

CHURCH WINDOW NEWSLETTER



Serving God, Transforming Lives

November 2025

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE



Psalm 69:30-31a

³⁰ Then I will praise God's name with singing, and I will honor him with thanksgiving. ³¹ For this will please the Lord...

Thanksgiving

It would be safe to say that most people who celebrate Thanksgiving with a meal do so by filling up with so much food that they are full beyond comfort. "Ohhhh, I ate too much," is a common groan that I've heard over and over again on countless Thanksgiving afternoons. People usually say this as they sit on the couch and struggle between the uncomfortable feeling of being over full and the urge to take a cat nap as a result of the excessive quantities of tryptophan consumed in the form of turkey meat. The discomfort that we experience is a form of self-inflicted pain for sure, but it is also a pleasurable experience at the same time. We are so full of thanksgiving towards life itself that we want to embody that feeling by eating a very, very large and delicious meal. This excessive feast is usually (if possible) shared with the people that we love the most in this world. It's a time to remember that no matter what circumstances or challenges we are facing in our lives, there is always an overabundance to be thankful for.

Speaking of overabundance...I am feeling quite thankful for the busyness that we have been experiencing within our congregation as of late. It seems like there are so many things going on and I'm very thankful!! Church is all about togetherness and so we are filling ourselves up full of all the goodness that God has given us.

I was talking to someone in town the other day about how busy the church is and that I'm running all around "like a chicken with my head cut off" trying to be part of all that we are doing. I wish that there were two of me so that I could do everything and more! After the conversation, I thought about what a great problem that is. There is not enough time in the day to fit in all

2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign is coming to a close. If you have not returned your pledge form to the office, please do so by November 7th. If you already have, THANK YOU!

With your help, FCC is "Faithfully Building. Stepping Up Generously." within the community that surrounds us. You heard the messages from Members and Agencies over the past month of how impactful your generous donations are. We encourage you to put your faith in the Church to do God's work day in and day out with every penny you trust us with. Thank you again for your support of the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. God Bless.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us on Thursday, November 6th for an ENA Multicultural Potluck Dinner from 6 pm to 8 pm. All students and church family are invited!

Both Church family and students are asked to bring either a main dish, a dessert, or to simply attend and enjoy. See sign-up on volunteer board!



**New Member Orientation!
Sunday, November 16 following Worship in the Chapel**

*Thinking about membership at FCC?...
Want to know what we are all about?...*
Join us for conversation about joining our church!



that we are doing as a church...but I try! It's like I'm over-eating all that we are doing, and, at the end of the day, I sit on the couch and groan about how full I am (or tired I am) because of how much good stuff that I have been blessed to be involved with as the pastor of this Church. I am truly thankful for the busyness and liveliness of our downtown congregation. As a result of this, I will no doubt want to eat even more turkey and fixin's this Thanksgiving Day to express my elevated gratitude. And, of course, this will require an even longer nap afterwards.

Thankful with you all,
Pastor Chris

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Children who are in kindergarten through middle school are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings for a fun time with games, activities and discussions about the bible and how we can use the lessons we learn in our everyday lives. This year's theme is Friendship; how to be a good friend, how to deal with adversity, forgiveness and courage. Of course we'll also have our advent/Christmas celebrations and Easter series! If you're interested in helping to teach, we are looking for volunteers! Please reach out to Kelda York for more information!



Keldamyork@gmail.com

Sunday Friends Volunteers Wanted

Sunday Friends has begun for 2025 - 2026! We're so excited to meet another year, with this year's theme being Friendship! Jesus is our Friend and we can be a friend like Jesus! We have kids of all ages this year so we are looking for volunteers to help teach lessons to either the younger or older kids! Contact Kelda York if you are interested! Thank you! keldamyork@gmail.com

November and December dates are 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21.



Visiting Fran Hastings last Thursday with Susan Wilkes and her beautiful, relaxing music.

Know anyone who would like a home visit for this delightful outreach? Please contact Peggy Neveu, FCC Parish Care Coordinator

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

We continue to work with our Interim Music Director, Dan Moriarty until the end of Dec. 2025, and will also integrate other musicians into worship in coming months. We are grateful for the congregation's support of the music programs both at the keyboards and with the choir.

