obtain basic home furnishings is incredibly great in this area, and the Wish Project provides these needs to persons and families that may have been burned or flooded out of their homes, in need of a new home because of domestic violence or recently released from prison, and those under the care of a social service agency. The Wish Project operates similarly to a food bank and to make sure the people who are in legitimate need receive this help, all clients are referred to the Wish Project by a specific agency. The contents of the entire warehouse are usually distributed in less than a week. Our commitment is from 6 PM to 8 PM, and some of us go directly there, and others car pool from the church parking lot at 5:30 PM. Although typically we help on the first Monday night of the month, this year that will fall on Easter Monday, and the Wish Project will be closed. Therefore, just during April, we will be heading to Lowell on the second Monday of the month, April 12. Deb and Ron Schneider are the coordinators of this mission project.

Another hands-on mission project will launch in April; assisting with providing a meal at the "Sonshine Soup Kitchen" in Derry. This soup kitchen serves 40-50 meals a day to those in need five days a week, and we have committed to help out with serving a meal every other month. This project requires 5-6 volunteers from our church. Our first trip to the kitchen will be on Tuesday, April 13, and the time frame for the commitment is from 3 to 6 PM, those signed up can meet at the church at 2:30 PM. This is a great opportunity for high school youth (or any youth 12 or older) to find out that service projects can often be more rewarding for those offering the service than those receiving the service. If you are not able to make the trip to Derry during the indicated time frame, you can also help by providing salads or other desert items. Contact Maureen Ferguson, the coordinator for this mission project, if you would like to participate in this very worthy activity. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for this activity.

We also have an active group that is helping out at the Pelham Food Pantry. Help is needed to stock shelves during the day and also distribute food. Thanks to our helping hands, the Pantry is now able to offer basic food and other home goods to those in our community that are in need on both Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon. In order to participate in this mission project, you need to be trained, and several persons in our congregation can provide that training. Contact Alma Healy or Maureen Ferguson if you would like additional details regarding this opportunity. Please keep in mind that we collect non-perishable food items the first Sunday of each month for the food pantry. In addition to food items the pantry is always in need of: toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, laundry and dish detergents, personal hygiene items, such as tooth paste, tooth brushes, shampoo, deodorant and soap.

We also believe there is a need for a written policy regarding fund-raising on Sundays either during or after the worship service. Although there are many very worthy causes that are in need of financial support, we also think that it is important that fund raising on Sunday be connected in some way to our church's ministry. We also are cognizant that having multiple fund raising events on the same Sunday or during multiple consecutive Sundays can be disconcerting to some, and we are seeking to coordinate our fund raising events to avoid such situations. We hope to present our policy and a proposed "request form" for potential fund raising and other solicitations of non-monetary donations at the next Church Council meeting. Our goal is only to coordinate church-related donations.

Have a blessed Easter season!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Hjorth

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Lenten Fair was held on March 21st. The children had a wonderful time learning about the Lenten Season and experienced the symbolism of pretzels, popcorn, pancakes, hot cross buns, Communion, and a Seder Dinner. They even enjoyed a jelly bean prayer! Parents also enjoyed themselves planting seeds, solving Cross trivia pages, and making butterflies with the children after Service. Thank you to everyone who helped out and a special thank you to Ron Schneider for his work in organizing the event.

The Heifer Project Fair will be held after Sunday School on April 18th. This Fair is a fundraiser for Heifer as well as an educational awareness event. The Sunday School classes will be working hard on projects/craft items which will be available for donations in Fellowship Hall after service. All proceeds will be donated to the Heifer Project.

Summer Camp at Horton Center is fast approaching. Please checkout the Horton Center Website at www.hortoncenter.org to sign up for summer camp and see the poster in Fellowship Hall. Horton Center offers several different weeks for children of all age levels. Please see a CE Board member if you have any questions.

