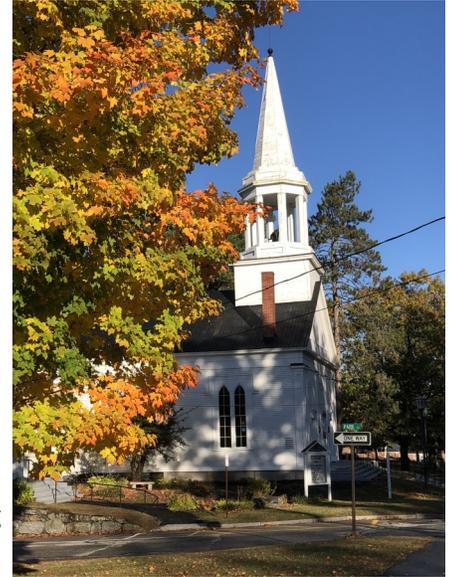


Our Mission

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

November 2021 Steeple View West Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ



Pastor's Perspective from Linda Couture

Fall is my most favorite time of the year. These are my colors!

I was born in September, so I am a "Fall" child! This time of year can bring different feelings and memories. Like the wonderful colors that we so love, we also see the withering of the leaves, the blanket on the earth that they cover, and the trees with their limbs so bare. This is the circle of life. But if you look very carefully, you can see the remnants of the life-giving tree. There are empty bird nests, pinecones, acorns, new buds for next year all wrapped up tight for the new leaves to come.

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. *His love endures forever.* 2 Give thanks to the God of gods. *His love endures forever.* 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures forever.* (Psalm 136 NIV)

There is hope!

Blessings, Pastor Linda

Christian Education news

The first month of Sunday School has been wonderful. Life has been more challenging than usual for us all, and that includes our families with youth and young children. Since children under twelve are unable to be vaccinated, that has affected some of our attendance at indoor activities, like Sunday School.

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. The first month's story was about Joseph and his brothers, and our next month's story is about the story of Moses (from when he's a baby through the exodus from Egypt).



We had a wonderful kite-making/flying event after church on October 3. Thanks to Seabury Lyon and Jenn Doyle for making that happen! Our next family outdoor activity will happen on Nov 7, at 4pm. It will be a lantern walk at the Valentine Farm. All are welcome!

God's blessings and peace to you all,
Patricia



WPCC School

This past month has been full of experiential learning. We have been busy on many field trips (squeezing them in before the frigid temperatures visit us) and lots of projects and outdoor activity. The students went to Maine Wildlife Park and Pineland Farm, both connected to Lucy's Maine studies curriculum.

We celebrated *Michaelmas* and the changing of the seasons with a story, crafts and a wonderful kite flying afternoon. Seabury did a great kite making series with the children over several weeks and we loved every minute of it. He covered facets of engineering, knot tying, wind and kite flying strategies!

Art with Ms Lewis is a hit. The children have loved lessons on mixing watercolors and sanding down graphite to draw with our fingers. She brings a contagious positive energy that we all look forward to every week.



Mr. Chandler has been working on our science and showing our lessons as "systems." We started creating concept maps for our lessons. We had a couple really fun experiment days and the kids love hands on learning.

In literature, Will is reading several non-fiction selections about colonialism and Lucy is reading "The Search for Delicious." Please let us know if anyone is interested in reading with the children on Thursday mornings between 9:00 and 10:00.

We will be making "Boo Baskets" during Halloween week. The plan is to drop them to the doorstep of some friends who may need some cheer. Please let Jenn know if you have someone in mind and their home address for "Boo-ing." The children would be delighted to spread some happiness their way.

Anyone interested in working with the kiddos or just hanging out with us (we are pretty fun), please reach out. We adhere to the Safe Church policies of WPCC and would love to have more adults around. WPCCSchool@gmail.com Jenn Doyle

Four-footed additions to church family

The church family is growing. Well, our four-footed family is growing. And we all know they are part of our hearts and families.