Music Search Committee: Susan Wilkes, Chair, Terri and Allen Pattee, Karen Hawver, Bridget Thornton-Smith.

Choir News: Our FCC Choir has started ongoing rehearsals again on Wednesdays at 7 PM. If you are a returning member or interested in joining the fun, please plan to be with us. All are welcome.

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

- **Deacons**—Sunday, November 2 at 11:15 am
 - **Senior Fellowship Board**—Monday, November 3 at 9:30 am
 - **Membership**—Tuesday, November 4 at 6:30 pm
 - **Council**—Tuesday, November 11 at 6:00 pm
 - **Stewardship**—Sunday, November 16 at 4:00 pm
 - **Church Trustees**—Mon., Nov. 17 at 6:30 pm
- ⇒ Outreach Committee and Open & Affirming Committee Meetings in November TBA

NOVEMBER SERVICES

Sunday, November 2 10:00 AM

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost/All Saints Day
Chapel Communion Service

Sunday, November 9 10:00 AM

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday Friends

Sunday, November 16 10:00 AM

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday Friends
New Member Orientation Event following Worship

Sunday, November 23 10:00 AM

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Thanksgiving
Sunday
Sunday Friends

Sunday, November 30 10:00 AM

First Sunday of Advent
Sacrament of Communion
Sunday Friends

Bell Choir News: Bell Choir rehearsals are Tuesday evenings from 6 pm until 7:15. We have seven ringers for this session. If you are still interested in ringing bells through Christmas, we could take 3 more or take a few on our substitute list. Please see Terri Pattee with any inquiries. Happy ringing!!!

Schedule of Musicians:

November 2	Sarah Evans
November 9	Dan Moriarty
November 16	Dan Moriarty
November 23	Dan Moriarty
November 30	Dan Moriarty



AGAIN, THE HOLLY BERRY FAIR WAS A MAJOR SUCCESS!

THANKS to ALL of YOU!!!

We want to express our grateful "THANKS" to all the Table Chairs, the workers, the helpers, and the clean-up crew for a fantastic day of memories for all from the FCC family. What a successful and wonderful outreach to our surrounding community!



The weather was perfect this year with the steadiest crowds we have ever seen. As in the last years the feedback from attendees was very upbeat and wonderful. As of this writing our total proceeds stand at more than \$7000 - quite a number in more ways than one!

Over the next couple of weeks more revenue will be received.

Successful this year was coffee and muffins sponsored by our Girl Scout Troop 60417 for early shoppers. They baked the muffins and manned the booth very professionally. We were thrilled to have Rev. and Mrs. Jang of our Korean congregation donate kimchee and a traditional noodle dish for our lunch counter. Great additions!!! The Girl Scouts were a tremendous help. They helped in various ways. The Girl Scouts from FCC's troop were excited to help clean tables and take lunch orders for workers! All want to come back next year.

Evan and Trevor Poisson (Leo and Pam's grandsons) represented the Boy Scouts with much



appreciated help at the Lunch Counter and the Muffin Cart.

The Greeters took a survey of how people heard about the Holly Berry Fair so we can concentrate the publicity next year where it mat-

ters the most. As in all the previous years, by far the largest run-away category was "word of mouth" which is all of you inviting your friends and neighbors and giving out the postcards. We had printed about 600 this year and have less than 20 left! Thanks to all of you and the businesses that kept them on their counters.

From the new friends we have made on Thursdays (many

are from other churches and the surrounding communities) to the enthusiasm during the Fair, we are so grateful for the success of our adventure for our church family and our community!

THANK YOU - Pam and Peggy

... **PS - Save this date —**
October 17th, 2026!



VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Serve Dinner at the FIT Adult Emergency Shelter at 199 Manchester Street from 4:30 pm to 6 pm.

November dates:

- Wednesday, November 19
- Friday, November 28

Put your name on the sign-up sheet on the volunteer sign-up board.



