

# *The Pittsfield Pilgrim*

First Congregational Church  
24 Main Street  
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

Joe Rogers, Church Member

*Editor:* We asked our friend Joe Rogers to share a little about himself.

My wife, Madeline, and I started coming to First Congregational Church some time in 1952. Rev. (Leslie) Strathern was the minister and we knew a lot of people that went there at the time. We became church members in 1959, and for several years I served on the bus ministry.



My wife and I oversaw the fellowship hour for about five years with a lot of help from the congregation. Madeline also taught Sunday School over 30 years; we had three children going to Sunday School. I also served on the Board of Trustees for 12 years, and I worked building the church addition.

**Rogers — Continued on Page 3**

## “Tip o’ the Hat”

A “Tip o’ the Hat” to the Dorcas Guild for funding the project and all the helpers who loaded, unloaded and set up the new tables in the vestry and Pilgrim Room. Thanks to George Towle, Mike Hobson, Pastor Dave, Richard Hackeman, Linda Towle and Mary Jo Powelson. If you take a peek under the tablecloths, you’ll notice some new white tables underneath. Thank you! Ω



## Special Service and Concert – August 28

Mr. Mark Thallander, renowned organist and music director, who shared his talents with us last August, is returning Sunday, August 28. He has kindly agreed to play selections for the 10 a.m. service and then return for a 6 p.m. concert. While the details have yet to be completed, be assured we are in for some very special music!

Although Mark is best known for his career at the Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, Cal., in 2003, he was involved in a horrific car accident in which he lost his left arm. Relying on God’s guidance, he continues to present his music throughout the country; we are privileged to have him return. Ω

## Minister's Minute

How would you describe God in just one sentence? Even though Billy Graham was cautious about describing God in one sentence here is what he said, "If I had to summarize in one sentence what I believe about God, I would simply say that God loves us, in spite of our sin and rebellion — and the proof is that he sent his only son, Jesus Christ, into the world to make it possible for us to become part of his family forever." That of course is a Christian perspective. Those of Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist and other faiths most likely will answer a difficult question in a very different way. Of course there are those who say there is no God at all.



To make things even more difficult: How would you describe God in one word? I think we have all heard others say that God is love and that is certainly true. But isn't God a God of peace, faithfulness, hope and power too? The point or problem is that an infinite God cannot be described, defined or understood by our finite minds. So much of God and life remains a mystery to us.

The final chapters of the Book of Job testify to that truth. Job, who believed he was treated wrongly and maintained his righteousness throughout the great suffering he endured, questioned God and here is part of God's answer:

*Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?*

Needless to say Job got an earful.

The apostle Paul could not have been more accurate when he said, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known."

In the end God is bigger than any description we can ever come up with. God's creative power, love and care for us are beyond our understanding.

For now it's better that we give thanks and praise to God for all that God is and save the questions for later. Ω

I love being your minister,

Rev. Dave

**Notes:** The First Watch discussion group will not meet during the month of August. It will reconvene on **September 12**.

There will also be a called congregational meeting on **Sunday, August 21** following worship. The purpose is to vote on the by-law changes and additions. Ω

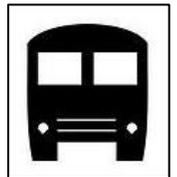
**Our Building Fund** continues to grow, thanks to your generosity. The fund thermometer at the rear of the church sanctuary now shows a level of \$15,000. The goal is \$45,000. We have a great start! Ω

**Welcome!** We extend a warm welcome to our newest members, Liana and Steve Wittkop, who joined our church family July 17. Congratulations and welcome! Ω

**Congratulations** to Art Morse and Renée Raymond, who were married July 13. You are wished a lifetime of happiness! Ω

## New Church Bus

You may have noticed a new church bus in the church's parking lot. Our new 12-passenger bus does not require a CDL licensed driver. If you need a ride to church, contact Steve White at least the day before.



