

The Pittsfield Pilgrim

First Congregational Church
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Pittsfield, NH 03263

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

Meet Your Church Family Carla Kimball, Church Member

Editor: We asked our friend Carla Kimball to share a little about herself.



I am proud to say, "I am a member of this church." I was born and raised in Massachusetts, graduating from Arlington High School. I attended Burdett Junior College in Boston, and over the years studied computer courses in various institutions. For most of my working career, I was an executive/private secretary for the vice president of Harvard Trust Company, Portsmouth Navy Shipyard, PITCO, Concord Group Insurance, TIMCO and many others.

In 2012 I retired from Riverstone International Insurance Company in Manchester. Shortly thereafter, my sister, Sandy, who lives in Florida, took me with her on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Hawaii for two weeks. At the time, my son Jeffrey (Buffy's twin), was stationed there with his family, so it was an extra great time.

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"Tip o' the Hat"

A big thank-you and "Tip o' the Hat" to those serving on the recent nominating committee and to all those volunteers serving on boards, committees and in groups. Thank you! Ω



Upcoming Holy Week Events

* Our special Holy Week services this year begin with Palm Sunday, March 20 at 10 a.m. The worship service will remember the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with the distribution of palms.

* A Maundy Thursday worship service including Holy Communion, commemorating the "Last Supper" of Jesus, will be held Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m. Special music will be provided by the Chancel Choir and JuBellation.

* On Resurrection Sunday, March 27, 7 a.m., the Sunrise Service will be held in the sanctuary with breakfast immediately following (about 8 a.m.) in the vestry. The traditional worship service will commence at 10 a.m. Come and worship at either service and join in for breakfast! Ω

Minister's Minute

When Easter arrives, it's usually just in time. As much as we love winter in New England, we likely have become tired or bored with the season and are ready for a change. I do not believe it is coincidental that spring and Easter arrive about the same time on the calendar. Spring is a time of renewal and reawakening. Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection and the preparation for our own promise of eternal life. This is why the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event of Christianity.



Spring is also a time of rebirth – soon a crocus or daffodil will peak through the snow of winter. This is the promise of God. Genesis 8:22 says, “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”

Even though a celebration of Christ's resurrection is not found in the Bible, John 12:26 says “Whoever wants to serve me must follow me, so that my servant will be with me where I am. And my Father will honor anyone who serves me.” Spring can be a time to symbolize the resurrection – there is new life all around.

Although Easter bunnies and Easter eggs are of a non-Christian cultural origin, and we can certainly enjoy them, we should not focus on these things as the meaning of Easter. Let us remember to celebrate the true meaning of the day – the triumph over sin and death – the resurrection of Jesus – let's call it “Resurrection Day!”

In this season of new life, let us have a true relationship with Christ and a love for one another. He is risen indeed! Happy Resurrection Day! Ω

I love being your minister,

Rev. Dave

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Let us try to know the LORD. He will come to us as surely as the day dawns, as surely as the spring rains fall upon the earth. – Hosea 6:3

From the Board of Trustees

With the start of the 2016 Church Year, the Board of Trustees wishes to thank Steve White for his years of service to the Board. His dedication is much appreciated. Among many other things, Steve has been a motivating force behind the Bus Ministry for the church, not only as the driver, but as the person dealing with maintenance issues of the bus. Knowing he was going to be retiring from the Board and as driver of the bus, Steve encouraged Colby Powelson as Colby studied and practiced for the required CDL licensing.

Colby passed his exams, and we are very grateful that he has agreed to take over the bus driving duties. We also wish to thank Buffy Grandmaison for her offer to be a back-up driver if the need should arise.

We welcome Chris Ward to the Board of Trustees and know he will have much to contribute.

As always, if you have a concern or suggestion that should be brought to the attention of the Board, please contact any of the Trustees. This year's board is comprised of Gloria O'Connor Biron, Susan Bleckmann (Secretary), Dave Powelson (Chairman), Marilyn Thyng, and Chris Ward. Ω

Diaper Pantry News

The Diaper Pantry is pleased to announce that it has received a generous donation from the Sanderson Fund. We continue to help many young families in our community supplementing them with disposable diapers and wipes.

Your donations are needed and always welcomed. If you would like to make a monetary donation please make the check out to the FCC-Missions and make sure to note “For Diaper Pantry” in the memo. Thank you! Ω

This and that ...

- This year's “World Day of Prayer” service will be held Friday, March 4, 7 p.m. at the Congregational Church of North Barnstead. This year's focus is on Cuba. Everyone is invited.

- Gloria O'Connor-Biron has kindly agreed to head up the Easter Breakfast. Besides the various food items, she really needs servers and clean-up help. Please contact her with how you can help.

- 2016 Dorcas Project – The Dorcas Guild decided to support the VA in Manchester providing twin-size blankets and spreads, hats and mittens. Ω

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I now help Buffy by caring for Ali and Bryer so she can go to work. Living next door to each other is working out well.

As an infant, I was baptized in the Presbyterian Church in Lawrence, Mass. I grew up at the First Baptist Church of Arlington, where I was baptized as a teenager, and later on helped run the Youth Fellowship and was married there. My parents were deacons, sang in the choir – as did we all – and we were very active members. I moved to Pittsfield in 1974 and joined the Park Street Baptist Church, then moved away after the kids' high school graduation, returning in 1995, buying a home in Loudon. Over the years I attended church here frequently including Christmas Eve and Easter Sunrise services. After coming here often, I had an overwhelming feeling that I had to become a member – and I am so blessed that I did! Buffy and I have many old friends here and have made many new ones. I enjoy very much making my blueberry cake for our coffee hour.

I have crocheted most of my life and now even more, making items for family and friends. In between, I have taken up reading. I never cared for it as a child, but now it's almost a novel a week – mostly mysteries by James Patterson, Nora Roberts, Mary Clark and John Grisham – to name my favorites. But the best of them all is the series by Diana Gabaldon, "The Outlander." There are seven volumes with short stories in between, and I've read the series three times through. They are a continued story from one volume to the next.

I love cats and enjoyed many in my life, but lost them for many reasons, besides being curious. This past fall, I had to put down my most loved and wonderful cat of 18 years. I miss her so much but felt I really needed a cat in my life again. And in January, with Ali's help, I adopted two homeless cats from the SPCA. They are starting to warm up to me, and Ali plays with them and loves them.

I love plants and have many in my home. And I can't wait for spring so I can get back out in my garden. I spend as much time outside as I can in my yard and take day trips with my family to the mountains, lakes and beaches in our beautiful state, which my mother called, "God's Country."

Music has always been a big part of my life, singing in church, Rainbow Girls, weddings and in

a sextet in high school. I really enjoy the music in our church and would love to see more little ones participate in a youth choir.

I feel very much at home here where I love being a member and look forward to Sundays. Ω

Dorcas Guild Update

The February meeting began with a call to order and welcome by President Mary Jo Powelson. Nancy Fogg began with devotions reading "Some Keep the Sabbath by Going to Church," and "Hope Is the Thing with Feathers," both by Emily Dickinson, from *The Best Loved Poems of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis*. All joined in "The Lord's Prayer."

Correspondence was read. Both the secretary's report and treasurer's report were accepted. The food basket brought by Nancy Fogg, went to Gailann Newton; the mystery package brought by Linda Towle was won by Linda Stasiak.

We next discussed our missions, with explanations by Linda Stasiak, including: Heifer International, "Operation New Hope," Seafarer's Friend, Gideon's International, Holy Joe's Café, and missions supported by the NACCC. Motions were made and approved to donate to Heifer International for clean water programs and "Operation New Hope."

Our 2016 service project was discussed with updates on: the VA in Manchester, Liberty House, and the VA Home in Tilton. A motion was made and approved that we would select the VA in Manchester to provide twin-size blankets and spreads, hats and mittens.

We next discussed the replacement of the heavy wooden tables in the vestry and Pilgrim Room. A motion was made and approved that we would purchase eight plastic replacement tables.

It was reported that this year's "World Day of Prayer" would be held Friday, March 4, 7 p.m. at the Congregational Church of North Barnstead with the focus on Cuba.

Gloria O'Connor-Biron reported on the needs for the Easter Breakfast. Besides the various food items, she really needs servers and clean-up help. Easter is March 27.

Refreshments featuring banana splits were served. The next evening meeting will be March 9 at 6:30 p.m. with Elaine Coffey and Bev Murdough as hostesses. Please bring along a toiletry item for the Pittsfield Food Pantry. Ω

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am	2 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8:30pm	3 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	4 “World Day of Prayer” meeting North Barnstead Cong. Church 7 pm	5
6 Worship Service 10 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	7	8 Men’s Breakfast 8 am Parker’s Restaurant Dorcas Guild – Meeting 6:30 pm, vestry	9 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8:30pm	10 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	11	12 Turn clocks ahead tonight ... 
13 Daylight Savings Deacons meet 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	14	15 Infant & Toddler Diaper Pantry 9-11 am Trustees Meeting 6 pm	16 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8:30pm	17 St. Patrick’s Day Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry	18	19
20 Palm Sunday First day of spring Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 9:50 am Fellowship Hour 11 am	21	22	23 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8:30pm	24 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm <i>Holy Communion</i>	25 Good Friday 	26 Last day for <i>Pittsfield</i> <i>Pilgrim</i> news -- forward to Nella Hobson
27 Resurrection Day! Sunrise Service 7 am Breakfast 8 am Worship Service 10 am JuBellation plays	28	29	30 Dorcas Guild work group 10-2, vestry Bible Study 7-8:30pm	31 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm JuBellation Rehearsal 7:45 pm, vestry		