If an afternoon time suits your schedule better... Volunteers are needed once per month at the FIT Food Pantry!

- Tuesday, Nov. 25 from 1—3pm.

We sort donations and stock shelves and help wherever needed—just 2 hours of your time to help the food insecure in Manchester. *Please see the sign-up sheet on the volunteer bulletin board.*



Provide and Serve Dinner to the families in the Resilience Reigns Program at the UpReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Goffstown:

- **Save the date:** Wednesday, December 3 at 6:15 pm

ENA Morning Conversation Café

- Weds., Nov. 12 from 10:45 am — Noon

ENA Evening Conversation Café

- Mon., Nov. 17 from 6:30 pm—7:30 pm

Help ENA students use their new language skills! Play games and have fun conversations. There is a sign-up sheet on the volunteer notice board in the hallway.



JOIN US to help out with your FCC friends by signing up on the volunteer bulletin boards or call Lauren in the office Mon-Friday or contact Liz Verity, Volunteer Coordinator, at liz-v@comcast.net, call or text to 603-494-6785.

Help serve lunch at the 1269 Café from 11 to 1 pm every Wednesday!

Located at 456 Union Street—just a short walk away from FCC. Sign up on the volunteer bulletin board!



FIT Family Shelter

Sign up to join us for FUN NIGHT:

- **November date to be announced!** Music and crafts with the kids while the parents cook dinner.



MULTICULTURAL POTLUCK DINNER!

Thursday, November 6th from 6 pm - 8 pm

Our connections with the English for New Americans program have continued over the many years they have been housed in our building. We have participated in Thanksgiving dinners and multicultural potlucks, and for more than 10 years, the "Morning and Evening Conversations", where members of our Church Family help students practice their new language skills. During the summer months this year we collaborated 4 nights a week for 6-weeks an "Evening Drop in Conversations" to give graduated students the chance to keep practicing their language skills, which wouldn't have been possible without the help of our Church Family. **Thank you to all those who volunteered—you made a difference!**

Mark your calendar for November 6th as you are invited to take part in a Multicultural potluck dinner for students and church family! Both Church family and students are asked to bring either a main dish, a dessert, or to simply attend and enjoy. This will be an opportunity for you to sample some favorite foods from other countries as well as American favorites and we hope to have a variety of dishes representing family favorites from all of our countries of origin.

The evening will conclude with a game of BINGO and a musical sing along led by the students and church family....We encourage you to sign up to attend on the volunteer boards in the hallway. *Bringing food is not required to attend.*

Look on sign up sheet to register for this exciting event, or call Lauren in the office (603-625-5093) or Liz Verity (liz-v@comcast.net) or 603-494 6785 to add your names to the list or find out how you can be a part of this favorite event.



OPEN & AFFIRMING COMMITTEE

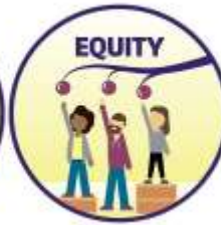
November 17 marks the date our congregation voted to affirm our Open and Affirming Covenant. We continue to look to these promises and commit to the words that "... each individual is a child of God." During this church season when we welcome new members and celebrate all friends and members of FCC, we encourage you to take some time to read or reread the covenant and reflect upon it.

- What words and phrases stand out and are meaningful to you?
- What does it mean that our congregation is Open and Affirming?
- Moving forward, how can we express that in our actions here at FCC and in the wider community?

After eight years, our committee believes it's a good time to seek out new ideas, consider the perspectives of others, and reimagine ways to be the *Beloved Community* in action. Look for news and details of an upcoming

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Manchester



ONA Focus Group gathering in early 2026. We will look to you to express your hopes, thoughts, and suggestions - to help our congregation evolve and grow in love and compassion for all.

Blessings,

The Open and Affirming Committee

Jeanine Finefrock, Jeffrey Frye, Karen Hawver, and Carol Soucy, Chair

WOMEN'S CONNECTION NEWS



Women's Connection is going to the Fez'tival of Trees at the Bektash Shriners in Concord!