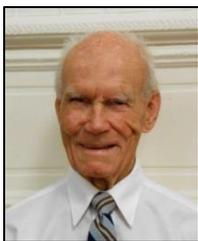
## History of the First Congregational Church

Larry Berkson has researched, written and published a two volume *History of The First Congregational Church*. He has donated the results of his endeavor to benefit our church. All sales proceeds will go to the newly established Quintin B. Berkson Memorial Fund at the church. The interest from this account is to be used to benefit the church. This fund is in memory of Larry and Susan's son Quintin, who passed away at a young age.

The two-volume set is \$35 and can be purchased after church during Fellowship Hour or by contacting Susan Bleckmann. Ω

## Rogers — Continued from Page 1

I have had several role models. Three of my neighbors gave me jobs and showed me how to work at their farms. One time, Mr. White took my brother and me to see “Gone with the Wind” at the Scenic Theatre. I had never been to a movie before that time.



Two other neighbors gave me jobs and taught me a lot when I was about 10 or 12 years old. I grew up on a farm and my father taught me about taking care of animals — driving horses around the farm.

Concerning First Congregational, I would like to see our Sunday school grow in the next few years.

I enjoy reading books about true life; for example, old preachers like George Muller, Bill Sunday and others. I like to stay busy and I try to volunteer one day each week. For a time I visited patients at the VA Hospital. On Tuesdays I make brooms at the Shaker Village. Ω

## Quilt Raffle

As you all know we as a church are raising funds for roof shingling and other maintenance projects that have become necessary. Susan Bleckmann has donated a handmade 64” x 74”



quilt to be raffled with all proceeds going toward this effort. We had a successful day selling raffle tickets at Old Home Day and are continuing to sell tickets until September 20. This will include having a table set up at Drake Field during the Annual Balloon Rally, August 5-7.

Tickets will be on sale during Fellowship Hour each Sunday. We encourage members to take a few books of tickets to sell to their family and neighbors. The price is 1 ticket for \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5. Ω

## Diaper Pantry Update



The Diaper Pantry is very pleased with the success of our Root Beer Float Concession at Pittsfield’s Old Home Day on July 23. We met early in the morning to set up and had our first customer shortly thereafter. We served approximately 70 overflowing root beer floats with a smile and lots of laughs. Water was also available at our booth. The weather cooperated – a sunny and warm day, perfect for a refreshing float – a unique item at Old Home Day.

Thank you so very much to Frekey’s Dairy Freeze for the donation of all the ice cream. How very generous and kind of them! We send out our sincere thanks to everyone that played a part in making our root beer day happen, especially Elaine Coffey, Darla Jarvis, Linda Stasiak, Diane Vaughan and Rev. Dave for volunteering for the day.



Diane Vaughan, Elaine Coffey and Mary Jo Powelson sell root beer floats.

Our Diaper Pantry now has a pamphlet available that Sarah Powelson helped to create. And we sincerely thank her as we realize that it took a bit of time and effort to create it. We hope that the pamphlet will help explain what the Diaper Pantry does and will recognize business donors as we move forward. The pamphlets will be available at church if you would like one.

Thank you to all our church family for your support at Pittsfield’s Old Home Day! Together we are making a difference! For more information on the Diaper Pantry, see Mary Jo Powelson. Ω

*The Pennies from Heaven* ministry is currently collecting pennies or loose change for the Diaper Pantry and the Concord Coalition for the Homeless. If you know of other groups in town that could use some additional financial support, please let Ruth Strickhart know. Ω





# August 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am <b>National Night Out</b>	<b>3</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Fellowship Hour 11 am Potluck	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Men's Breakfast <b>8 am</b> Parker's Restaurant	<b>10</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>11</b>	 <b>Balloon Rally Weekend</b>	
<b>14</b> Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	<b>17</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship Service 10 am <b>Congregational Meeting</b> Fellowship Hour 11 am Dorcas Guild hosts	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>25</b> Last day for <i>Pittsfield</i> <i>Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship Service 10 am <i>Guest Organist – Mark</i> <i>Thallander</i> <i>Concert 6 p.m.</i> Fellowship Hour 11 am	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry			