

# First Congregational Church of Pelham



## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

THE **good**  
news

## Summer 2017



### **From The Pastor's "HAMMOCK"**

Many Pastors confront the summer attendance at church with an "It's summer" attitude. Crowds are smaller, kids' activities are fewer, services are more "informal." Church is a different "Animal" during the summer respite and that is not always bad thing! The weather is hot and sticky. The days are lazily long. Folks are away on vacation, kids are out of school, and the rhythm of the summer calls for respite. In the Gospel of Mark we find the example of rest, after feeding the 5000 (Mark 6:30-32), "The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So, they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. YET the church continues to worship. Summer is a great time to connect with God and with each other. The pace is different, worship feels a little more casual. We have some wonderful guest Preachers lined up while I am away, thanks to our Diaconate's help. Hearing a different voice speaking from the pulpit gives you an opportunity to tune into the words offered in a new way. Sumer Worship is supposed to be "different," but isn't that the way Worship should be sometimes? Two thoughts come to mind:

1. **We do get visitors during the summer!** Do not get lax in your practice of Hospitality! There is nothing worse than for people coming to the church for the first time than they are not approached, welcomed and invited to stay for refreshments and conversation!

(cont. on next page)

# About us....

3 Main Street  
PO Box 847  
Pelham, NH 03076  
Phone: 603-635-7025  
Fax: 603 635-1134  
[www.pelhamucc.org](http://www.pelhamucc.org)  
E-Mail [-uccpelham@gmail.com](mailto:-uccpelham@gmail.com)  
"Like us" on Facebook!

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 A.M. September – June  
9:30 A.M. July and August  
Child Care and Sunday School

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday  
9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Rev. Bill Ferguson – Pastor  
([revbill819@gmail.com](mailto:revbill819@gmail.com))

Shannon Sprague –  
Office Administrator  
([uccpelham@gmail.com](mailto:uccpelham@gmail.com))

Tom Seniow – Music Director  
Sue Howard – Organist

## OUR CHURCH COVENANT

We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and Will of God. It is our purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of this church to be witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our ancestors, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Realm of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

Cont. From Page 1

**2. If you are away, check out another UCC church!** Look at their worship, compare. The benefits of visiting other congregations during travel or vacation times is more exciting than just sleeping in on Sunday mornings. Think about attending "church by the lake, or" Outdoor Worship, or that church of your youth. That treats vacation times as great discovery times.

In many places, church attendance is down not because some people never go to church, but because many worshipers are more likely than in the past to think of church attendance as more optional, especially during vacation weeks. **YET WE CONTINUE TO WORSHIP!** We can gain a lot by realizing what a missed opportunity this is. Rest, relax and worship! And then share your experiences with us! Enjoy!

RB

## Sunday Service Changes To 9:30 AM effective Sunday, July 2, 2017



© 1996 David Hartbaugh. More at [LeadershipJournal.net/Cartoons](http://LeadershipJournal.net/Cartoons)

"Welcome to our church—even though you're sitting in our family pew . . ."



## What Are You Reading This Summer?



One of my Summer activities is reading, more for fun than for work! A good book takes us to new horizons and really good ones take us deeper into ourselves. They can stretch our imaginations and even help us in addressing our everyday problems in new ways. Fiction or nonfiction, it doesn't matter. They are both valuable for improving our thinking and coping. Books have always played an important part in our faith. The word "Bible" means "little books." Reading the Bible makes a difference. "The Message", the Bible in the form of a novel, is a great read!

We have a Swap and Share Bookcase in the Fellowship Hall with a great selection of books for you. Feel free to use it!

Many ask me after a sermon about a book I've quoted. I haven't always read a book cover-to-cover when I quote it because of synopses I have access to on paid websites. However, when I find a good one, I usually download it on my Kindle:

- "Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith" Barbara Brown, Deckle Edge, 2007 ,
- "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" by Robert Fulghum Published May 4th 2004 by Ballantine Books (first published 1986)
- "A Gentleman in Moscow: A Novel", by Amor Towles, Random House, September , 2016
- "Beartown: A Novel" by Fredrik Backman, Simon and Shuster, April 25, 2017

What are you all reading? Go to our Facebook page (First Congregational Church of Pelham, NH) and share with us!

RB

## In our worship

Worship News, Prayers, Joys and Concerns

### FIRST FOLKS

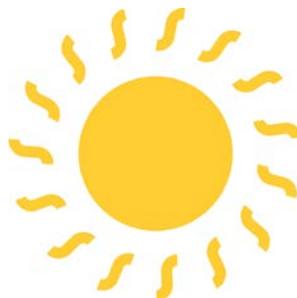
As our **Youth Group** prepares for their Mission Trip to New Orleans, please be sure to wish them well and keep them in your prayers! Have fun Youth Group!