The best day to go will be **Monday, November 24th**. The hours of operation on that date are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and the entrance fee is \$5.00 per person. We will meet in the driveway at church for 9:15 am in order to car pool and leave church by 9:30 am.

There will be a sign up sheet on the church office window.

If you can be a driver please note that on the sign-up sheet.

More information to know about the event: At the entrance tickets are on sale to take chances on the trees (similar to a penny sale) and the cost is \$5.00 for 25 tickets.

They also have a couple of separate raffles in the hall, one for a Lottery Tree (tree with all scratch



tickets) and a 50/50 drawing. So bring your dollars and try your luck for a good cause! When everyone has tried their luck, we will be going out for lunch. Last year the group enjoyed going to nearby T- Bones Restaurant in Concord. This event was fun last year and something different to possibly make an annual event on our calendar! Hope to see lots of names on the sign-up.

Here is what Women's Connection has scheduled November 2025 thru May 2026:

- **November** - Monday, November 24—Fez'tival of Trees in Concord
- **December 6** - College Cookie mailing/Swap. Maybe a Yankee Swap
- **January** - Zoom Bingo or possibly going to the Rex or Palace
- **February 14** - Annual Valentine's Day Breakfast - looking for ideas for the program
- **March 14** - Saturday - Breakfast at Longmeadow Congregational Church. Maybe Zoom Bingo...
- **March and April** - volunteering at Missy's Closet. Free Prom Dresses and Suits for Teens
- **April 11** - Saturday - Breakfast at Longmeadow Congregational Church
- **May 30** - Mystery Ride

If any one has any ideas for any of the months please let Pam LeBlanc or Denise Beaurivage know!

THIS MONTH AT FCC

Activities, dates and times are subject to change. Please refer to the printed calendars posted on the wall by the Pastor's office or go to www.fccmanchesternh.org

Saturday, November 1

No Church Activities Scheduled

Sunday, November 2

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 Chapel Communion Service

11:15 AM Deacons' Meeting

Monday, November 3

9:30 AM Senior Fellowship Board Meeting

5:30 PM *Special Olympics Young Athletes*

Tuesday, November 4

10:00 AM Staff Meeting

6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 5

11:00 AM 1269 Café Lunch Service Volunteer Opportunity

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

8:30 PM "Bedtime Chat Prayers" with Peter Perich on Facebook

Thursday, November 6

6:00 PM Multicultural Potluck Dinner with ENA & FCC

Friday, November 7

No Church Activities Scheduled

Saturday, November 8

No Church Activities Scheduled

Sunday, November 9

10:00 AM Worship Service & Sunday Friends

Monday, November 10

5:30 PM *Special Olympics Young Athletes*

Tuesday, November 11

Church Office Closed for Veteran's Day Holiday

4:30 PM *FIT Kitchen Volunteer Evening*

6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:00 PM Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 12

11:00 AM 1269 Café Lunch Service Volunteer Opportunity

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

8:30 PM "Bedtime Chat Prayers" with Peter Perich on Facebook

Thursday, November 13

No Church Activities Scheduled

Friday, November 14

No Church Activities Scheduled

Saturday, November 15

No Church Activities Scheduled

Sunday, November 16

10:00 AM Worship Service & Sunday Friends

11:15 AM New Member Orientation

4:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

Monday, November 17

5:30 PM *Special Olympics Young Athletes*

6:30 PM Church Trustees' Meeting

Tuesday, November 18

6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 19

11:00 AM 1269 Café Lunch Service Volunteer Opportunity

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

8:30 PM "Bedtime Chat Prayers" with Peter Perich on Facebook

Thursday, November 20

No Church Activities Scheduled

Friday, November 21

No Church Activities Scheduled

Saturday, November 22

No Church Activities Scheduled

Sunday, November 23

10:00 AM Worship Service & Sunday Friends

Monday, November 24

9:15 AM *Women's Connection Outing to Fez-tival of Trees in Concord NH*

5:30 PM *Special Olympics Young Athletes*

Tuesday, November 25

9:00 AM Christmas Tree Installation in Sanctuary

1:00 PM *FIT Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunity*

6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 26

11:00 AM 1269 Café Lunch Service Volunteer Opportunity

4:30 PM *FIT Kitchen Volunteer Evening*

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

8:30 PM "Bedtime Chat Prayers" with Peter Perich on Facebook

Thursday, November 27

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, November 28

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Saturday, November 29

No Church Activities Scheduled

Sunday, November 30—First Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM Worship Service, Sacrament of Communion & Sunday Friends

