First Church Messenger

First Church was gathered in 1685 **January 2024**

Friends,

2024 is here and (!) and with it an invitation to reflect on the year that has passed and a chance to make thoughtful decisions for the year ahead. If you're like me, you'll see some decisions that didn't turn out the way you had hoped and others that blessed you beyond expectation. What would it be like to review your approach to making decisions? Do you see any patterns at work? Any areas of your life where you notice more or less success and contentment? What would it be like to claim your inner wisdom and apply it to all your decisions---large and small?

With that questions in mind, I'm excited to share with you what I've learned about decision making based on my experience of the teachings of St. Ignatius and Jesuit Spiritual Direction. His method of decision-making, rooted in prayer and spiritual reflection guided by the Holy Spirit is accessible to Christians of all denominations and stages of life.

If you are facing a major decision in 2024---taking a new job, college selection, moving to a new community, health care decisions, of anything else ---then this study is for you! (If you do not have anything large on your plate at the moment, believe me it's coming.) "**The Decision Time Study"** will take place between services in Nauss Hall on January 7th, 14th, and 21st. If that time does not work for you, I will offer another online series in February!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Andy

Pledge Envelopes

If you requested 2024 pledge envelopes, they are available at the Welcome Center. If you would like to have envelopes, sign up at the Welcome Center or contact the church office.

Save the Date:
First Church
Annual Meeting
Sunday,
February 11th,
2024 @ 11:30 am

College Planning Seminar with Craig Plummer

Sunday, January 28: 11:30 AM

This is open to all High School sophomores and juniors and their parents. Craig will lead a seminar on Getting Started on Your College Search in the dining room.

Craig is a high school guidance counselor and professional consultant and he will offer this seminar at no cost to parents and students. The Christian Formation Board will provide lunch. Sign-up is a must. Contact the church office if you plan to attend.

First Church of Nashua
United Church of Christ
1 Concord St., Nashua, NH 03064

Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:00 AM
10:00 AM: Livestreamed

Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong, Sr. Minister
Rev. Nancy Haynes, Acting Assoc. Minister
Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO, Minister of Music
Dianne Smigliani, Business & Marketing Manager
Tasha Drew, Office Manager
Steve Buck, Sexton

Pastors Emeriti:
Rev. James S. Chaloner
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey C. Evans

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9am-noon & 1-4pm

Telephone: 603-882-4861
Website: www.tfcucc.org

The Bulletin Board

All Boards -meet on Monday, January 8th

Baptism - Any adult desiring to be baptized or to have their child baptized is asked to call the church office to schedule an appointment with one of the pastors.

Hospitalizations - If you or a family member is hospitalized, please contact the church office.

Help Keep our Records Current. If you have a change of name, address, phone number or email address please let the church office know.

Membership - For information about becoming a member of First Church, please call the church office.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for new members. Contact Karen Bianchi or the church office for more information.

The Visitation Team will meet on Tuesday, January 16th at 2:00 pm in room 15, (note date change).

Bible, Friends and Coffee is on break and will resume on **Monday, January 22nd at 9:30 AM.**

Wednesday Morning Men's Study is on break and will resume on Wednesday, **January 24th at 8:00 am.**

Visit our website: www.tfcucc.org to view all the activities and events going on at First Church. If you would like to receive notification that the newsletter has been posted, sign up at the bottom of the "newsletter" page. If you wish to go paperless, please notify Tasha Drew to have your name removed from the mailing list.
Find us on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/tfc

Winter Parking Reminder

Use caution when parking along the north side of the church building. Heed the posted signs. Falling snow and ice can cause damage to your cars!

Church Cancellation Policy

In the event of inclement weather, a power outage, or severe weather advisory, First Church may cancel Sunday School, and/or the worship services. Please visit the church webpage (www.tfcucc.org), or Facebook Page (First Church Nashua UCC) for any cancellation notices. You can also check media outlets WMUR Channel 9, or WZID 95.7 under the heading First Church Nashua. The notifications will read as follows: Sunday School Cancelled or All Services Cancelled and will be announced by 6am on the Sunday in question.

Newsletter DEADLINE

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MONDAY, JANUARY 15 TH

PLEASE SEND ITEMS TO TASHA DREW. tdrew@tfcucc.org

THANK YOU.

With Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to those who lost loved ones recently:
The Durmer family in the loss of Kris on December 9th, 2023.

January BIRTHDAYS

2024

01/03	Pamela Dahl
01/03	Jo Ann Milewski
01/08	Steve Porter
01/09	Douglas Barrett
01/10	Al Lannguth
01/11	Alan Hock
01/11	Bill Neville
01/14	Roberta Barrett
01/16	Nancy Towle
01/19	Mary Reis
01/21	Judith Lamerand
01/25	Cindy Staradub
01/31	Kay Potfora

Christian Formation News

Sunday School/Nursery Care will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

Teacher Meeting on Sunday, January 7th at 11:30 in room 15.

Mission Trip to Collect Summer Clothing

What? A Summer Clothes Drive in January? Really?

Yup, you read that right. The LaRomana Mission Trip needs lots of kinds of donations like the medical, school and craft supplies (and a huge thank you to everyone who has given us those donations so far!). But the rural communities in the Dominican Republic are also in need of summer clothing. We need Infants, children and adults in sizes large or smaller. Shoes or sandals are needed too.

Do you have any summer clothes that you do not wear anymore and want to pass on? Please bring the clothes to the Mission Trip table in Fellowship Hall. We will pass them on through the Mission Trip.

Also, going to Sunday worship services is an important part of the Dominican life. And church is a rather formal event. Men wear suits and ties and women wear dresses each Sunday. These items are greatly needed and appreciated.

If you have any questions about the LaRomana donations, please speak with Beth Raymond or anyone at the Mission Trip Table on Sunday.

Last year, we were able to fill an entire classroom with supplies and clothing. This year we will focus on women's clothing/dresses and medical supplies. See page 4 for list.

There is a donation basket on the La Romana table, in Fellowship Hall each Sunday. You can learn more at www.laromana.fcsterling.org

You can also donate items directly to FC Sterling by using the following link: https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/1IJMXDSY5QV6Y

Thank you for all of your support and encouragement.

Beth Raymond

ANNUAL MITTEN TREE DRIVE

At the start of the new year we will be collecting mittens to benefit the children at three of our neighborhood schools: Mt. Pleasant Elementary, Broad St. Elementary and Adult Learning Center Day Care. Knitters and crocheters are hopefully hard at work with plans to fill this tree. We also gratefully accept purchased mittens. All children sizes are needed. As you come across those Christmas bargains while shopping to warm the hearts of loved ones in your life this season, don't forget to pick up a few pairs of mittens to warm the hands of our young neighbors in need this winter. For questions or further information contact Susan Testa.

Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter

A group of volunteers meets every Tuesday at 4:00 PM and on the 4th Friday of the month at 4:00 PM.

To volunteer on Tuesday, contact Patti Mullin. Don Shippey is the contact person for Friday.

Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter

St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic at First Church

The goal of the mobile unit is to provide primary and preventive care to some of the most high-risk and vulnerable populations in the city, along with education to help patients better manage their own health. The RV van will park in the lot near the thrift shop and the music school from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM **(note time change)** on the first Thursday of the month. The mobile clinic provides services in: Women's Health, Wellness Check-ups, Vaccine Clinics (Including Flu and Shingles), Smoking Cessation, Blood Pressure Screenings/ Education, Nutrition Education and much more.

For more information go to:

https://stjosephhospital.com/mobile-health-clinic/

The First Church Thrift Shop is open on **Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM and on the first Saturday of the month, 10:00 AM-2:00PM (Will not be open on Saturday in Jan/Feb).** Donations of women's and children's clothing is being accepted. Leave items in the bin at the courtyard entrance. All proceeds go to community outreach. Thank you for all of your support!!

Donations Needed

Supplies for Medical Mission to the Dominican Republic

Hygiene Kits (or supplies to make them): soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, washcloth, lotion, comb, ziploc bags (Enough for 700 people)

Non Prescription Medications (not limited to) - **(priorities in bold)**

Pain Relievers for adult, children and infants (Tylenol, Advil, Aleve) (10,000 tabs each)
Vitamins: Adult (10,000tabs), prenatal (1000tabs)
Children's (not gummy or gum ball) (10,000 tabs), infant drops (50)
Triple Antibiotic Ointment (200 tubes)
Allergy medicines for adults & children (Benadryl, Zyrtec, Claritin) (1000 tabs each)
Tums (for stomach pain, heartburn, and as calcium supplements) (10,000 tabs)
Vaginal Cream:
> Antifungal cream (clotrimzole, miconazole & lotrisone) topical & vaginal (1000 tubes)
> Hydrocortisone cream (100 tubes)
Multi Symptom Cough medicine (20 bottles)
Bacitracin (20 tubes)
Aspirin 81 and 325 mg (1000 each)
Benadryl cream (100 tubes)
A & D ointment (10 tubes)
Vaseline (to make topical medications and dry skin) (10 pounds)
Laxatives (fiber supplements 2-3 tubs, Colace (500 tabs), and dulcalax (100 tabs)
Imodium (very small amount) (100 tabs)
Pedialyte powder (if possible)
Infant formula (to treat malnutrition) (10 cans of powder)
Condoms As many as possible (trash bags full!!)
Saline drops for eyes and stuffy noses (50-100 pks)
Maalox or Mylanta liquid (5 bottles)
Used Glasses and sunglasses of all strengths!! (eye exams are done in clinics)

Supplies for clinics: Pens (50 or more), paper, computer labels, Sharpies (20 each) (Black, Red, Green and Blue), ziploc bags we use thousands(all sizes), trash bags, paper bags (300), paper towels, hand sanitizer, gloves (non latex exam gloves), tongue depressors, 4x4 gauze, 2x2 gauze, kling, coban, ace bandages, bandaids, diabetic testing supplies, urine dipsticks (200), wet ones, alcohol, peroxide, saline wound wash, betadine scrub, pregnancy tests (200), Beanie Babies & Knitted Dolls.

School Supplies: Single subject notebooks, theme books, paper, pens, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, markers, rulers, erasers, pencil sharpeners (not electric or battery operated), glue sticks, books in Spanish, solar calculators

Craft Supplies: markers, crayons, colored sheets of foam, beads, embroidery floss, pens, pencils, paper, coloring books, bubbles, kites, sports equipment
lightweight summer clothes and shoes always needed Soccer Balls & air pumps, tennis balls, baseballs
Tools - pencils, utility knife, measuring tape, vice grips, screw gun etc.

An Update from the Safe Church Committee, from Bill McIntyre, Chairperson

Security at First Church

In recent years, senseless violence in churches, synagogues, and public gathering places has touched the lives of far too many people. Even though possibilities of violence are extremely remote - and hopefully non-existent, not to address these concerns would be negligent. The Safe Church Committee continues to strive to keep the congregation safe at all times. The Safe Church Committee as well as other committees seek to make security as unobtrusive as possible so that congregants can gather in our magnificent sanctuary and listen to the word of God, scriptural witness and uplifting music.

Churchwide Committees and Safety

Originally instituted to conduct Sunday School teacher background checks in accord with church best practice, the Safe Church Committee has been involved with all aspects of congregational safety as its purview expanded to include Pandemic response, creating and placing brochures in the pew racks entitled "Safety and Security at First Church," active shooter awareness, and CPR training. Safety is a committee-wide effort, and in 2023, the Technology Committee presented several well-received workshops on cybersecurity, and the Music Committee is involved with all aspects of safety during afternoon concerts. The Chair of Prudential, the Prudential Committee, Property Management and the Treasurer have been very much involved in the grant process.

Non-Profit Security Grant 2021

In 2021-22, First Church received a $50,000 Non-Profit Security Grant from the Department of Homeland Security/ FEMA. That grant provided programmable locking doors and a video monitoring system. Doors can be locked/unlocked from the office or set on timers, and Church staff and committee members are assigned key cards as appropriate. The video cameras are located on all exterior sides of the church and the sanctuary and have recording capability.

