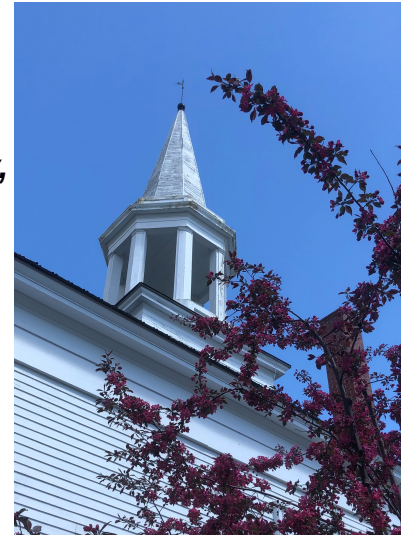


### ***Our Mission***

***By God's Grace, West Parish Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ, is committed to Nurturing and  
Celebrating God's Love in our lives, in the Church Family,  
in the Community and in the world***



## **October 2021 newsletter**

### **Steeple View**

### **West Parish Congregational Church**

### **United Church of Christ**

#### **Pastor's Perspective**

As we speak Pastor Tim is walking around the Dingle Peninsula in the country of Ireland. We all wish him spiritual growth and rest during this time away from our church. He spent a week in Iona Community in Scotland before a visit with his son in Ireland.

#### **Here is the message from Linda Couture**

It is a beautiful sunny fall morning here today! This is the kind of weather that I enjoy. We live in an area which has fields in the back and side of our property. Lately we have seen so many turkeys! They go by one way in the morning and back again in the afternoon. There are two big groups. One is all males. The other is hens and surprisingly some smaller young ones. There must have been two hatches this year! There is always so much to see from the changing leaf colors to wildlife. We are truly blessed!

I wanted to thank everyone for the warm welcome that Spencer and I have received. We also appreciate the lengths that your church has taken to keep everyone safe during this Covid time. It shows that you are a caring community. We are impressed at the total commitment you all have to service for others. I also am thankful that for the assistance in helping become acclimated to your services. I also thank you for your grace and support.

**Blessings, Pastor Linda**

#### **Christian Education news**

It's so nice to see the young children and youth back at church - it makes us all smile! Christian Ed had a wonderful Ice Cream Social after church on the 12th, which was the first day of Sunday School for the Fall season. We had a great turnout of children, youth, and adults.

Our Sunday School curriculum for this year is called "Celebrate Wonder!" It's an engaging



combination of songs, telling of the Bible story, hands on activity, and spiritual practice. Our first month's story is about Joseph and his brothers, from the betrayal (Joseph's brothers selling him to traders in Egypt) all the way through to the forgiveness and reconciliation (when Joseph uses his powerful position in Egypt to help his father and brothers during the famine). Our next month's story will be about Awe - using the story of Moses (from when he's a baby through the exodus from Egypt).

We have a number of youth who have just become middle schoolers this year, and some who are elementary school or preschool aged. The age range of our regular attendees is from preschool through eighth grade. We are using lots of flexibility with our Celebrate Wonder curriculum to teach these different ages and to connect with families who have different levels of comfort around in-person Sunday School during Covid. So far, so good!

We are having a kite flying day after church, on October 3rd. All are welcome. Bring your favorite kite or just come for fellowship, and to watch and enjoy!

Patricia

## WPCC School

Lucy and Will are off to a wonderful start. They have formed a sweet friendship and enjoy skipping rope to rhymes very much. They help each other with studies and from 12-1 p.m. you can hear them giggling in the church yard while they eat their lunch and play.

They have been VERY busy! They have a rhythm to our day and have been blessed with the talents of church friends.

Deb Lewis gave us a fabulous introductory art lesson on Tuesday. We are all looking forward to using our watercolor pencils and Deb's instruction.

Jim Chandler supported our science lessons with a trip to Mill Brook. We are studying the Scientific Method and have learned about bird adaptation and frogs as indicator species. The children conducted an experiment with Jim's guidance and can determine the pollution of the water based on the findings of the "*macroinvertebrates*" in the water samples.



Seabury Lyons has started a kite making series. The children can hardly contain their excitement about this! They have started construction and the children are working on their final designs.

They recognized the UN International Day of Peace on September 21 and started the global citizenship studies. Lucy is reading *Stuart Little*. We made felt bunnies and we will be writing our own adventure stories inspired by the reading using our bunnies as our muse. Will is reading *Early European Explorers*. He is particularly interested in the Norse and picked up Norse Mythology books. He will be making a wooden ship model and a magnetic compass.



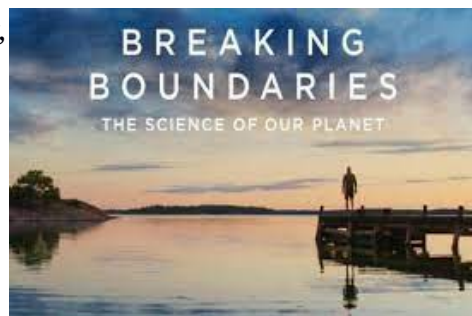
We studied the North Star as a segue into ocean travel of the explorers. The children wrote some impressive poetry on the North Star. The children have additional math and writing support from Deb Picirillo and French lessons on Thursdays.