The Church Office will be closed on the following November Holidays:

· **Veteran's Day** ·

Tuesday, November 11th

· **Thanksgiving Holiday** ·

Thursday, November 27th & Friday, November 28th

The Deadline for the December Church Newsletter is Friday, November 14!

Please submit your articles & pictures to Lauren Henderson at LHenderson@FCCManchesterNH.org



2025 Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

We invite you to order Poinsettias as a memorial or in honor of someone special. The flowers will be displayed for Christmas Eve Worship Services and may be taken home with you following the 7PM service. The plants cost \$20.00 each, in your choice of red or white.

Please return this form with payment to the church office no later than Sunday, December 7th



In Memory Of: _____ OR/AND _____

In Honor Of: _____

Donor: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Preferred Color: _____ RED _____ WHITE

- ⇒ Payment of \$20.00 per plant must accompany this order **by Sunday, December 7th!**
- ⇒ Plants may be picked up **after** the 7 PM Christmas Eve service.

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, December 9th! Senior Citizen's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

***Please watch for your
invitation in the mail in early
November.***

Held at the Grand at Bedford Village Inn in the Charolais Function Room located at 2 Olde Bedford Way in Bedford, NH (see photo above)
Social Time begins at 11:00 AM
Lunch is served at Noon

Entertainment will be our own Bridget Thornton-Smith providing a Christmas Sing-a-long!

Please contact Lauren Henderson in the Church Office to make your reservation; e-mail her at LHenderson@FCCManchesterNH.org or call her at 603-625-5093. **Please note that reservations will NOT be accepted after Sunday, November 23, 2025.**

The Charolais Room is located at The Grand (the grey buildings) which is behind and to the right of the original yellow BVI buildings.



The H.O.M.E. Team and Parish Care are asking the congregation to collect coffee and laundry detergent for the FIT pantry.

There is an immediate need for those two items. **We will collect until Sunday, November 16th.** Thank you in advance for your help!

**Items
Needed!**

**Ecumenical
Thanksgiving
Worship
Service**
Monday,
November 24

***Time and location to be announced...
please check upcoming editions of
the Sunday News or call the church
office at 603-625-5093 for information.***





The November Church Window

Our monthly newsletter

First Congregational Church

508 Union Street
Manchester, NH 03104-4890
(603) 625-5093
www.fccmanchesternh.org

Rev. Christopher Stevens
Senior Pastor

Daniel Moriarty
Interim Music Ministry Director

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

*In-person with livestream option available
from our homepage:*

www.FCCManchesterNH.org

Church Office Hours

Monday through
Friday from 9AM to
3PM

Please call the
church office
ahead of your visit
to be sure we are
here to welcome
you!

(603) 625-5093

Please note that
we are closed all
major holidays.

Join Peter Perich on
Wednesday
evenings at 8:30 pm for
“Bedtime Chat Prayers”



A short time of prayer and reflection held on our Facebook page:
www.Facebook.com/FCCManchester.

Follow along with Peter using the publication, “The Upper Room”, copies available on the hallway table outside the sanctuary.
You do not need the publication to join though—just tune in with on Wednesdays at 8:30 pm.

PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Your monetary gift has a big impact on our ministries and those we serve.

1. Place smart phone camera over the QR code and click the link that appears.
2. Scroll the giving categories and make your offering.

Scan this QR code to learn more...
Place your phone camera over the code and click.



**Daylight Saving Time
Ends on Sunday,
November 2nd**



Set your clocks back an hour
when you go to bed on
Saturday night!



www.facebook.com/FCCManchester

Stay current by visiting FCC online at www.fccmanchesternh.org