

The Pittsfield Pilgrim

First Congregational Church
24 Main Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263

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The Pittsfield Pilgrim

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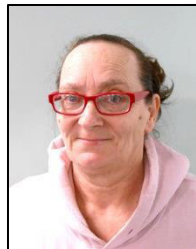
The Rev. David Stasiak, Minister
Nella and Mike Hobson, Publishers

Meet Your Church Family

Isabelle Pineo

Editor: We asked our friend Isabelle Pineo to share a little about herself.

I started attending First Congregational Church about four and a half or five years ago. I became a part of the FCC family because I thought I needed God in my life.



I attended Kingswood High School (Wolfeboro), and have lived in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Doing things with my friends and children, going to movies, watching movies on TV and going to church are activities I really enjoy.

In my leisure time, I read books and play computer games.

Pineo — Continued on Page 3

“Tip o’ the Hat”

A special “Tip o’ the Hat” to the person supplying so many beautiful cards to the Dorcas Guild. The Guild can carry out its “greeting card mission” because of this generous donor. Thank you! Ω



Revised Inclement Weather Decisions

Only in the most hazardous conditions will Sunday church services and Sunday School be cancelled. The trustees and the pastor agree that they would like to have the church open even if only a few can attend. If services are to be cancelled, we will try to post cancellations at least 12 hours in advance of Sunday services on Channel 9 (WMUR). Meetings or rehearsals through the week will be decided by those leaders. Ω

Bible Study has resumed – Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. in the Pilgrim Room. No study on Feb. 15. Ω



Offering Envelopes — Your 2017 offering envelopes are available on the back table in the church sanctuary. When you take your envelopes, please make sure the number is the one you normally have and check off your name on the disbursement sheet. For those of you who do not have an assigned box of envelopes and would like one, please speak to our collector, George Towle, or Rev. Dave. Ω

Minister's Minute

Well the teams are set! Let the hype and drama begin. The New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons will do battle in Super Bowl LI on February 5. Sometime before midnight on the 5th, barring overtime, and any unexpected technical glitches during the halftime events, one team will emerge victorious and labeled the Super Bowl Champions. Will Tom Brady add another ring to his collection or will Matt Ryan receive his first? That will depend of course on their supporting cast being ready to do their job. We shall see.



It always amazes me how quarterbacks are placed in the limelight before most other players. The headlines and stories are primarily about their skills, stats, records, injuries and so on. Sure, there are stories about receivers and running backs, the offense and defense but for the most part the media is more focused on the guy who receives the snap from center and decides what to do with it, albeit with guidance from the sideline coaches. In the end, I think we would all agree that the quarterback's success is dependent upon all the players that surround and support him.

In the same way, the success of any minister is dependent upon the people he serves and to whom he ministers. No one pastor has all the gifts or talents to carry a congregation on his own just as a quarterback cannot win a football game on his own. Teamwork is of paramount importance in football as it is in ministry and indeed, most of life. I depend on all of you to be active participants on our ministry team. No matter what your age or position you have something to contribute. You have a place on the team and you are valuable and needed. God's kingdom will not be built solely by ministers; it will take groups or teams of people exercising and utilizing their God-given talents and resources.

At our Annual Meeting January 22, we reviewed the successes and challenges that we had in 2016. I thank those responsible for submitting reports and doing so in a timely manner so that the report could be available a week before our meeting. I thank every one of you, church members and friends, for the successes and I ask for your continued help and teamwork as we strive to create new successes and face new challenges in 2017.

When we meet again for our Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018, my prayer is that we will be able to look back on the year 2017 and hear God say, well done good and faithful servants. Ω

I love being your minister — Dave

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Linda and I would like to thank our church family and friends for the many Christmas cards, delicious edibles and gifts, both tangible and monetary, that we received for Christmas. They were and will be greatly enjoyed and remembered.

Thank you for blessing us in such thoughtful and loving ways. Ω Dave and Linda

Update

From the Board of Trustees



The Trustees are pleased to let you know that, thanks to a very generous donation, the fluorescent lights in the church have recently been changed to LED lights.

LED lights have a longer life span than fluorescent lights and use significantly less energy, all of which saves the church money.

The Trustees remind everyone that food and drink, specifically coffee and punch, should not be brought into the sanctuary. Water is allowed as long as it is in a closed container. Thank you in advance for helping to keep the sanctuary clean.

As part of a yearlong effort the Trustees are making to bring renewed awareness to the importance of stewardship, Kevin Kennedy has offered to provide information on the importance of your financial support as well as options for providing support. Below is the first of several brief articles Kevin will be presenting.

As always, if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns feel free to let any of the Trustees know — Marilyn Thyng, Gloria O'Connor Biron, Sue Bleckmann, Chris Ward or Harry Vogt. Ω

Stewardship Considerations

Recently Congress has provided folks who receive required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) a means to make direct contributions to charity and potentially save money on taxes.

