

The Pittsfield Pilgrim

First Congregational Church
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Pittsfield, NH 03263

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The Rev. David Stasiak, Minister
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Meet Your Church Family

June Valentyn, Church Member

Editor: We asked our friend June Valentyn to share a little about herself.



I was born in Exeter, NH. My dad was an ROTC student at UNH. Upon his graduation, our family moved to Fayville, Mass., where he had a teaching position. When World War II started, my dad became activated and left his

teaching position.

My mother, grandmother, sister and I were all packed into our car and followed my dad from base to base so that our family could all be together. As my dad went from one base to the next, I was enrolled in different schools -- Louisiana, Oklahoma, California, Georgia and Virginia. Housing was often very difficult to find and in Virginia, a watermelon plantation owner offered to erect a platform tent on his property for our family to use. He even converted a tool shed to be used as a kitchen for my mom. We lived there for three months.

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“Tip o’ the Hat”

Once again, many thanks and a “tip o’ the hat” to our Sunday School teachers, assistants and “Small Talkers.” Also, a special “Tip” to Bev Murdough for kindly leading the kids’ songs!” Their untiring dedication and service to our children is a wonderful blessing. Thank you! Ω



Our annual patriotic concert – “Let There Be Peace” – is set for Friday, June 2, 7 p.m. at our church. It will feature the Chancel Choir, JuBellation Handbell Choir and others. Light refreshments will be served. Be sure to mark your calendar for this exciting event for all ages. Bring a friend!



Wednesday night Bible study ended for the season May 31. It will resume in September. For more information, contact Bev Murdough.

Church History -- Please forward any changes for our church history volumes to Larry Berkson ASAP so he can make the corrections.



Men: Wear your tropical shirts on Father's Day, June 18!

Minister's Minute

With Father's Day soon approaching, I thought I'd honor fathers with the following story.

A father passed by his son's bedroom and was astonished to see the bed nicely made up and everything neat and tidy. Then he saw an envelope propped up on the pillow. It was addressed, "Dad." With the worst premonition, he opened the envelope and read the letter with trembling hands:



Dear Dad,

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with you and Mom. I've been finding real passion with Joan, and she is so nice. I knew you would not approve of her because of all her piercings, tattoos, tight motorcycle clothes, and the fact that she is so much older than I am. It's not just her passion, Dad. She really gets me.

Joan says that we are going to be very happy. She owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood—just enough for the whole winter. We share a dream of having many children.

Please don't worry, Dad. I'm 15 and I know how to take care of myself. I'm sure we'll be back to visit someday so you can get to know your grandchildren.

Your son, Chad

P.S. Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at Tommy's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than the report card that's in my desk drawer. I love you! Call when it is safe for me to come home.

When we were children I think most of us heard our mothers threaten us at one time or another with the words, "you just wait till your father gets home." I know I have. Remember how Ward Cleaver would come home and lay into Beaver or Wally for some goofy thing they did. For the most part fathers are the disciplinarians of the family and often feared. They're called upon to be the rock of the family, strong under pressure, gentle and yet firm. They often work behind the scenes to solve problems. My father was that and much more and for that I am

grateful to God my heavenly Father for giving me the years I had with my Dad.

Happy Father's Day to all fathers and men who made a significant difference in the life of a child or children. Ω

I love being your minister,

Rev. Dave

From the Board of Trustees



Orange Cone Says "Good Bye" and Church Gets Its Annual Physical

The orange traffic cone that has long adorned the front steps of the church is gone at last. This past winter a snow plow hit one of the exterior handrails and broke the post supporting the rail. The cone was put in place to keep people from injuring themselves while we waited for the rail to be fixed. The rail is now repaired and is just waiting for a little touch-up paint. Repairs were taken care of by the plow truck owner.

Some of you may have noticed that the sanctuary is a bit darker these days, particularly at the front of the church above the choir. The exterior skylight above this area is under repair with a tarp in place till the work is completed. There are actually two skylights in need of repair, an outer sloped skylight visible from the back parking lot, and an inner flat skylight visible from inside the church. Once the exterior skylight is repaired, the trustees will be turning their attention to having the inner, flat skylight repaired. Now we just need to wait for a few sunny days to allow the work to proceed.

Saturday, May 20, members of the trustees gathered at the church at the crack of dawn to give the building its annual physical. We checked the structure out head to toe, inside and out, to see how the building is holding up. The results are in: it's doing well for its age, with the usual aches and pains you associate with maturity; some paint needs to be touched up, rusted chimney clean-outs need to be replaced and cleaning of the sanctuary lights are a few of the items that made it to the list. Over all, nothing alarming was noted.

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

Valentyn — Continued from Page 1

When my dad was sent overseas, the rest of our family moved to Natick, Mass, where I graduated from high school, attended UNH and after transferring to Framingham College, received my B.S. degree in Home Economics.