Ted and Linda Davis have adopted a puppy, Fergie. Fergie came to prayer group the other morning to socialize with other church people. Welcome to the newest Davis family member.



Betsy Dunham has added a puppy Marlee to her family. Here are Baylee, Rahkiyah and Willow with their new puppy.

Wendy Youmans welcomes her new puppy Kenzie. Wendy completed a dog-training course. She has just started teaching a puppy start right class. She is seeking an indoor facility to start another class. As soon as she secures an indoor facility.

Anyone interested, can feel free to reach out to her at yogawendy@gmail.com



Sarah DeCato has two new kittens. Here is Maren loving one of the newest members of their family. The Doyle have three new kid goats, Charlotte, Caroline, and Francesca. How could I leave them out.



November Love Bowl is for the Poinsettia Fund

The church's tradition has been to provide Poinsettias at Christmas for distribution to those who have lost a loved one in the past year, shut-ins, nursing home patients, special thank yous to our employees, etc. Due to our shortage of funds this year and recognizing that some would like to participate to this outreach, we are dedicating the November Love Bowl to the purchase of Poinsettias. If you know of someone that would appreciate receiving a plant, please contact Linda Davis (davist@megalink.net) or Marilyn Sahlberg (msahlberg@mindspring.com)

With the colder weather upon us, we will likely not want to stand outside to greet each other or to have the doors open for fresh air. We realize that it will be next to impossible for our loving/caring congregation to leave without greeting each other. Please while visiting, maintain 3' social distancing and not congregate in large groups. Masks need to be worn at all times while inside.

The deacons again want to express appreciation to Linda Couture and Patricia Boyle-Wight for their worship leadership during Rev. Tim's sabbatical. Tim will return to the pulpit on December 5.

Stewardship Committee Report

You will soon receive a letter and pledge form from the Stewardship Committee. Knowing how much we can expect members and friends of the church to give in 2022 is vital to our budgeting process. This is especially true when we have less "loose change" offerings from visitors and have had to cut back on fund raising.

It is important to keep the heat and lights on and to maintain the church and parsonage. We also strive to be good employers, providing wages and benefits for our employees. Lastly we work to support our mission in the community and beyond.

For many of us the church has been a refuge in troubled waters over the last 20 months. Technology has been a blessing, but foremost is the will of our members and friends who have found unique ways to Be the Church.

Please take all of this into account as you consider your pledge for 2022. We have set a goal of \$93,000 which is \$5,000 more than last year. We ask that forms be returned to the church by November 28.

Thank you.

The Stewardship Committee

Calendar for November

Monday, November 1 – Congo Craftsmen at Bob Iles' home 9 a.m. to noon

Tuesday, November 2 – Prayer Group 8:45 a.m. at church and by Zoom

Book group Braiding Sweetgrass – 7 p.m. at church and via Zoom

Wednesday, November 3 – Men's Breakfast – 8:00 a.m. in church dining room

Bethel Food Pantry at Nazarene Church 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday, November 4 – World Service committee 3 p.m. zoom and in person

Climate Change book discussion Breaking Boundaries, 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. by Zoom