[Sunday School Schedule for April](#)

April 4th: Easter, No Sunday School
April 11th: Sunday School
April 18th: Sunday School/Heifer Project Fair
April 25th: One Room Schoolhouse*

*One Room Schoolhouse: Children in Pre-K thru Grade 4 will gather in Fellowship Hall after "Time for All Ages" to meet and learn together.

The Christian Education bulletin board for April will be decorated by the Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Class. Check it out!

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Blanchard, CE Board Member

SPRING YARD CLEANUP HELP

If anyone is looking for Spring Yard help, members of our Sr. High youth Group are willing to work to help offset costs of their Mission Trip next summer to Virginia. Please see the sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

THE BUZZARDS ARE COMING!

We have received information that a springtime infestation of Buzzards will be making their way to homes in NH this spring as they migrate north with the warm weather. These unsightly (Yet very colorful) gaggle of birds will be landing on homes in our community without notice overnight and un-expectantly!

All is not lost however! If you should find that Buzzards have invaded your home lawns, our Youth Groups have volunteered to form the "Buzzard Relocation Company" and will show up to remove the pests and relocate them to other areas. A small donation to their Youth Activity Fund will ensure removal within 24 Hours!

Will you be BUZZED?

STEEPLETOPICS

Steepletop was really excited by their visit from Freckles the Leprechaun. He turned the classrooms upside down and dodged a leprechaun trap.

Please remember that Steepletop will be closing at 11:30 on April 2nd, for Good Friday. School will be closed on April 7th for a teacher workshop day and for April Vacation which is April 26-30th.

Please join us on Sunday April 11th from 1-3pm for the Steepletop Open House. The children will be enjoying an in-house field trip on April 16th singing songs with Judy Pancoast.

The Steepletop board is still looking for two church members to join our board starting in June. If you have any questions regarding these positions, please see Michelle Vecchiarello, Melanie Surprenant or Julie Giniewicz..

Steepletop has been offering a computer class for kids run by *Imagine Tomorrow*. If you are interested in signing your child up please call *Imagine Tomorrow* at (603)898-3300.

We are continuing to accept registrations for the 2010-2011 school year. If you have a child who will be 3 years old by December 31st or 4-5 years old by September 30th and are interested in enrollment for the Fall, please call the school at (603)635-2100 and leave a message for the Registrar.

**Submitted by,
Melanie Surprenant**

KITCHEN CLUTTER

Are you missing a favorite tray or serving dish at home? If so, we may have it. We have accumulated a variety of unclaimed dishes, etc. that have been left here after various suppers, luncheons, coffee hours. Please check the "collection" in the kitchen to see if any of it might be yours.

A MODERN DAY PSALM

Sharing a Modern Day Psalm by Toki Miyasina found in the book "Rest in the Storm, Self-Care Strategies for Clergy and Other Caregivers." By Kirk Byron Jones

"The Lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush.
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,
He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity
He leads me in the ways of efficiency,
through calmness of mind,
and his guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish this day,
I will not fret,
For his presence is here.
His timelessness,
His all-importance will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity,
By anointing my head with the oil of tranquility,
My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours,
For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord,
And dwell in His house forever.”

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Celebration in Burlington, VT was wonderful - such a strong learning experience, developing our faith and networking with old friends and making new ones. Jean Robarge, Alma Healey and Cheryl Koch attended. There were also many sales tables where one could buy fair trade items made by women in Guatemala, Africa, etc. It feels good to buy things that support a good cause. I hope other Pelham church women will go with us to the next Celebration in 2014. You'll be so glad you did!

Coming up on Wednesday, April 21st, some of us will travel to Plymouth, NH Congregational Church for the **NH State Women's Fellowship Spring Forum**. It is a daylong program, 9 AM - 3 PM. We will hear speakers on "Taking Care Of God's World." One of the speakers has been to Denmark for the Climate Conference. Lunch is included. Total cost for the day is \$9. Please see Cheryl Koch to find out more.

