

First Church

CONNECTION

First Congregational Church, UCC
Hopkinton, NH

October 2022
Vol. 63 • Issue 9

Small Talk

On the 31st of October, 1517, a German priest named Martin Luther posted 95 theses, statements that he proposed for debate, on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. That was the beginning of what we now call the Reformation. It was a time that was turbulent and transformational.

There had been others who tried to call the Roman Catholic Church into debate. The lucky ones were exiled; others burned at the stake. Luther was successful in part because he had the physical protection of one of the Holy Roman Empire's electors, Frederick the Wise, for reasons at least as political as they were religious.

Luther had the advantage of being a real scholar. Pope Leo X was not. A student of the Hebrew and Greek scriptures, Luther translated the Bible into German. With the aid of Guttenberg's new-fangled printing machine, Luther was instrumental in making the Bible accessible to 'ordinary people', who had not had the privileges of formal education. That helped him become popular with the laity.

Today, historians credit Luther with being a great reformer, but in his time, the Roman Catholic Church declared him a great heretic. I find that reassuring, not because I aspire to be either reformer or heretic, but because it demonstrates that time and experience provide perspective. It reminds us that we as a faith community are heirs of change.

The Church didn't begin and end with Jesus and it certainly didn't begin and end with Luther or any of the other protestors and reformers whose lives and work have led people of faith to describe God, the world, the Christ, and the Church in varying ways.

The Spirit of the Living God continues to reveal truth, to show us glimpses of "yet more truth and light to break forth from God's word."¹

Challenging the Church to clarify its teachings and practices was, and is, a good thing. Lest we wear rose-colored glasses, there also were the unhappy consequences of Luther's literalism, which fostered white male Anglo-Saxon Protestantism as the dominant paradigm for centuries, up to and including this one.

Yes, there is more truth and light to break forth from God's word. There's more reformation to be done. There's more justice and peace to be made real. My Reformation prayer is that we will join many others in singing, "And let it begin with me."²

Peace,

Jill

The Reverend Dr. Jill H. Small

¹ The Rev. Mr. John Robinson's farewell speech at the sailing of the *Speedwell*, taking passengers to board the *Mayflower*. Robinson is known as "the pastor to the Pilgrim Fathers", a Separatist, and a founder of the Congregational Church.

² Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller, "Let There be Peace on Earth" 1955. © Croma Music Co., Inc.



OCTOBER

Growing Deeper in FAITH
Looking up in HOPE
Reaching out in LOVE

SETTLED PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your Search Committee has been very busy this Summer. With Charlie Head as our fearless leader assisted by Dijit Taylor and Paula Demers, this team of twelve is off and running!

We are currently knee deep in creating the first draft of the 40ish page document called a church profile. Which is a fancy name for First Church's resume. This profile/resume is a significant document that is in long form narrative style explaining who we are as a church community.

To be able to compose this document, we have met with the transition team and a representative from the "Holy Cow" survey company. They have given us reports and summaries of all the information gathered from the discussions conducted this summer, as well as the results from the survey that went out to the church body.

We also have conducted 25 interviews with our neighbors. These neighbors are various leaders and citizens of the Hopkinton community. The goal of these interviews was to give us an idea of what First Church's role is as part of the Hopkinton community. Currently we are sifting through all this wonderful information and planning how to share it in the profile.

When the profile is completed, it will go to the NH UCC Conference for their review and then they will post the position. Interested pastoral candidates will request to receive a copy of our profile and if they are interested in an interview with us, they will send us their lengthy profile/resume for the Search Committee to peruse.

If you think that this sounds like a lot of time and work to complete, well, you'd be correct. It is important that we are diligent, patient and prayerful so we will find a pastor who will be just the right fit. This is a big and important job and with the love and support of you and God, we will successfully move through this process.

Peace and love,

Paula Demers

Co-chair #2 of the search committee



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contribution Contacts

If you would like to help or contribute to any of the following regular activities, here are the people you need to contact:

Family Promise

Dawn Berry

746-5033

dcbnh@comcast.net

Friendly Kitchen

Charles and Maxine Petruccelli

MaxinePet@gmail.com

203-313-3893

Head Usher

Sue Mitchell

746-3685

spmitchell43@gmail.com

Sanctuary Flowers Coordinator

Carol Howard

caroldawson640@comcast.net

(preferred)

603-496-5365



Public Flu Clinic First Congregational Church of Hopkinton

Ages 3 and Older



**First Congregational Church of
Hopkinton**

1548 Hopkinton Road, Hopkinton

Sunday, October 16

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Masks Required.

Immunizations are offered at no charge with an ID card from Medicare B, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid, Harvard Pilgrim, Tufts, or Anthem.