Sunday, November 7 – **Remember to change your clocks**

In person worship (continue to wear masks) and online at **10:30 a.m.**

Monday, November 8 - Congo Craftsmen at Bob Iles' home 9 a.m. to noon
 Tuesday, November 9 – Prayer Group 8:45 a.m. at church and by Zoom
 Trustees 6:30 via Zoom
 Wednesday, November 10 – Church Council 6:45 via Zoom
 Thursday, November 11 – Veteran's Day
 Climate Change book discussion Breaking Boundaries, 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. by Zoom
 Sunday, November 14 – In person worship (continue to wear masks) and online at 10:30 a.m.
 Coffee Order due November 14
 Monday, November 15 - Congo Craftsmen at Bob Iles' home 9 a.m. to noon
 Tuesday, November 16 - Prayer Group 8:45 a.m. at church and by Zoom
 Deacons 10:00 a.m. in person at church and via Zoom
 Thursday, November 18 - Climate Change book discussion Breaking Boundaries,
 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. by Zoom
 Sunday, November 21 – In person worship (continue to wear masks) and online at 10:30 a.m.
 Monday, November 22 - Congo Craftsmen at Bob Iles' home 9 a.m. to noon
 Tuesday, November 23 - Prayer Group 8:45 a.m. at church and by Zoom
 Thursday, November 25 – **Happy Thanksgiving Day**
 Friday, November 26 – American Red Cross blood drive 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Sunday, November 28 – First Sunday of Advent –
 In person worship (continue to wear masks) and online at 10:30 a.m.
 Monday, November 28 - Congo Craftsmen at Bob Iles' home 9 a.m. to noon
 Christmas Tea in a Bag pre-order deadline
 Tuesday, November 29 - Prayer Group 8:45 a.m. at church and by Zoom
 Thursday, December 1 - Decorating the church for Christmas

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Take a few moments to wish these people a happy birthday and anniversary. It may brighten up their day.

November 1 – Liz Smith	November 11- Ivan Cooper
November 1 – Wendy Youmans	November 13 – Hannah Pierce
November 7 – Laura and Dan Johnson	November 19 – Lisa Maliska
November 7 – Peggy Wight	November 30 – Amy Scott
November 9 – Andee Alford	

Flowers for Church

Flowers decorate our church and are a way to remember loved ones. If you want to be on the church flower list for 2022, contact Susan Herlihy.

November 7 - Jane Chandler
 November 14 - Steve Lovejoy
 November 21 - Melody Bonnema
 November 28

Book Group meets Nov. 2

Book Group will meet in person and via Zoom Tuesday, November 2 at 7 p.m. to discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Kimmerer. From the preface, “This braid is woven from three strands, Indigenous ways of knowledge, scientific knowledge and and the story of an Anishinabekwe scientist to bring them together. It is an intertwining of science, spirit, and story.”

December we will share our favorite Christmas poem or story. And January we will discuss the *Hidden Lives of trees* by Peter Wohlleben. Anyone is welcome to join the book group discussions.

Tea in a Bag plus a Mini Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 4th from 10-2 is our *Christmas Tea in a Bag* sale. As last year, each bag will contain at least 2 small quick breads, 3 different kinds of cookies, hot cocoa & tea, and more. These bags make excellent gifts for a neighbor or shut-in and of course for your own enjoyment! Bags are \$20 each. Pre-orders are encouraged. The deadline for pre-orders is Sunday, November 28. To pre-order contact Diane York (DianeYorkME@roadrunner.com) or Peggy Wight (peggywight65@gmail.com)

In addition to the bags, we will have a mini fair. We will have a Baked Goods, Crafts, and limited Christmas/Tiny Treasures. Being mindful of COVID precautions, tables will be spread out; entry will be through the chapel and exit downstairs, masks required, social distancing, air filters on. We have an abundance of items that have been set aside for a Christmas Treasures table, so we are asking this year for no more than one or two items.

Volunteers are needed to bake cookies and quick breads for the bags; please contact Diane York if you are willing to do that. We encourage you to start making crafts or consider baking. Bread, pie, sweet rolls, coffee cakes, fudge, jam, pickles, etc are some suggestions. Please wrap your items for the sale, so we can avoid additional handling of the food.

We will be decorating the sanctuary and chapel on Wednesday, December 1 following Men's Breakfast about 9am.

Coffee order due

Fair Trade Equal Exchange coffee order is due Sunday, November 14.

Yes, chocolate is back on the order form for the cooler months.

Please email Jane Chandler (jane.h.chandler@gmail.com) with your coffee and chocolate wishes. She will get you the price.

Remember each cup is a cup of Justice around the world.



