

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 Carolyn Emerson

Editor: We asked our friend Carolyn Emerson to share a little about herself.

Born in Peabody, Mass., I grew up in Derry, N.H., attending grammar school and junior high school there and then graduating from Pinkerton Academy. I have two sons, Michael, a 20-year Marine, who lives in Hawaii, and Mitch, who served in the Army. My first husband served in the Air Force for 20 years, and my second husband served in the Army for 20 years. As you can see, my family is steeped in military service.



I accepted Christ in the Mojave Desert of all places! While my husband served in the Air Force, we were stationed at a rocket site at Edwards Air Force Base, Cal. While he was in Viet Nam, I attended cosmetology school. During my time as an Air Force wife, I lived in various places including Mississippi, Michigan, California and Maine. When my husband served on Iwo Jima, I came back to Londonderry.

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“Tip o’ the Hat”

Many thanks and a “tip o’ the hat” to our dedicated and talented music ministry members – Chancel Choir and JuBellation Choir. And thanks to all others sharing their musical talents throughout the year. Thank you! Ω



Introducing ... Karen Brook! Please take a moment to introduce yourself to our new music director and organist. Karen comes to us with a wealth of skill, knowledge and experience. We are blessed to have her share her talents with us and lead us in worship through the gift of music. Welcome, Karen! Ω

Choirs Take a Break 🎵

Following on our “tip,” our choirs will take a 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 Karen Brook, music director. Ω

*It is the promise of summer that
gets us through winter. — Unknown*

Minister's Minute

In January 1985, a large suitcase was discovered at the customs office of the Los Angeles International Airport. Inside the suitcase was the dead body of an unidentified young woman. U.S. Customs agents who discovered the body immediately launched an investigation. What they uncovered was a tale of a horrible tragedy that resulted from the desperate desire of two young people for freedom.



The dead woman was the wife of a young Iranian living in the United States. Her desire was to join her husband. However she was unable to obtain a visa. So, she took matters into her own hands. She squeezed herself into a large suitcase and had it smuggled onto a jet headed for the United States. It was a foolish endeavor. Even if she had survived the journey in the cargo bay of the jet, she would have remained an illegal alien spending the rest of her life looking over her shoulder fearing discovery. And so she died a lonely death squeezed into a tiny space in the cargo hold of an airplane. (Jim Davis, <http://focusongod.com/Romans07.html>)

Every year on July 4 we celebrate our nation's birth. It is a time for us to consider what American citizenship has meant to many people over the past two hundred years, and what it means to many who seek to enter our land today. People including many of our own ancestors, my grandparents included, have gone to extraordinary lengths to make America their home. They have done so for reasons such as finding meaningful work knowing that the United States is truly a land of economic opportunity.

Others live in lands torn with crime or outright oppression by their own government. They come here looking for security. Few people die in traditional warfare nowadays, that is, war between nations. Most people who die today from violence are killed either in crimes or they are the victims of terrorism or they are victims of violence from their own governments.

But there is another reason people have risked their very lives to come to this land. And it's summed up in one word: *Freedom*. That's what America has stood for more than anything else since its founding over 200 years ago. It was founded by a group of individuals who had an amazing vision of a better way of structuring government – “of the people, for the people, by the people.”

Freedom. What a powerful word. What an amazing idea. Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of worship, freedom to pursue one's dreams – we dare not take these things for granted. And so on July 4 we enjoy picnics and parades and fireworks to celebrate, as generations have before us, the gift of freedom.

For Christians, however, every worship service ought to be a celebration of freedom – for the most important freedom available in this world is the freedom that only Christ can bring – freedom from sin and death, freedom from fear and failure, freedom from anger and vindictiveness.

Perhaps we should replace our Call to Worship with fireworks and our organ with a brass band. Why? Because nearly 1800 years before our ancestors fought at Valley Forge, someone else died for our freedom. On the cross of Calvary a man named Jesus of Nazareth gave up his life to free us from every scourge that would crush our spirits and bring us down to sub-human activity. “You have been set free . . .” writes the apostle Paul. Ω

I love being your minister,

Rev. Dave

From the Board of Trustees



Trustees' Update

The trustees are pleased to welcome Karen Brook as the church's new organist and music director. She has extensive experience serving as organist in many churches throughout New England. We are very pleased that she has chosen to share her talents with our church. Please join us in welcoming Karen to our congregation.

