



Wild Life at First Church!

There were moments of nature's surprises, God's creative beauty and the joy of being together in May that make us smile! Whether it be turkeys feasting on newly sprouting grass by the FLC, the glories of rhododendrens along Georgetown Road, or moms enjoying fellowship with each other as they gather with their kiddies at Christina Clark's CFCE play group, First Church is truly blessed by the "wild" life!

The Month of May

Pastor Andrew reached a milestone on Saturday, May 2 as he celebrated his 35th birthday. The next day we sang Happy Birthday in our service. We are so appreciative of Andrew's enthusiasm and witness. It has been a year of "firsts" for Andrew as he officiated his first memorial service, that Sunday for one of our past members, Don Behrens. The church was nearly filled as we honored Don's life, followed by a marvelous reception after the service, hosted by Don's family and provided for by our Body Life team. The Behrens were so thankful for such a gracious service and reception.

At the recent **NECCF** annual meeting at Hamilton Congregational Church, some of us ran into old friends including the Nutter's, Whitman's and Susan Moody. Susan will be ordained June 20th in Chester, Vermont, where she has been serving. If you would like to attend, please let me know and I can pass on the details. Also the **CCCC** are meeting in Rochester, NY this July 20-23 and invite everyone to their 67th annual gathering. For more information...[CCCC](#).



National Day of Prayer

At First Church, the National Day of Prayer was seen as an opportunity for an all congregation prayer meeting as we joined in a circle and were led in prayer by Pastor Andrew in the FLC, May 7. We were blessed by that time of prayer...thank you David Allen for your leadership.



Mother's Day

Mothers and all women of the church were honored on Mothers' Day and beautiful bookmarks were given as keepsakes to all. Pastor Andrew delivered a message from Ruth, appropriate for the day. We rejoiced with Mike and Norma Haddad as they dedicated to the Lord Isabelle Catherine Haddad, recently born to Mike and Norma. Isabelle's grandparents were here for the service making it a very special family time.

Lu Gould Memorial

After our service, a week later, we honored Lu Gould with a ceremony in the Coggin Room, to commemorate a large monitor in her memory. This monitor will help us all keep abreast of outreach activities, something near and dear to Lu's heart. This was so clearly demonstrated with a video report from the Ohlin's in Senegal. What a great reminder to us of Lu's years of dedication at First Church. She was a blessing to all who knew her, as related by various vignettes from Doffy Falk, who assisted Elder Paul Sidmore on the occasion.



Service Day

Later in the day, the FCCB youth group and some of their parents joined in yard work and gardening for Elisabeth Elliot and her husband Lars Gren who reside by the ocean in Gloucester/Magnolia. It was a beautiful day to be outside fellowshiping, and the group was blessed to hear Lars tell the story of Elisabeth as a missionary in Ecuador as well as the story of how he and she met! Elisabeth has impacted so many with her years as a missionary then discipler/teacher, what a great opportunity to give back just a bit.



Elder Retreat

The elders' retreat in Maine proved to be a blessed gathering as many concerns were addressed as well as time spent on the vision for our body and seasons of prayer. We prayed for every church member and regular attendee. We as FCCB leadership desire to be transparent and very open to communication and keeping you all up to date, so we hope to see you Friday at the Informational Meeting at 7:00 pm in the FLC. We value your input, and your support as we look ahead.

The Choir

The choir held their "Breakup Party" last week, as they begin a summer break. I have been so blessed by their beautiful anthems sung for us in Sunday worship. "How Great Thou Art" sounded like 80 singers were present. Admit it, I know you were humming along a little...the temptation to burst into song at the chorus was strong! We are blessed with James' leadership, and the new members that have come on board. We look forward to more great music before the year is over, but hope the choir members get some rest for the summer.



We kicked off of a **young adults ministry** led by Mike and Norma Haddad with a night of fellowship. If you have friends or family members who are in the 20-30's age range and may be interested, let Mike know. We'll keep you up to date with more activities from this group soon.



Memorial Weekend

included our tradition of saluting veterans, and sharing joint worship with Second Congregational Church, where Pastor Andrew delivered the message. After the service, there was a ceremony in memory of those who served their country and are no longer with us. At the outdoor reception following the ceremony, Luke James was only one of many tantalized by Mama Meyer's brownies topped off with multi colored jimmies and Benson's ice cream.

Before we check out of May and into June

Men's ministry will host George Duncan for breakfast on Saturday morning at 8 am in the FLC. See you there, men!

At the same time, **women will breakfast in the Coggin Room** with a special interview with Sathya Kuchipudi. Need babysitting? Contact [Mike Haddad](#). Also, if you would [RSVP](#) and let the women's leadership know you are planning on attending so there are enough chairs and breakfast for everyone!

We will close out May with an **Open House**, at the parsonage after morning service this Sunday, May 31. Andrew and Becky would love to have you as their guest.

And then into June...

June 3 marks our last Family Night Dinner for the summer. Make sure you thank Bill and Elisabeth Meyer for their service this past year, as through physical struggles and kitchen water damage woes, they persevered along with their dedicated team. And speaking of thanks, we appreciate Don Wood's efforts to keep our facility secure, as he remedied a recalcitrant lock by the Georgetown Road exit at First Church.



On June 7 is **Children's Sunday** here at First Church with a cookout to follow. It would be a great help if you can provide a salad. If you can, [please let me know](#). Mike Haddad will deliver the message. He's done a beautiful job with his very popular "Children's Sermons" each week so we look forward to hearing from Mike.

First Church will host our annual community **Red Cross Blood Drive** in the FLC on **June 25 from 2 to 7 pm**. We encourage you to give blood in this crucial summer time when inventory are depleted. Grab a friend and/or neighbor and have them join you for this opportunity. If you have questions, contact Paul Sidmore, or me.



Vacation Bible School is on for **July 27 to 31!**

Got friends or relatives with children in the 4 to 12 age range? Have them sign up at our online [registration page](#). By the way, our VBS leadership - Christina Clark, and Kerrie Langlois would love some more help during the 9-12 time frame that week. Let them know you are willing to assist. And don't forget to pray for the work of

the Holy Spirit that week!

And while we are talking about remembering, it is easy to forget your **pledges and gifts** to First Church during the summer when you are away for vacation, etc. Please keep your gifts coming on a regular basis so our needs are met. Thank You!

Keep praying...

Reid Smith has returned to the hospital for additional treatment.

Deb McGill continues to need prayer as she battles illness.

Sonja Norwood was hospitalized recently but was sent home as her pain subsided (your prayers were so appreciated). Be in prayer for the Norwoods as they continue to minister to their daughter.

For Nepal and its people as they still suffer from the devastating earthquakes.

For our youth as they serve and attend summer programs and missions.

Typically, we take a summer break for **News From the Pews**. But the good times of fun and fellowship at First Church keep "rolling on" during the summer. Look for your next NFP edition in August, as we gear up for fall.

May you and your families enjoy a safe summer, with many blessings from Our Lord!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rick'.

Rick

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. II Cor. 13:14

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