Congratulations to our **High School Graduates!** We wish you well as you embark on your next step in college, the Air Force and beyond!

- Ed Shiebler – recovering from effects of Tick Bite
- John Hollinger – recovering from broken ankle
- Deb Schneider – prayers of condolences with the passing of her Mother, Marilyn Chadboune Buck
- Ed French – Marge's Friends husband – recovering from Motorcycle accident
- Our Country – for peace and safety and communication.
- Scott Andrews – recovering from Concussion



# In our classroom



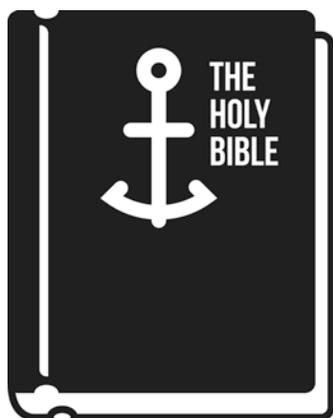
## **From the CE Committee**

As we close out the Sunday School year with Children's Sunday and a BBQ to celebrate the end of the year, and the beginning of summer, it is a great time to take a break from our everyday stresses and look at what we have accomplished this year.

Summer is a time for fun, sun, beaches, barbeques and vacation! It is also a time for planning for the upcoming year. As we start to look at the 2017-2018 Sunday School year, we are still in need of volunteers to teach our rotation classes. If you volunteered to teach a rotation class this year, we ask that you reach out and ask one of your church friends to consider getting involved and teaching a rotation. It is a great experience without the long-term commitment of a full year of teaching! We are also looking to share this great new learning experience with children in the community that either don't attend a local church or may be looking for a change.

Please share the opportunity of this learning about Jesus and the Bible with your neighbors, on Facebook or even at work and invite them to join us on a Sunday when a rotation class is running. This summer our High School Youth will be travelling to New Orleans on their annual Mission Trip. We look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return. Please pray for their safe travels.

Lastly, summertime is a great time to get involved in our online Bible Study available via our Facebook page. Please be sure to check it out. Have a great summer!



## **Stay Anchored** – Join our On-Line Bible Study Facebook Page

*"Hold fast to the Bible as the [main] anchor of your liberties; write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future." –Ulysses S. Grant*

**BIBLE QUIZ**  
**LAST MONTH'S ANSWER**

The "Trinitarian formula" occurs only once in the Bible. In which New Testament book do we read "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," and who said these words?

- A. Romans; Paul
- B. 1 Peter; Simon Peter
- C. The Acts of the Apostles; Luke

**D. Matthew; Jesus**

**Answer: D (See Matthew 28:19.)**

**THIS MONTH'S QUESTION**



What is Gideon doing when the angel of the Lord appears to him with God's call to lead Israel's fight against the Midianites?

- A. Threshing wheat
- B. Harvesting grapes
- C. Keeping sheep
- D. Making a sacrifice to the Lord

**+Christian symbol+**



**Sparrow**

Birds in general symbolize God's presence. Sparrows represent God's concern and care even for those thought insignificant. In Jesus' words, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. ... So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29, 31, NIV).



**Coffee Hours**

**Coffee Hours**

Everyone loves the Fellowship Hour, but the cupcakes, fruit and goodies don't arrive mysteriously under the cover of darkness Saturday night to prepare the coffee. Thank you to those of you who have signed up to assist this summer, more are needed! Please consider donating and hosting Hospitality Hour occasionally. We are depending entirely too much on people who keep stepping up to the plate (so to speak). If you are concerned about it, there are always people who can teach you the finer points, like where things are in the kitchen. Goodies can be home-baked if you wish, but STORE-BOUGHT is fine. Fruit, cheese and crackers, store cookies or coffee cake are FINE! We will give you all the help you need. We can partner you with someone who has had more experience.

# In our work



## From The Diaconate

*"My soul wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us."*  
Psalm 62:5-8

Please join us for some wonderful guest sermons this summer while Rev. Bill is away on Vacation

- July 9<sup>th</sup>: Shannon Sprague
- July 16<sup>th</sup>: Reverend Vicki Keene
- August 13<sup>th</sup>: Reverend Gayle Murphy
- August 20<sup>th</sup>: Reverend Vera Wingate

**REMINDER: SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS BEGIN JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 AM through the end of August.**

- ***Acolytes*** – We thank all of our Sunday School kids who participated as Acolytes this past year. You all did an awesome job! If you are here over the Summer we would be glad to have you help us during worship!
- ***Greeters*** – Summers are a wonderful time for visitors to come and spend time with us on Worship. If you would like to help as a Greeter to welcome them, please speak to any Deacon on Duty, listed in your Bulletins each week. This is a great way for you to meet your fellow members and visitors. You can sign up for one time or multiple times.
- ***Altar Flowers*** – If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar, please contact the office. 635-7025. You are welcome to take the flowers after Service or ask a Deacon to donate them to a shut-in.
- ***Name Tags*** – We are encouraging everyone to wear their name tags on Sundays. If you need a name tag, the signup sheet is located near the name tag bulletin board in the hall between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.
- ***Friendship Books*** – Speaking of names, we encourage everyone to please sign their names in the black books in the pews, pass this book down to your pew neighbor, and then pass it back to the center aisle. While you do this, take a look at the names of those sitting with you!
- ***Church Directory*** – Our Church directory continues to be available on the Church website, and was just updated with many of our new members! Click on "About Us" from the list on the home page, and then scroll down to the bottom to a viewing link. The Directory is open to ALL our church family, even if you are not a member. All are Welcome! PS: If you need (or forgot) the password to access, ask any Deacon or committee member (we never write it down!). If you haven't already done so, please consider adding your (or your family's) picture to the directory!
- ***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.

### Worship Coordinators & Greeters for July/August

Margaret Oxner, Ken Andrews, Bob Diack

Greeters: Music Committee, July  
Volunteers, August

As always, please contact a member of the Diaconate with any questions, comments, or suggestions. Diaconate Co-chairs Bob Diack can be reached at [bob.disck@siriusdecisions.com](mailto:bob.disck@siriusdecisions.com) and Chris Bulkley at [Christopherbulkley@gmail.com](mailto:Christopherbulkley@gmail.com).

## From the Trustees



*"So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables." <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." Acts 6:2-4*

The Trustees are in the process of scheduling a contractor to do some "freshening up" of the sanctuary. We are aware it has been a long time coming. This will not be a complete overhaul, but the peeling and cracking paint will be repaired. We are trying to schedule this during the summer months and rest assured it will not interfere with Sunday services.

Summer has finally arrived! Summer's arrival can mean that Church attendance drops as people are away enjoying the warm weather. The good news is that even in your absence, you can continue your Church contributions while you are away enjoying friends and family! We have an electronic giving option for those who would like the convenience of continuity of donations without having to be physically present. Year-round donations, including summer months, allows us to keep up with weekly expenses even when our attendance decreases. Please contact the church office if you need additional information.

Finally, the Trustees would like to again wish Peggy congratulations on her well-deserved retirement. We would also like to welcome Shannon Sprague to the church office.

## From the Stewardship Committee

*"The wealth or "abundance" of our lives is a gift, not just a given. That is, no more than with life itself do we have this as something we can earn or deserve. It is not entitlement but blessing in which others are meant to share." Deuteronomy 8:17-18*



Thank you to everyone for helping make the first half of 2017 a success! Remembering that Stewardship comes from all, not just our formal committee members, helps us to embrace the "richness" of our Congregation and all that we can share. We are a blessed Congregation in both tangible and intangible gifts.



**Save the date:** We have an end of the summer concert planned for Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> featuring talented, professional musicians. Stay tuned for more information!

# In our ministry

Missions, Youth Ministry, Conference and UCC News

## From The Mission Committee



Summer! The kids are out of school. Temperatures are rising and the sun shines longer and later into the day. Vacation season is upon us. Some venture up into the mountains or out onto the lakes. Some get away at camps or at the beach. Some just need to catch up on some sleep. We take some time to recharge our inner energy and restore our motivation and spirit. But some folks look at these things as a luxury they cannot imagine. A house fire or a debilitating illness, an injury or the loss of a family member places some in the sudden position of needing help. Still homeless, hungry, or lonely, they are just trying to recover from some life changing tragedy. There is no vacation for these folks. Please don't forget them this summer. Our church offers ways you can help. We find that when you serve you find a joy which becomes contagious and leaves you looking for more opportunities to serve and to find that joy again. Some of your kids will find their joy on this summer's mission trip to New Orleans. Some don't realize until they get home how it changed them and their outlook on how they can make a difference in the world. We wish them a safe and fulfilling journey of service and discovery. We can't wait to hear their stories about the experience. Here are a few opportunities for you to find your joy this summer serving at one of our local monthly hands-on mission projects:

Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> and Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> we serve at the **Wish Project** in Lowell from 6pm to 8pm.  
 Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> we serve at the **Nashua Soup Kitchen** from 8am to 10am.  
 Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> we provide and serve a meal to 25 - 30 folks at the **Lazarus House** homeless shelter in Lawrence. We leave the church at 4:30pm and serve the meal at 6pm.

If you are interested in volunteering on any of these dates see the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall or ask a Mission Committee member for more details. Our next Community Dinner is Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> and will be an outdoor cookout, weather-permitting. Listen and watch for requests for volunteers to help at this special community cookout.

As always, thank you for your generous support of all our mission and outreach projects.