On April 23rd at our monthly meeting, we will talk about the **Coffee Project and Recycling**. Equal Exchange coffee is available here at the church for sale. This is also what is served on Sunday mornings at Coffee Hour. It's delicious and it's fair trade. The coffee growers get a fair price for their product and all their hard work. If you would like to buy coffee, see Cheryl or Debbie Schneider on Sunday Morning. And come to the meeting and enjoy the fellowship!

Cheryl Koch, Chair

FUNCERT - A BIG SUCCESS!

For the over 100 in attendance, the Annual "Fun-cert" and Pasta Dinner was an evening that once again showcased the tremendous talents of church members and friends during an awesome evening of great fellowship and fun!

After being served a great dinner by our Sr. High and Jr. High Youth Group members, wonderfully prepared by "Chefs" Wally and Scott, all settled back to be entertained with introductions by our hosts Ken and Wendy Henderson. Wendy started the evening off on a high point with a musical number from "Suessical" dressed in costume as the Cat in the Hat!

- Sarah Zannoni and Christina Clark sang a duet.
- Kendra and Kyle Surprenant and Garrett Campbell sang *one Small Voice*
- Evelyn Campbell (our youngest performer) sang "unique version" of ABC
- Valya and Tamara Pikulik sang an updated, awesome version of "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better"
- Bill McDevitt read an incredible version of "Cinderella" that had people laughing out loud.
- Stan Mikutel offered up some classic Beatles tunes on Guitar
- Sam Blanchard treated us to a tune on the saxophone
- Ken Henderson and Tom Senoiw were dueling singing Princes
- Judy Reid and David Hardwick shared several classic Country Western tunes
- Alex Webster played a piano solo

- Allison Blanchard and Erika Rutherford played a clarinet version of the Star Spangled Banner
- Mark Rutherford played a Piano solo
- And Sue Howard led her Jazz Quartet to end the evening.

Thank you to all who participated and attended the event, which helps support our growing Youth Ministry programs here at the church. We thank the advisors for their help this evening as well, Nancy Webster, Maureen Ferguson, and Janne Oriole!

CHURCH WEB SITE

Have you checked out our new and improved web site lately? It's worth a look!

www.pelhamucc.org

SPRING CLEANING!

Our third annual Spring Clothing Drive will be held on Sunday, April 11th. This is a great incentive to get you to start cleaning out those closets and give your old clothes a "second life!"

FREE COMMUNITY SPAGHETTI SUPPER

On Friday night, April from 16th, 5:45 - 7 PM, the Mission Committee will be sponsoring our Quarterly Free Community Spaghetti Supper for all who would like to attend. Invite your neighbors, friends or anyone you may think would enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship.

Dinner will also include a "family friendly" movie for all to enjoy.

AN OLD HOME DAY REMINDER!

Planning Meetings for Old Home Day are held on the second Sunday of each month after church @ 11:30 AM.

This year's Old Home Day is scheduled for **September 18th** (no rain date).

THIS JUST IN!

First Folks contd.

Congratulations to new grandparents Nancy & Marc Vachon and new parents Nicole & Tim Hatch on the March 15th arrival of Haleigh Alison Hatch!

EASTER FLOWERS



We have a few left!

Orders are still being taken for Easter flowers. If you would like to purchase an Easter plant to help decorate our sanctuary on Easter morning, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office with your payment. This year we are offering tulips for \$5.00 per pot. You may take your plant home after the 10AM service. Orders will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

Number of tulip pots you wish to order: _____

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

Given By:

of plants ordered: _____ Total Enclosed:

Please make your check payable to:
The First Congregational Church.

COMMUNITY NOTES.....

Sunday, May 2nd, 3 PM Concert
@ The First Congregational Church
"A Musical Jubilee Of American Folk Songs"
SPRINGTIME RHYTHM
Presented by **The New Greeley Singers**
Tickets are \$10.00
Call Judy Reid 603 635-7438 or visit
www.newgreeleysingers.org
for more information or to buy tickets.

St. Patrick's Women;s Guild is sponsoring a **"Mega Penny Sale"** in their Parish Club House on April 10th and 11th. Drawings will be on April 11th at 4 PM. You do not need to be present to win.
