

# *The Pittsfield Pilgrim*

First Congregational Church  
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Pittsfield, NH 03263

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# *The Pittsfield Pilgrim*

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[www.pittsfieldcc.org](http://www.pittsfieldcc.org)

The Rev. David Stasiak, Minister  
Nella and Mike Hobson, Publishers

## **Meet Your Church Family**

**Colby Powelson, Bus Driver and  
Assistant Sunday School Teacher**

*Editor: We asked our friend Colby Powelson to share a little about himself.*



I became a part of this church as my parents (you may know them as the Diaper Lady and Big Dave) had me baptized here in 1987. This has been my home church ever since. It's always nice to have that consistency in your life.

I find that it is very rewarding to help out with the Sunday School. I still haven't figured out how to get the little ones to listen to me like they do the others, but it is always a fun time.

Also, finally getting my bus driver's license was a huge and rewarding accomplishment. I said I would pursue that task back in May 2014, and didn't get it until November 2015. There was a broken ankle during that time too (watch out for those waves in Hawaii). Now I have an answer to, "So Colby, what are you up to these days?"

**Powelson — Continued on Page 3**

## **"Tip o' the Hat"**

A big thank-you and "Tip" to the person maintaining and changing the music on our church carillon for Christmas, Easter and other seasonal tunes. The carillon faithfully rings out the time and plays music daily heard all over town – a real mainstay of the town of Pittsfield. Do you know who this person is? Sue Bleckmann! Thank you! Ω



## **Fellowship Time**

Beginning Sunday April 3 and every first Sunday of the month thereafter, our fellowship time will consist of a pot-luck brunch. Please bring one of your favorite dishes to share with others.

The third Sunday of the month will be hosted by the Dorcas Guild while the second, fourth and fifth Sundays will consist of coffee and punch. Of course food items will always be welcome on those Sundays, if you would like to bring something.

Clean-up help following fellowship is always needed and appreciated. Ω

**Mark your calendar...** for Thursday, May 12, 7 p.m., as Harry Vogt will give a presentation on the town clock housed in our church. Place TBD. Ω

## Minister's Minute

The seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter have now passed and we enter the 33- or 34-week period of the Liturgical Calendar that we as a universal church call Ordinary Time. You could say that the mountain top periods of our lives as Christians have passed until we enter the next Liturgical year which begins on November 27, the first Sunday of Advent 2016.



Most of our daily lives is lived in the valleys, those ordinary days when the anticipation and excitement of the holidays have passed, family gatherings are fewer, it's back to work or volunteer commitments, and routines of life take precedence.

We do celebrate other events during the year, of course, like our national holidays, birthdays, anniversaries and vacations which allow us to experience high points of our lives as individuals and as a nation. After a day or weekend or week of celebrating, though, it's back to the ordinary days of life.

Many people think Ordinary Time refers to the parts of the church year that are unimportant. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" because the weeks are numbered. The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. Thus, Ordinary Time is in fact the ordered life of the Church — the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) nor in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ.

As Christians, Ordinary Time does not need to be "ordinary," and is not somehow a "break" from the Liturgical Year. Ordinary Time celebrates "the mystery of Christ in all its aspects." We also may remember and celebrate the parts of Jesus' life that were ordinary, much like our own lives. During Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year, the paraments in churches are green, which is appropriate because it is the most ordinary color in our natural environment.

Time both temporal and eternal is a gift from God. What we do with the time, even when it seems ordinary, is what makes the difference in life.

Back in 2013 I declared the month of April as Congregation Appreciation Month so, with this April 2016 Minister's Minute, let me once again say that it is a privilege and an honor to be your minister, and I am thankful every day for all of you who are a part of the First Congregational Church family. I am thankful for your serving, giving and caring for one another and the people in our community, whether they are believers or not. I thank you for your support both in gifting and prayer for my family and me. Please know also that I appreciate all of you *every* day of the year! Ω

I love being your minister,

Rev. Dave

### From the Board of Trustees



### From the Board ...

We are continuing to seek and evaluate costs and options for replacing the asphalt shingles on the parsonage roof and on the rear roof of the church. It seems to be time to address them.

In March we met with Scott Brown of the Paige Agency to discuss the insurance policy and the coverage needs of the Church. Insurance costs are paid by the Berry Trust.

We extend sincere thanks to Nella Hobson for continuing to fill in while we seek a new Organist/Music Director.

As always, if you have a concern or suggestion that should be brought to the attention of the Board, please contact any of the Trustees.

This year's board is comprised of Gloria O'Connor Biron, Susan Bleckmann, Dave Powelson (Chairman), Marilyn Thyng, and Chris Ward. Ω

### Photos Needed

Our church's web manager, Harry Vogt, would like to update some of the photos on the church website ([www.pittsfieldcc.org](http://www.pittsfieldcc.org)). If there is anyone who has a photo of a recent church event that you don't mind sharing, please contact Harry or email the photo to him for possible inclusion on the website. Ω



*"The sun was warm but the wind was chill. You know how it is with an April day." — Robert Frost*

**Powelson — Continued from Page 1**

As far as a particular role model in my life, I would say that everybody has something to offer, a life lesson to teach, and I wouldn't want to leave anybody out.