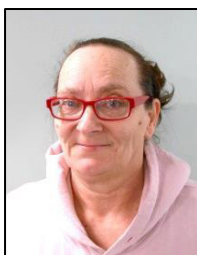
IRA owners who are 70½ or older are generally required to receive distributions from their IRAs and now they can direct up to \$100,000 of their IRA distributions to charity. The money given to the charity counts toward the donor's required minimum distribution, but doesn't increase the donor's adjusted gross income (AGI), and is not reported as taxable on the tax return.

Stewardship — Continued on Page 3

Pineo — Continued from Page 1

I really love volunteering with the church's Infant and Toddler Diaper Pantry and working with the Dorcas Guild.

As role models, I have my parents and my children, Arthur Doucette, Jr. and Shana Woods. They all helped me get to where I am today.



Concerning the future of FCC, I hope that we can accomplish all the tasks that need to be completed for our church.

As for an interesting book I've read recently, I enjoy just about every kind. Ω

Stewardship — Continued from Page 2

An individual that makes contributions but who cannot use them in full as an itemized deduction would benefit from taking these steps. Also, keeping the income out of the donor's AGI is important because doing so (1) helps the donor qualify for other tax breaks (for example, having a lower AGI can reduce the threshold for deducting medical expenses; (2) reduces taxes on the donor's Social Security benefits, and (3) helps the donor avoid a high-income surcharge for Medicare Part B and Part D premiums (which kick in if AGI is over certain levels). Unfortunately, this tax provision is only available if you have a RMD and not for everyone who is receiving IRA payments. However, if this does apply, we hope you will follow up with your tax advisor or contact Kevin Kennedy for more information. Ω

Dorcas Guild Update

The January 10 meeting of the Dorcas Guild began with a welcome by President Mary Jo Powelson. Nella Hobson began a time of devotions by reading a passage of scripture from Matthew 6 and then an excerpt from the website "Proverbs 31 Ministries." All joined in "The Lord's Prayer."

Diane Vaughan reported on various cards sent for the ill and bereaved. She shared correspondence and the group received an update on shut-ins. Cards were passed around for signing.

The December 2016 minutes were accepted as was the treasurer's report.

The food basket from Corine Miller was received by Gailann Newton and will go to Linda Towle in

February. The mystery package brought by Nella Hobson was won by Bev Murdough.

Nella and Bev are co-chairs for the World Day of Prayer event, March 3, and are working it.

SouperFest, hosted by the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, will be held March 17 in Concord. A sign-up sheet for "cookie support" is on the vestry bulletin board.

For new business, the Guild will consider a service project for 2017. "Baby Threads" of New Hampshire, "Children's Care Tote Bags" for local law enforcement are some possibilities.

Discussion on our missions' disbursements followed. The group approved support to: four local food pantries – Pittsfield, Barnstead, Chichester and Epsom; the church's Infant-Toddler Diaper Pantry; Community Action Program; and the Pittsfield Youth Workshop.

Bev Murdough discussed Camp Sentinel, a Christian overnight and day camp in Tuftonboro, for ages 5-15. She will have details at the next meeting for the group to consider.

While enjoying dessert, the group had their book exchange and the new Program Guide was distributed.

Next month's meeting will be held February 14 at 6:30 p.m., with hostesses Diane Vaughan and Nella Hobson. "Hearts and Flowers" is the theme, and items for the Diaper Pantry would be appreciated. Wednesday work meetings begin again February 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the vestry. All ladies are welcome. Ω

World Day of Prayer

Mark your calendar for the World Day of Prayer service, which will be held this year at our church, Friday, March 3 at 7 p.m. The ladies of the Dorcas Guild are hosting this event.

People of more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate this event. World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions coming together to observe a common day of prayer the first Friday of March. Each year a different country's committee serves as writers for the World Day of Prayer service. This year the ladies of the Philippines have written the program with the theme, "Am I being unfair to you?"

Plan to join in prayer and song in this community of faith service. All are welcome — it's not just for women! For more information, contact Nella Hobson. Ω



February 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8 pm Pilgrim Room	Groundhog Day 2 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	3	4
5 Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am - Potluck	6	7 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	8 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8 pm Pilgrim Room	9 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	10	11
12 Deacons' Meeting 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am <i>Baptism of Oliver Koladish</i> Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> Men's Breakfast 8 am Parker's Rest. Dorcas Guild Meets – 6:30 pm – vestry	15 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry <u>NO</u> Bible Study	16 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	17	18
19 Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am (Dorcas Guild hosts)	20 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	21 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Trustees' Meeting 6 pm	22 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8 pm Pilgrim Room	23 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	24 Last day for <i>Pittsfield Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	25
26 Worship Service 10 am <i>JuBellation plays</i> Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	27	28 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i>	March 1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Service 7 pm	2 <u>NO</u> Rehearsals	3 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> Service 7 pm	