

# *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

Nancy Blackey, Church Member

*Editor:* We asked our friend Nancy Blackey to share a little about herself.

I grew up in Northwood and am the daughter of Arthur and Margery Nutter. I have seven siblings – Linda, Barbara, Arthur, Jr., Joanne, Ellen, Janet and Joyce. We grew up not considered as a rich family, but one that was rich in love. I went to church in Northwood, and went to Coe Brown Northwood Academy, class of 1977. I have three wonderful children – Christopher, Kelly and Amy; five grandchildren – Madison, Amelia, Joseph, Emma and Dawn; son-in-law, Todd and daughter-in-law, Tamara. I do not know what I would do without them!



We moved to Chichester six years ago after my husband, Larry, was hurt and eventually passed away. I believe he is the one that helped me turn my life around to the Lord.

**Blackey — Continued on Page 3**

## “Tip o’ the Hat”

A “Tip o’ the Hat” to our wonderful choirs: the Chancel Choir and JuBellation Handbell Choir for their gifts of music, blessing us throughout the year on Sundays and with special concerts. “To God’s glory!”

Thank you! Ω



## Diaper Pantry Update

On Saturday, July 23, our Diaper Pantry will be at Pittsfield’s Old Home Day selling Root Beer Floats. Come visit us and enjoy a refreshing treat while helping the children of our area in the process. We are looking forward to this fun event!



The Infant Toddler Diaper Pantry has continued to grow. At our June 7 opening, we served 73 children in this community, an all-time record. We currently could use size 4, 5, or 6 diapers or disposable unscented wipes. Monetary donations are also much appreciated. Please make any checks out to: **FCC Missions** and note in the memo – “**Diaper Pantry.**” We thank you so very much. Together we are making a difference! Ω

## Minister's Minute

Frank Lambert in his book, *The Founding Fathers and the Place of Religion in America*, writes that in 1639, a group of New England Puritans drafted a constitution affirming their faith in God and their intention to organize a Christian Nation. Delegates drew up the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, which made clear that their government rested on divine authority and pursued godly purposes. Like their neighbors in Massachusetts Bay, the Connecticut Puritans determined to plant a "Christian Commonwealth," what Governor John Winthrop hoped would become a "City upon a Hill" that would inspire believers everywhere as a model Christian Nation.



Lambert goes on to say that when George Washington took the oath of office as President some 150 years later, he pledged to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." The constitution makes no mention of God or divine authority. Instead of forming a "Christian Commonwealth," the Founding Fathers created a secular state. There would be no church of the United States. Nor would America represent itself to the world as a Christian Republic. Their ideas of separation of church and state and the free exercise of religion extended to people of all faiths or no faith.

Skip ahead to 2016 and ask how *our* church can reclaim those early affirmations of faith and be a model of Christ to our community? First, the building can be a place and space of worship and study. Next, the church, meaning the people, can emulate Christ in their caring and concern for each other and the community. Finally, we can teach and reach those who need to know the love of Jesus and be the one to offer "the cup of cold water" in his name. Our church functions as a sacred spot in a secular world, and thankfully we can represent ourselves to be a "Christian Nation" at 24 Main Street, Pittsfield.

The Puritans and Founding Fathers debated their issues and made their decisions based on freedom of religion. As we celebrate the birth of our nation, let's thank God for our country and the freedoms we enjoy. Ω

I love being your pastor,

Rev. Dave

### From the Board of Trustees



## Thank You!

As last month's Trustees column in the *Pilgrim* mentioned, there was an outline of building issues and work needed to be accomplished at the church building and parsonage.

Some of the work has been done and some other work has begun. If you take a look at the "thermometer" at the back of the church sanctuary, you can see the "mercury" has begun to rise. Thank you to those who have donated to the Building Fund to accomplish the necessary tasks.

We continue to raise the request for your donations to these projects and ask for your support over the next few months as we strive to complete the repair work. No amount is too small.

All checks can be designated as donations to the Building Fund. Thank you. Ω

The Board of Trustees



Harry Vogt holds one of the old hands of the town clock located in the steeple of our church. He gave a very interesting presentation about the historic clock at the Pittsfield Historical Society in May.

**Blackey — Continued from Page 1**

I have been attending First Congregational for about 3 years and became a member in November of 2013. After my wonderful husband of 25 years passed away, I was looking to become part of a church family.

I enjoy making new friends, and I love helping out at the church's Diaper Pantry, spending time with family and friends. I love to sing and enjoy using the computer. I would love to get back into the church choir. I am very thankful for Pastor Dave who is always willing to help me and listen and talk to me. I also thank my church family for loving me and welcoming me into this church. I am also thankful for the bus picking us up on Sundays and for the Bible study.

As far as role models, I would have to say my parents are my role models – if not for them, I would not be the loving and caring person that I am today. I don't read a lot of books, but I have begun reading the Bible. I would like to be baptized someday.

I am thankful for my boyfriend, Robert, and my friends, family and church family for supporting me. Ω

### **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

### **Choirs Take a Break** 🎵



The Chancel Choir and JuBellation Handbell Choir will take a well-deserved vacation break over the summer. If anyone would like to serve as a "Leader of Song" or provide special music during the summer months, please see Nella Hobson. Ω

**Dorcas Guild Update**

The Dorcas Guild enjoyed a lovely dinner June 14 at the Main Street Grill in Pittsfield. Mary Jo Powelson welcomed the attendees and Bev Murdough led in devotions reading from *Rhythm of Grace*. Delicious meals were enjoyed by all.

The Guild will take the months of July and August as their summer break with the next evening meeting September 13 at 6:30 p.m. However, the Guild will still provide the Fellowship Hour the third Sunday of each month (July 17 and August 21) and will still hold their workgroup meetings each Wednesday from 10-2 in the vestry throughout the summer. They faithfully meet to prepare for their Christmas Fair in December and welcome any donations of handmade items for their craft tables or gently used items for the "Unique Boutique" table at the fair. If you have any questions, contact Mary Jo Powelson, president.

The project for this year is providing twin-size blankets and spreads, and adult hats and mittens for the VA in Manchester. Ω

**Fellowship**

For our time of fellowship after our Sunday morning service, for the first week, we will have a pot-luck brunch. The third Sunday will be hosted by the Dorcas Guild. The second, fourth, and occasional fifth Sundays, we will have coffee and punch. On those Sundays, individuals may sign up to host or donate food items. Clean up help following our fellowship time is always needed and appreciated. Ω

**Flowers**

If you would like flowers placed in church on a Sunday in memory or honor of someone, please contact Jaime Koladish (435-0544). A single bouquet is \$30 and a double is \$50. You may provide your own flowers, but please notify Jaime so she can plan. Ω

**Church Bus**

If you need transportation to and from church on Sunday, please call Steve White at least the day before – home 435-9165 or cell 470-3457.Ω

*Psalms 113:3 "From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised."*



# July 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Fellowship Hour 11 am Potluck	 <b>4</b> Independence Day	<b>5</b> Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	<b>6</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Worship Service 10 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	<b>13</b> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am Dorcas Guild hosts	<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>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 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> Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> International Day of Friendship
<b>31</b> Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am						