For our church, I also want what every other church wants — to have more people show up on Sundays. Thankfully the word's getting out that we have a top-shelf minister, so that's really good. Plus we have a gorgeous church, too.

Back when I was in Sunday School, we met the hour before the service started. So during the actual service we were allowed to "quietly play games" in the room where Sunday School currently meets during the service. My brothers and I had a lot of fun.... I can't remember how many times people came out and told us to quiet down.

I remember one Mother's Day somebody wanted to get their mother a flower, so they just took one from the flower bed out front...that was funny. She wasn't impressed, however. Ω

**Dorcas Guild Update**

The Dorcas Guild March meeting began with a welcome to the attendees by President Mary Jo Powelson. Bev Murdough began with devotions reading Psalm 96. All joined in "The Lord's Prayer."

Correspondence was read and cards were passed for signing. Both the secretary's report and treasurer's report were accepted.

The food basket brought by Gailann Newton went to MaryJo Powelson and will go next to Bev Murdough and then to Audrey Moore; the mystery package brought by Linda Stasiak was won by Bev Murdough.

We next discussed our project, which is twin-sized spreads, blankets, hats and mittens, etc. for the VA. We will hold off on purchasing the new plastic vestry tables until the spring. Easter breakfast was discussed and the items still needed.

There will be a funeral service and collation for Sally Lewis at the Congregational Church of North Barnstead, May 21, possibly at 11 a.m. We will wait to hear about our involvement.

Mission support for the Open Air Ministries and the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness as well as the World Day of Prayer organization were discussed. Motions were made and carried to donate to each group.

While on the topic of the World Day of Prayer, the Guild agreed to be the hosting group/church for the 2017 event. It will take place March 3, 2017 with the Philippines as the focus.

The Women's Fellowship of the Congregational Church of North Barnstead is sponsoring the Eleventh Annual Retreat, "Women Rising: Sensing God." This is a daylong event Saturday, May 7, 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., at the Berakah Retreat and Spirituality Center, 96 Fairview Road, Pittsfield. The registration fee is \$10. For more information or to register, contact Clare Bolster at 776-1622 or [bolster@tds.net](mailto:bolster@tds.net) by April 7.

Linda Towle gave an update on the nursery refurbishment project and showed photos of what was done at another church. She offered many modern ideas for our nursery to make it child-friendly and interesting. Background checks will be needed for any volunteers caring for children.

Bev Murdough mentioned the Pittsfield Senior Center/Community Center's need for new stoves. More information will be coming.

A motion was made and approved to purchase an Easter plant for placement in the church at Easter in memory of deceased Dorcas Guild members.

Delicious refreshments were enjoyed by all. Prayer Partner cards were passed around for "Secret Pal" mailings and prayers. Next meeting is April 12 at 6:30 p.m. with Peggy Jacobs and Gailann Newton as hostesses. Prayer Partners will be revealed. Ω

**2016 Dorcas Project**

The Dorcas Guild has selected the VA in Manchester for their 2016 project. They will be providing twin-size blankets and spreads, as well as adult hats and mittens. This project will continue through October of this year. The blankets and spreads are generally twin size and can vary from 40" x 75" to 65" x 90". If you are able to make any contributions to this project or have any questions, please contact Mary Jo Powelson.

The Guild is also collecting "Box Tops for Education" for Pittsfield schools. The collection container is on the bookshelf in the vestry. Ω

**For your information...  
Rev. Dave's phone numbers:**

Church office: 603 435-7471

Home: 603 435-0083

Cell: 603 545-8990

E-mail: [keysman02@aol.com](mailto:keysman02@aol.com)



# April 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Sunday School 9:50 am Potluck Brunch 11 am Worship & Music Team Meeting – 11:30 am	<b>4</b> First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm - Parsonage	<b>5</b> Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	<b>6</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>7</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	<b>8</b> <b>NACCC Fellowship Meeting 9-10:30 am Vestry</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Deacons meet 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>11</b> First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm - Parsonage	<b>12</b> Men's Breakfast <b>8 am</b> Parker's Restaurant Dorcas Guild – Meeting <b>6:30</b> pm, vestry	<b>13</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>14</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	<b>15</b> <b>Tax Day</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>18</b> First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm - Parsonage	<b>19</b> Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Trustees Meeting 6 pm	<b>20</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>21</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	<b>22</b> <b>Earth Day</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am JuBellation plays Fellowship Hour 11 am Church Committee Meeting – 11:30 am	<b>25</b> First Watch Discussion Group 7 pm - Parsonage	<b>26</b> Last day for <i>Pittsfield Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	<b>27</b> <b>Admin Professionals Day</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>28</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>