I was brought up in a very religious Methodist family with my father and mother as great role models. I was active in Methodist Youth Fellowship, Girl Scouts and Rainbow Girls.

I taught Home Ec for one year in Wayland, Mass. but found that my love was not that of teaching but of being a wife and mother. I have five wonderful children: Scott, Cathy, Jonathan, Christopher and Daniel; 16 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

When I first came to FCC, I was greeted by Peggy Jacobs, who introduced herself and made me feel very welcome. I've been attending here for about 15-20 years. I enjoy spending time in Florida when the weather here is cold and snowy, but I always look forward to coming back to my friends in Pittsfield. One of the reasons I look forward to returning from Florida is the wonderful friendships and relationships that are found in this church.

I've found that I enjoy the entire worship experience at FCC – the weekly sermons are uplifting and they often directly apply to my life throughout the week. In addition, I enjoy the camaraderie of my friends, fellowship hour after Sunday services and the music ministry, especially the annual patriotic concert.

I am retired and enjoy fellowship with the Dorcas Guild ladies and spending time with my friends and family. I enjoy sewing, quilting, crafting and reading and, at one time, enjoyed gardening.

It's encouraging to see more visitors, young adults and young families attending here and that the Sunday School is thriving. I would urge anyone to get involved in any facet of church life. Ω

Dorcas Guild Update

The May 9 meeting of the Dorcas Guild began with a welcome by President Mary Jo Powelson. For devotions she read from *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp. All joined in "The Lord's Prayer."

Diane Vaughan reported on various cards sent and other cards were passed around for signing. The April minutes were accepted as was the treasurer's report.

The food basket from Mary Jo was given to Audrey Moore. The mystery package went to Linda Towle. The food basket and mystery package will be suspended until the September meeting.

Diane Vaughan reported on the plans for the Dorcas Banquet next month (June 13, 6 p.m.) at Main Street Grill. Menu choices are: Chicken Marsala, Baked Haddock or Steak Tips. Please choose your entrée and prepay (\$20) Diane before June 6.

The president reviewed our service projects: neck/head scarves, chemo totes and children's totes. Ten children's tote bags and ten bears were delivered to the Pittsfield Police Department after the last meeting. We plan to continue making them.

Motions were made and carried to donate to the church's bus ministry, the Sunday School and to Meals on Wheels at the Pittsfield Senior Center.

Delicious banana splits were provided by Kathy Bergeron and Mary Jo. We enjoyed our fellowship as we selected our "White Elephant" packages.

Next month's meeting is our banquet to be held June 13 at 6 p.m., Main Street Grill and Bar, 30 Main Street, Pittsfield. Evening meetings are suspended until September 12. Wednesday work group continues throughout the summer, 10-2. Ω

Expectant Fathers

Four expectant fathers were in a Minneapolis hospital waiting room, while their wives were in labor. The nurse arrived and announced to the first man, "Congratulations sir, you're the father of twins!"

"What a coincidence," the man said with some obvious pride. "I work for the Minnesota Twins baseball team!"

The nurse returned in a little while and turned to the second man, "You sir, are the father of triplets."

"Wow, that's really an incredible coincidence," he said. "I work for the 3M Corporation. My buddies at work will never let me live this one down."

An hour later, while the other two men were passing cigars around, the nurse came back, this time turning to the third man, who had been quiet in the corner. She announced that his wife had just given birth to quadruplets.

Stunned, he barely could reply. "Don't tell me another coincidence?" asked the nurse. After finally regaining his composure, he said "I don't believe it; I work for the Four Seasons Hotel."

After hearing this, everybody's attention turned to the fourth guy, who had just fainted, flat out on the floor. The nurse rushed to his side and after some time, he slowly gained back his consciousness.

When he was finally able to speak, you could hear him whispering repeatedly the same phrase over and over again.

"I should have never taken that job at 7-Up...I should have never taken that job at 7-Up...I should have never taken that job at 7-Up..." Ω



June 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	2 Patriotic Concert 7 pm 	3
Pentecost 4 Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Fellowship Hour 11 am – Potluck	5 “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30-7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	D-Day Observance 6 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	7 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	8 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	9	10
Trinity Sunday 11 Deacons’ Meeting 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	12 “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30-7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	13 Men’s Breakfast <u>8 am</u> Parker’s Rest. Dorcas Guild Banquet Main Street Grill 6:00 pm	Flag Day 14 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, sanctuary	16	17
Father’s Day 18 <i>Men: wear tropical shirts</i> Worship Service 10 am JuBellation plays Fellowship Hour 11 am <i>Dorcas Guild hosts</i>	19 “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30-7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	20 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Trustees’ Meeting 6 pm	Summer Arrives 21 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	22 Choirs Banquet Parsonage--6:30 pm	23	24
25 Worship Service 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	26 “How Jesus Became God” video series 6:30-7:30 pm Pilgrim Room	27 Last day for <i>Pittsfield</i> <i>Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson	28 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry	29	30	