Non-Profit Security Grant 2023

In October 2023, First Church was awarded a second Non-Profit Security Grant from the Department of Homeland Security/ FEMA for just over $140,000. This is part of a nationwide effort by DHS/ FEMA to bolster security at facilities that host large public gatherings. This grant is one of the largest grant awards in New Hampshire and in early December was featured on WMUR News. Following recommendations from the Nashua PD and a member of the NH Department of Safety, the 2023 grant will enhance the capabilities from the first grant by providing funds to add doors to the magnetic door lock system and add interior door locks in faith formation classrooms. It also provides funds to upgrade exterior cameras and add interior cameras. Finally, a churchwide intercom system will be installed.

With the financial assistance provided in both grants, and through the guidance of dedicated committee members who have attended church safety workshops, First Church has instituted best practices and will continue to have a robust level of security for the church community. We look forward to providing the church with new and enhanced security that the new grant will provide.

News to share about The Future Horizons Society

Every year the church recognizes All Saints Day by lifting up names of our members and friends who have died and are welcomed into our Lord's embrace. It's a powerful service of remembrance. I want you to know that some of our members, though lost to us, continue to support our ministry through legacy gifts entrusted to the church. For example, this year The James and Gail Pearson Family, Jack Atkinson and Beverly and Pete Tucker have remembered First Church in their estates.

Truth be told, this was not a complete surprise to us, because they indicated their intentions to The Future Horizon Society. Let me tell you about who we are and what we do. The Future Horizons Society of the Church is a dedicated group of individuals who are committed to securing the future of the church through legacy gifts and donations. As an essential part of the church's fundraising efforts, the society works to cultivate relationships with church members and supporters who are interested in leaving a lasting impact on the church's ministry. By encouraging legacy gifts, such as bequests, life insurance, and property donations, the Society aims to build a strong financial foundation that will sustain the church's mission and programs for generations to come.

Securing legacy gifts for the church is vital for the future of ministry for several reasons. First, these gifts ensure the long-term financial stability of the church, allowing it to continue serving our community and carrying out important outreach programs. Without a steady source of funding, the church may face difficulties in maintaining its operations and fulfilling its mission. Additionally, legacy gifts provide an opportunity for church members and supporters to leave a meaningful legacy and be remembered for their contributions to the church's work. By promoting the importance of legacy giving, the Future Horizons Society empowers individuals to make a lasting impact on the future of the church.

In addition to ensuring financial sustainability, legacy gifts help to preserve the church's values, traditions, and important work in the community. By leaving a legacy gift, donors can support specific causes and ministries that are dear to their hearts, ensuring that the church can continue to make a positive impact in these areas for years to come. Moreover, legacy gifts can provide the church with the resources needed to adapt to changing needs and challenges in the future, enabling it to remain relevant and effective in its ministry. The Future Horizons Society plays a crucial role in engaging members and supporters in discussions about the long-term impact of their giving, fostering a sense of continuity and purpose in the church's work.

If you would like to learn more about The Future Horizons Society and/or explore ways that you can support First Church's future ministry through a lasting gift, please reach out to Rev. Andy, Lori Lambert, Chris Guild, Brenda Smith -Weiss, Peter Chaloner or Joe Glajch.

January 2024

Sunday, January 7th

First Sunday after Epiphany

8:15 Staff Singers

10:00 Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 14th

Second Sunday after Epiphany

8:15 Organ

10:00 First Folk

Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 21st

Third Sunday after Epiphany

8:15 Organ

10:00 Decibells

Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 28th

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

8:15 Zoe Harper, tenor

10:00 Zoe Harper, tenor

January Outreach Mission Focus- Family Promise of Southern NH

The Family Promise Program of Southern NH, provides transitional housing to homeless families. This program is located in the former Holy Infant Jesus Elementary School, on Crown Street, which was renovated to house up to 24 families. Families stay for 12 months while they save their money, receive case management services, and prepare to live on their own at the end of that year. Parents must have a job or be completing training while living at Family Promise.

First Church has supported Family Promise since its inception at the Anne Marie House, almost 20 years ago. At that time, a collaboration of local faith communities organized and launched the Annmarie House program on the grounds of the Presentation of Mary Academy in Hudson. Since then, the program changed its name, expanded its footprint, and broadened its scope of services to accommodate more families. Throughout this time, support from First Church has never wavered.