We hope to have our kites completed for our Michaelmas celebration on October 3. This is also a family gathering sponsored by the Christian Ed Committee. Next week will be preparing for this celebration with candle decorating, finishing our kites, making wooden swords and dragon bread. The poem for celebrating:

*Brave and true will I be,  
Each good deed sets me free,  
Each kind word makes me strong.  
I will fight for the right!  
I will conquer the wrong!*

## **Breaking Boundaries: Tackling Climate Change Book Study**

An interested group will start a book study this coming Thursday, September 30 at 6:45 on Zoom. Please let Jim or Henrie List know of your interest. The book *Breaking Boundaries* and documentary of the same name examine the state of the Planet Earth, presenting the issues and the needed focus to solve the current problems with the Earth Systems.



The first week, Sept. 30, will be a discussion of the documentary *Breaking Boundaries* with David Attenborough available on Netflix as well as the preface to the book written by Greta Thunberg.

The following weeks will be a discussion based on the book *Breaking Boundaries* by Johan Rockstrom and Owen Gaffney. Discussions will be every Thursday at 6:45 on zoom for 8 sessions.

Additional activities will support individuals in identifying their carbon footprint and devise ways to reduce it. We will also be exploring ways individually and regionally to protect biodiversity.

Please contact Jim List or Henri List for the Zoom invitation.

Jim — [jhlist@roadrunner.com](mailto:jhlist@roadrunner.com)

Henrie — [hlist@roadrunner.com](mailto:hlist@roadrunner.com)

## **Neighbors in Need is Love Bowl for October**

Congregations in the UCC often gather the Neighbors in Need mission offering on World Communion Sunday. Here is the link to the NIN website: <https://www.ucc.org/neighbors-in-need-special-mission-offering/>.

Neighbors in Need funds are spent in the U.S. to support ministries of justice and compassion One third



of NIN funds are shared with the UCC Council for American Indian Ministries and support our Indigenous American congregations and pastors. Two-thirds of NIN funds are shared in grants to dispersed by UCC Justice and Witness Ministries to organizations and local congregations.

This year's emphasis is on funding work that supports our unhoused neighbors and our immigrant neighbors. Maine is currently accepting new arrivals from Afghanistan. Please contribute to the Love Bowl to support the work in Maine and in our country.

### **CROP Walk success**

After taking a year off from the CROP Walk in person, the World Service committee had a successful Walk. Churches participated from Our Lady of Snows, Locke Mills Union Church, and the Methodist Church. The committee staffed a table promoting fighting hunger locally and globally with CROP Walks at the Harvestfest event on the Common Saturday.

We raised almost \$2,000 for CROP, which is pretty good considering our taking a year off for virtual walks and on-going restrictions about large gatherings.

You can still make a donation for CROP Walk by sending a check to the church with CROP in the memo line. 25% supports the kids food backpack program at SAD 44 and 75% supports the work of Church World Service.





## Calendar of events

Sunday, Oct. 3 – Worship at 10:30 live streaming on Facebook and in person  
Monday, Oct. 4 – Congo Craftsmen at Bob Iles’ home – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 5 – Prayer group at 8:45 a.m. in person and on Zoom  
Tuesday, October 5 – Book Group 7 p.m. in person and on Zoom  
Wednesday, October 6 – Men’s Breakfast 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in person  
Wednesday, October 6 – Bethel Food Pantry, Nazarene Church - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 7 – Breaking Boundaries climate change discussion 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. on Zoom  
Sunday, Oct. 10 – Worship 10:30 a.m. - in person and Live Streaming  
Monday, Oct. 11 – Indigenous People’s Day Congo Craftsmen 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 14 – Breaking Boundaries climate change discussion 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.  
Sunday, Oct. 17 – Worship at 10:30 a.m. in person and live streaming on Facebook  
Sunday, Oct. 17 – O-U Association Fall Meeting 1 p.m. via Zoom  
Monday, Oct. 18 – Congo Craftsmen – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bob Iles’s home on Paradise  
Tuesday, Oct. 19 – Prayer Group at 8:45 a.m. in person and on Zoom  
Tuesday, Oct. 19 – Deacons at 10:00 in person and on Zoom  
Thursday, Oct. 21 – Breaking Boundaries climate change discussion 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. on Zoom  
Sunday, Oct. 24 – Worship at 10:30 a.m. in person and live streaming on Facebook  
Monday, Oct. 25 – Congo Craftsmen – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bob Iles’ home  
Tuesday, Oct. 26 – Prayer group at 8:45 a.m. in person and on Zoom  
Thursday, Oct. 28 – Breaking Boundaries climate change discussion 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. on Zoom  
Sunday, Oct. 31 – Worship at 10:30 a.m. in person and on Live Streaming on Facebook

## Birthdays of church friends

October 2 – Linda Gamble	October 7 – India Baker
October 3 – Simon Smith	October 10 – Kyr Struatskiv
October 3 – Anna Harvey	October 11 – Lucy DeCato
October 4 – Ryder Scott	October 11 – Ted Davis
October 4 – Jackie Cressy	October 12 – Ted Mason
October 6 – Jan Stowell	October 13 – Bruce Pierce
October 7 – Steve Wight	October 25 – Ben Alford
	October 29 – Anneliese Smith

## Flowers for church in October

October 10 -  
October 17 – Andee Alford  
October 24 – Marilyn Sahlberg  
October 31 – Db Lewis and youth – in memory of Deb’s mom

## Book Group

This month Book Group will discuss *Diary of a Young Naturalist* by Dara McAnulty. Dara is a teenager who writes about his experiences in the natural world. He is also autistic and shares what it is like to live in an introverted self and go to school in an extroverted world. This is a great read for young (and young-at-heart) naturalists and for anyone who feels “different” from others in a peer setting. Next month, November 2 we will discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