The church's search for an organist and music director has been ongoing for 18 months. While that search was underway, Nella Hobson volunteered to serve as interim organist and music director. Thank you, Nella, for all that you have done and continue to do in support of the church's music ministry. Your many months of service to the church are truly appreciated.

Saturday, September 16 is “Volunteer Saturday,” a day for friends and members of the church to come together to perform light maintenance and repair projects around the church.

Trustees — Continued on Page 3

Emerson — Continued from Page 1

I also enjoyed visiting my sister in Florida, whose husband was in the Navy. I met many wonderful people during our time in the Air Force, and always felt that your home is where you make it no matter where that is.



I live in Pittsfield having moved here in 2008 as this is where my younger son lives. Before that I lived in Londonderry – for 26 years – and worked in Nashua for a pharmaceutical company. I have a sister who still lives in Derry.

I enjoy this church very much – folks are friendly and nice, accepting everyone just as they are. I visited one day and was warmly welcomed and decided to continue attending. Pastor Dave always provides a good salvation-based Christ-centered service that consistently applies to my life.

In my leisure time I enjoy sewing, knitting and reading. Each day I read a couple chapters of the Bible as well as the *Daily Bread* publication. I really appreciate the camaraderie of the Dorcas Guild ladies as we meet each week to work on our crafts and share a time of fellowship. God bless! Ω

Trustees — Continued from Page 2

The list of tasks the trustees have put together include a variety of painting, landscaping and cleaning projects. We plan to start early Saturday morning and wrap things up by noon. If you can spare a few hours, please mark the day on your calendar and plan on joining us. More details to follow.

As always if you see something in need of repair that you think may have escaped our notice, please don't hesitate to let any of the trustees know: Marilyn Thyng, Gloria O'Connor Biron, Sue Bleckmann, Chris Ward or Harry Vogt. Ω

Monthly Update of Income and Expenses

Church income through the month of May:

\$56,928.00

Church expenses through the month of May:

\$62,435.44

Greetings from the Diaper Pantry!

We are excited to be present at Pittsfield's Old Home Day on Saturday, July 22, for our second year selling root beer floats. We will do the same at the Balloon Rally on Saturday, August 5. We will also sell raffle tickets for a baby quilt, an award winning hot air balloon framed photograph and other lovely items. Stop by and visit!

The raffle drawing will be held at the end of the day, August 5. If you have an extra hour or two and would like to volunteer on August 5, please contact either Mary Jo Powelson or Rev Dave. Thank you.

The Missions Committee and Diaper Pantry recognize and thank Peggy Jacobs for all her dedication and work throughout the years. Peggy has always been interested in Missions, in all capacities, and such a wonderful help to the Pantry. You have had such a positive influence on so many lives. We all thank you Peggy! We thank Bruce as well, as he has helped us solve many of our technical problems. Our sincere thanks! Ω

Dorcas Guild Update

The Dorcas Guild enjoyed a wonderful meal and a lovely time of fellowship at their banquet held June 13 at Main Street Grill. A total of 20 ladies came out for the event. Although evening meetings are suspended until September 12, the Wednesday work group continues throughout the summer. Ω

For the Garden of Your Daily Living

Author unknown; submitted by Gloria O'Connor Biron

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

Peace of mind, Peace of heart, Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

*Squash gossip, Squash indifference,
Squash grumbling, Squash selfishness*

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

*Lettuce be faithful, Lettuce be kind,
Lettuce be patient, Lettuce really love one another*

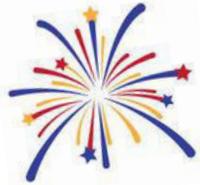
NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

*Turnip for meetings, Turnip for service,
Turnip to help one another*

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST
HAVE THYME:

*Thyme for each other, Thyme for family,
Thyme for friends.*

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much produce in your garden because you reap what you sow. Ω



July 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Fellowship Hour 11 am – Potluck	3 “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30- 7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	Independence Day 4 	5 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	6	7	8
9 Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	10 “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30- 7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	11 Men’s Breakfast <u>8 am</u> Parker’s Rest.	12 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	13	14	15
16 Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am <i>Dorcas Guild hosts</i>	17 “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30- 7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	18 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	19 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	20	21	22 Pittsfield Old Home Day
23 Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	24 “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30- 7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	25	26 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	27 Last day for <i>Pittsfield Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	28	29
30 Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	31 “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30- 7:30 pm Pilgrim Room					