\$30 (cash or check) for all others.

Published rate is \$45.

This year, we are offering the standard quadrivalent influenza vaccine.

For more information, please visit www.granitevna.org/fluclinics
or call (603) 224-4093, ext. 85815.

30 Pillsbury Street | Concord, NH 03301 • (603) 224-4093 | (800) 924-8620 • www.granitevna.org
Offices in Laconia and Wolfeboro

Granite VNA complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate in services and access to treatment, appropriate care or employment in its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, source of payment, or the absence of advance directives.

2022 Confirmation Class

The 2022 Confirmation class was welcomed into membership at First Congregational Church of Hopkinton UCC on Pentecost, June 5. The four newest members of FCCH are Grace Hodgdon, Amelia Walsh, Malcolm Klingler, and Jack Kohl. Though you may know them already, we are introducing these young people in the next couple of newsletters.

Grace Hodgdon is the daughter of Chris and Elizabeth Hodgdon. She has a younger sister named Molly. A sophomore at Hopkinton High School, Grace enjoys many activities! She's particularly active in 4-H, through which she shows her dairy calves. Grace enjoys baking and you may see her at Market Basket in Warner where she has a new job. Grace has been part of First Congregational Church of Hopkinton since 2009. She's very excited to now be a confirmed member, so much so that she is joining the Board of Deacons. Grace's confirmation mentor was Dawn Berry.

Amelia Soon Walsh is a sophomore at Hopkinton Middle School. She is the daughter of Matthew and Marla Walsh, and she has a sister, Sadie. Amelia has a dog named Marco. Amelia enjoys a range of both academic and sports activities. In school, she especially likes math and French, while her extra-curricular activities are cross-country running, track, and Nordic skiing. She also participates in Concord area Nordic group training. In her spare time, she likes hanging out with her best friends and teammates. Michelle Bickford was Amelia's confirmation mentor.



FAMILY PROMISE

Nancy and Dawn attended the farewell for Liane MaLossi Kerbyson who has been the Executive Director for Greater Concord Family Promise for the past four years. Liane navigated the nonprofit through the difficult shut down of Covid finding funds to house families in hotels, campgrounds, and in unused parsonages while volunteers in our churches and synagogue continued providing meals and food staples. Liane administered Family Promise with compassion for families and support for volunteers while finding new office space, applying for funding grants, and even securing a grant for more comfortable beds for volunteers. We are very grateful for her leadership.

The new Executive Director is Steven Croke. He has been with Horizons for Homeless Children in Roxbury, MA for the past 11 years and is well-versed in working with volunteer-based nonprofits. Steve came out to visit Nancy and Dawn and see our FCC parish house where we provide shelter, food, and warm welcome to the guest families. We look forward to his leadership.

OUR NEXT HOSTING DATE IS NOVEMBER IS NOVEMBER 6-13. Nancy will send out the new sign-up genius the beginning of October. We appreciate FCCH's support of this compassionate outreach ministry. We have found that not only are the families helped, but we receive an immense satisfaction and joy in helping.

If you wish to serve as Overnight Host but cannot commit to staying at the Parish House until 7:30am, just let us know in advance when you need to be out the door and either Dawn or I will come over before then to cover so that you can get your morning routine off to its normal start!

Thank you in advance to all who will volunteer! We need you!

Dawn Berry and Nancy Emery

RACIAL JUSTICE MISSION GROUP

THE RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM INVITES YOU TO VIEW THE SACRED ALLY QUILTS

Allies or Complicit?

It has been two years since the murder of George Floyd, and the question still resonates: are we allies or complicit? Allies work in solidarity and partnership with people of color to dismantle systems of racism while those complicit choose silence, comfort, and inaction in the face of relentless racism.

First Congregational Church of Hopkinton, United Church of Christ, 1548 Hopkinton Rd, will display 10 Sacred Quilts, created by nine NH United Church of Christ congregations. The quilts memorialize the final, painful and prophetic words of George Floyd in May 2020.

A chief goal of the quilts "is battling the white response of outrage and amnesia, where commitment to reform lasts barely longer than the news cycle," according to the Rev. Mark Koyama and Dr. Harriet Ward, founders of the ministry.

The community is invited to view the quilts on October 20-21 from 6-8 pm; October 22-23 from 11-3 pm. Come, pray, learn, take time for quiet reflection and discernment, and commit to becoming allies.

Dawn Berry

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The Christian Education Board is excited for some wonderful fall fellowship and learning. All are warmly welcomed. Please feel free to invite friends and neighbors.