Submitted by Dan Murphy for Your Mission Committee



## Youth Group News

Our Youth Group prepares for the Mission Trip to New Orleans. They have worked tirelessly and with much effort to raise funds for their trip. Thank you to all who participated and assisted in helping to make this possible! We wish them well and hope they have a fruitful trip!

## UCC News



### New United Church of Christ Logo

Beginning with General Synod 2017 in Baltimore this summer, the United Church of Christ will begin the transition to a new logo for the denomination. The logo, last re-designed in 2004, has been updated to reflect both tradition and innovation within the church as it faces the challenges and opportunities of Christian witness in the coming decades. The new logo retains an updated version of the traditional element of the UCC comma — a much-loved and widely used emblem of the United Church of Christ introduced as part of the "God is still speaking," identity campaign. That campaign quoted a line from Gracie Allen that her husband George Burns found among her papers after death. In a letter addressed to him were the words, "George, never place a period where God places a comma." A variation on that line, along with the graphic comma, has been used since 2004 as a symbol and shorthand way to refer to "continuing testimony," or the ever-unfolding nature of God's word for new times. The new primary UCC logo consists of an updated comma emblem and the words "United Church of Christ." "God is still speaking," remains as the UCC's tagline, and the new logo may be used with or without the tagline.

## In our community

- **Pelham Good Neighbor Fund** - 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at Campbell's Scottish Highlands Golf Course in Salem, NH to benefit the Pelham Good Neighbor Fund, in its 48<sup>th</sup> year! Entry fee is \$125.00 which includes coffee, doughnuts, green fees, golf cart, lunch and prizes. You can register on-line at [www.pelhamgoodneighborfund.org](http://www.pelhamgoodneighborfund.org) or send an email to [pelhamgoodneighborfund@outlook.com](mailto:pelhamgoodneighborfund@outlook.com). For more information call Frank Sullivan at 603/508-2898.

**Book Club meeting 6/22 @ 7 PM** - The book they will be discussing is The Things We Keep by Sally Hepworth. The next book is The Life We Bury by Allen Eskens. There will be copies available. **July's gathering is the 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM**



- **Looking for something to do this summer?** Check out the Pelham Public Library offering up lots of programs for "kids" of all ages! Topics include: Cooking, Crafters, Quilling, Story Time, Legos, Coding and MORE! Check out <http://pelhampubliclibrary.org/> for a full schedule of events and classes.



**PELHAM GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND  
REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

If you are a resident of Pelham and are looking for assistance with heat, electricity, food, rent and other household expenses, please call one of the following telephone numbers. Your call will be held in strict confidence or visit us on our website at [www.pelhamgoodneighborfund.org](http://www.pelhamgoodneighborfund.org).

508-2898  
508-8131  
635-2089  
893-1713

You can also make a credit card donation on line through the same website at [www.pelhamgoodneighborfund.org](http://www.pelhamgoodneighborfund.org) or you can send us a donation by making your check payable to:

Pelham Good Neighbor Fund  
P.O. Box 953  
Pelham, NH 03076

All donations are tax deductible since we are a non-profit 501(C)(3) charitable organization tax: ID# 02-0484080.

**The Perks of Alone Time**

"Only those who learn to live with loneliness can come to know themselves and life," said poet Carl Sandburg. He described walking in nature, listening to the "sounds of loneliness" and wondering, "Who are you, Sandburg? Where have you been, and where are you going?"

Jesus also valued alone time with God in nature. He often withdrew to pray after being with crowds of people and his disciples. Spending one-on-one time with God helps us find and focus on his mission for our lives. He also uses it to strengthen us for carrying out his important work.

***REMEMBER: As our Administrative Assistant and Pastor are enjoying their alone time, please be patient with office requests!***



DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE



([www.uccpelham.org](http://www.uccpelham.org)) and Facebook Page

(First Congregational Church of Pelham) for information about your church & activities.



## Pelham, NH Old Home Day Hourly Raffle

Once again, you may reserve hourly raffle tickets by filling out the form below, and sending it to the church with a check made out to First Congregational Church for the appropriate amount.

I will put your tickets in the raffle jar, and record your information beside the ticket #s in the raffle notebook.

I'll be rounding up the prizes until the big day!! Each one is a winner – waiting for you! Good luck!

Have a great summer! See you in September!

Judy Reid  
603-635-7438  
O.H.D. Hourly Raffle Coordinator

---

*Pelham, NH 111<sup>th</sup> Old Home Day Raffle  
September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

1 Ticket (\$1.00)\_\_\_\_\_ Name\_\_\_\_\_

6 Tickets (\$5.00)\_\_\_\_\_ Address\_\_\_\_\_

15 Tickets (\$10.00)\_\_\_\_\_ Phone #\_\_\_\_\_

---

**Return the bottom portion of this form along with the amount due to the First Congregational Church by 9/14/17.**

**P.O. Box 847  
Pelham, NH 03076  
Attn: OHD Raffle**