Coordinated by Beth Raymond, a team of 12 volunteers provide 4 evening meals during one week each month. We enjoy working together, share recipes and have fun, especially on strawberry smoothie night! Volunteers have gotten to know many families and have seen the positive difference that First Church has made.

In 2021, there were 4682 homeless adults and children in NH, with half of them living in southern NH. Family Promise provides critical resources and programs to help homeless families. You too can help in January. The Outreach Committee is having a Medicine/ First Aid product drive. Look for the collection bin in Fellowship Hall. Family Promise needs the following: Thank you for your help.

Infant Tylenol/Ibuprofen/Pain and Fever Relief
Children's Tylenol/Ibuprofen/Pain and Fever Relief
Adult Aspirin/Ibuprofen/Tylenol
Antihistamines
Adult & Children's Pepto-Bismol
Adult & Child Allergy Medicine
Teething Pain Relievers
Alcohol & Peroxide
Triple Antibiotic Ointment
Ace Wraps + gauze + paper tape + ice packs
Saline Solution/ Wound Wash
Eye Wash
Tums/Antacids
Individual First Aid Kits
Ice Packs

Please donate in January to help families at Family Promise of Southern NH.

January 2024

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship

8:15am- Worship, JAN. 7, 14, 21, 28

10:00am- Worship, Livestream & Radio Broadcast, Sunday School, Childcare, JAN. 7, 14, 21, 28

Choirs

SUN: 11:30am – First Folk (JAN. 7, only)

SUN: 9:00am—First Folk (JAN. 14, only)

WED: 6:45pm – Chancel Choir

THU: 6:45pm – Decibells

SUN: 11:20 – Joyful Noise (JAN. 21,28)

Other

TUE: 4:00pm – First Church at NSKS

THU: 10:00am-2:00pm – Thrift Shop

SAT: 11:00am – Sisters in Sobriety, (Dining Room)

MON JAN. 22: 9:30am – Bible, Friends, & Coffee resumes (weekly)

WED JAN. 24: 8:00am – Men's Group resumes (weekly)

MONTHLY EVENTS

WED JAN. 3: 11:45 am – BNI, Dining Room

WED JAN. 3: 12:00pm – Nashua Area Interfaith Council, Fellowship Hall

MON JAN. 8: 7:00pm – All Boards

TUES JAN. 9: 1:00pm – Stewardship, room 15

TUES JAN. 9: 7:00pm – Thank You Project, room 10

THURS JAN. 11: 6:30pm – Quilt Guild, Dining Room

FRI JAN. 12: 3:00pm – Hunt Service

TUES JAN. 16: 2:00pm – Visitation Meeting, room 15

WED JAN. 17: 3:00pm – Craft Group, Dining Room

THURS JAN. 18: 12:00pm – Chamber of Commerce, Dining Room

TUES JAN. 23: 2:00pm – Huntington Service

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUN JAN. 14: 11:30am – Stewardship Brunch, Dining Room

MON JAN. 15: Office Closed

FRI JAN. 26 – SUN JAN. 28: Winter Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center

SUN JAN. 28 – 11:30am College Seminar with Craig Plummer, Dining Room

First Church, United Church of Christ
1 Concord Street
Nashua NH 03064-2303
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Return Service Requested

Get ready for the **FIRST BRUNCH** of **2024**! Come gather for fellowship and French Toast Casserole (GF available) on ***Sunday, January 14th at 11:30***. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center following worship, online with the following link: https://forms.gle/enqvKus57AwJDeDN7

or by using the QR code. Last day to sign up is Sunday Jan. 7th. This brunch is being sponsored by your Stewardship Committee. We hope to see you there as we gather with gratitude!

Monday, January 15, 2024

The church office will be closed in observance of MLK, Jr. Day.

January Worship Schedule

Sunday, January 7
8:15: Worship (chapel)
9:00 : Decision Time Study
10:00: Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast, Sunday School, Nursery

Sunday, January 14
8:15: Worhsip (chapel)
9:00: Decision Time Study
10:00: Worship
Livestream, Radio Broadcast, Sunday School, Nursery

Sundays, January 21 and 28
8:15: Worship (chapel)
9:00: Decision Time Study
10:00: Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast, Sunday School, Nursery