Sunday School for grades 1-6 is offered weekly during Sunday worship service. This year, Carol Sabol will be teaching with Progressive Christianity's Joyful Path curriculum: This is a spiritual curriculum that connects children with their own inner wisdom. It teaches interdependence, self-awareness, respect for nature, stillness, forgiveness, prayer, meditation, integrity, radical inclusion, and experiencing God. Using the Bible, sacred texts, and wisdom stories from around the world, A Joyful Path helps children learn how to follow the path of Jesus in today's world. We emphasize behavior over belief, teaching reverence and gratitude for this life, supporting children to find their own inner wisdom and to connect to the Spirit and God Within All.

Waffle Church and Communion Sundays

On the **first Sunday** of each month, the CE Board will be offering waffles, fruit, coffee and juice to children and their families, along with a short grace, story, and song, at **8:30 am**. Please invite your friends and neighbors - it is a great way to check out this wonderful church community, and it's an earlier morning offering for those who have busy Sundays. All ages are welcome to come on over and share some waffles with the younger set! We are inviting teens to volunteer to help make and serve the waffles - please contact Trish to sign up for a Sunday. After Waffle Church on first Sundays, children are invited to remain in the Parish House with Trish and a CE Board member during worship, to participate in a special children's communion service. This fall, the dates will be: **October 2, November 6, and December 4.**

Youth Group

Youth in grades 7-12 were invited to meet with Trish in late September to brainstorm ideas for fun,

fellowship and service this year. Stay tuned for details! Youth are always encouraged to invite friends - the emphasis is on putting love and kindness into the world.

Youth Room Donations Needed

If you have a couch, bean bag chair, table and chairs, foosball or other table game you would like to donate to the youth room, please snap a photo and send email it to trishwalton65@gmail.com. We'd love to make the Youth Room and fun and comfortable place to hang out.

Pumpkin Carving

Children and adults alike, come on out to the church lawn to carve some Jack O'Lanterns together, **Saturday October 29 3:30 pm**. BYO pumpkin and tools. Bring friends and neighbors! Snacks will be provided. Thank you to Nancy Emery and Elizabeth Sides for hosting.

Save the Date - We'll hold the annual **Advent Workshop** after church on **Sunday, December 4**, after church.

American Red Cross

Give blood.

Help save lives.



Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
354 Main St. Hopkinton, NH 03229 - Great Hall

Wednesday, October 26, 2022
1:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Sponsored by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and
the First Congregational Church of Hopkinton

Maximize your donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B-, or A- donor, consider making
a **Power Red** donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter: HOPKINTONNH to schedule an appointment.



Scan to schedule
an appointment

We've got a treat for you this month: Come to give in
October and get a \$5 e-gift card to a merchant of your
choice. Enjoy some buttery popcorn or a refreshing
drink with your next movie screening on us. Terms
apply, see rclblood.org/boo



Scan to schedule
an appointment

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:
Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1 800 733 2767

To sign up to volunteer on the day of the drive go to
<https://standreshopkinton.org/blood-drive> and click on the volunteer link

A Red Cross Blood Drive will also be held at St. Andrew's on Wednesday December 28, 2022

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Parsonages & Parsonages” (Part 3)

Rev. Marshall Bullard Angier

“Rev M.B. Angier” appears on the 1858 *H.F. Walling* map of Hopkinton village, and this enlargement shows the south side of Hopkinton’s Main Street from the corner at South Road westerly until the road rises and curves around toward the left (consistently referred to as “the road to Henniker” on property deeds). The Reverend Marshall Bullard Angier was the ninth pastor (1853-1860) of First Church.



Today, this stretch on the south side of the road is the frontage for No. 21 Old Henniker Road, the 1888-89 “summer villa” (as it was often referred to) erected by Hopkinton native and very successful Chicago businessman, Horace Gair Chase (1827-1910).

Ordained in Hopkinton on June 8, 1853, Mr. Angier was thirty-four and single. Although it appears so on the map, he may not have been the occupant of a separate house. No evidence of his having purchased or sold property in Hopkinton has been recorded at the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds in Concord. In fact, no purchases and sales of real estate by or from *any* First Church pastor after 1860 to the end of the century are on record there. It’s possible some of them may have rented housing in town or been boarded, as was Mr. Cordley. On the other hand, it is also possible that the First Congregational Society may have maintained a parsonage or had the use of a house for pastors and their families (but not to be confused with the Lucia A.D. Long house on South Road, given to the Church in 1891).

This group of properties on the south side of the road to Henniker has an interesting history, including the John Osgood Ballard and Jane Wood (Buswell) Ballard house (where the well-known Hopkinton schoolmaster ran a school for many years); the Isaac and Abigail (Hinton) Long house where Isaac did bookbinding and also kept a small bookshop; Dr. Thomas G. and Lucinda (Lyman) Wells whose house “adjoined” the Longs, per C.C. Lord; the Congregational Church vestry or parish house, built in 1851 on a piece of Isaac Long property; the creation of a large hotel out of the Long-Wells houses after the deaths of the Longs and Wellses, and its destruction by fire just before Christmas 1886 (*not* the Perkins Inn across the street); and finally the removal of properties by Mr. Chase to create a generous frontage for his house.

Rev. John Kimball Young and Rev. Clarendon Alexander Stone, et. al.

In one house in this neighborhood the 1870 Census taker found our *seven-year-interim* (!) pastor sixty-eight-year-old Reverend John K. Young, D.D. (1867-1874) and wife Mary (Willard) Young (retired after a long pastorate with the Meredith Bridge (Laconia) Congregational Church); and in 1880 the taker found our pastor the Reverend Clarendon A. Stone (1874-1881), wife Lizzie (Gilbert) Stone and their children, Charles H., 17, Jeannie M., 13, and Lena A., 10. And other pastors of the period – William Cutler, Elisha Cook, Thomas Farrill, Myron Adams, Tilton Bouton, Oscar McIntire, and John Curtis – may have lived here as well.

Either before or after the Ballards’ deaths by 1860, the house and land became the property of Elijah Wood Upton of Peabody, Mass. probably by virtue of a foreclosed mortgage deed that John had given to him in 1843 (MCRD 73/98). Both Elijah’s and Jane’s middle names being Wood —and used often as such by people in Upton’s family — suggests, but does not prove, there may have been a family connection; and interestingly Jane’s name on the Ballard stone in Old Hopkinton Cemetery is not engraved as *Jane Buswell* but as *Jane Wood*. In 1876 Upton sold a plot of land from the tract identifying it as “a portion of my Ballard estate.”

A Peabody glue manufacturer, Upton stated to the 1870 Census taker there he valued his real estate at about \$100,000 (perhaps buying power of two and a half million dollars today) and his personal estate \$150,000 (about three and a third million today). These “equivalencies” are not “scientific,” but even so, this perspective should be borne in mind when we learn that Mr. Upton later sold the land and buildings of “his” Ballard property away up in Hopkinton, New Hampshire in 1880 for \$1500. Perhaps Jane Ballard had hoped her house might become a parsonage for First Church; perhaps Elijah was disposed to the idea, with nothing in writing.

During this period the Society’s books twice record the “use of parsonage” offered as a perk to prospective pastors along with the somewhat meagre salary.

If in fact the Ballard house, as a parsonage, had been through the generosity of Mr. Upton, with nothing in writing, it is likely that Horace Gair Chase — part owner of a title company in Chicago — would not have been satisfied with only a deed from Upton, given the Society’s long occupancy. Thus the Society was given a deed, and with that in the “chain of title” in turn it came to Chase. Shortly Lucia A.D. (Rollins) Long would deed *her* house to the Society.

Dr. Henry Martin Dearborn (1846-1904) “owns an elegant summer cottage in this town, the remodeled residence and school-house of the late famous Master John O. Ballard,” wrote C.C. Lord in 1890. The accompanying photo (taken from the piazza of the Perkins Inn) shows the house as renovated by Dr. Dearborn before removal by Mrs. Ellen Roberts to (now) 71 Old Henniker Road where it was even more handsomely refurbished.

With many details omitted, this is still a complex story, all part of the search for parsonages and “parsonages” of First Church.

Steve Thomas
Historian



Courtesy Hopkinton Historical Society

WORLD COMMUNION DAY

World Communion Sunday is coming again! On Sunday, October 2nd a variety of tastes, textures, shapes, and aromas will remind us of the universal and unique sacrament that Christians share.

World Communion Sunday began in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church and was adopted by the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches) in 1940. Today, it is an international and ecumenical celebration.

In a time when we are so keenly aware of division in our nation and across the globe, World Communion Sunday lifts up Christian unity. We share bread and cup, we pray and give thanks, and we remember the story of Jesus’ last supper. It symbolizes both brokenness and blessing. It invites us into genuine communion as the Christ calls us together to celebrate, “in remembrance of me.”

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life’s journey, there is a place for you at the Christ’s table. Consider this your invitation to break bread and share the cup on World Communion Sunday!



1548 Hopkinton Rd.
Hopkinton, NH 03229

Address Service Requested

First Church

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

Church Office

Margaret Serzans, Administrative Assistant
(603) 746-4235 • (603) 746-5826 fax

fcch@tds.net

www.FirstChurchHopkinton.org

Hours:

Monday-Friday

8:00 am-12:00 pm

Heather J. Mitchell, Newsletter Editor

(603) 746-5352

Heather_J_Mitchell@yahoo.com

Deadline for November newsletter: Wednesday, October 19