

VOLUME LXXXVII, No. 23

November 8, 2022

# The Church Herald Newsletter

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10:30a-4:30a

## Stewardship Month

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am Traditional Service

11:00 am Contemporary Service

**Sunday, November 13, 2022**

**Anniversary & Veterans Sunday**

**Rev. John T. Dale**

**Sermon:** *Empty Religion*

**Scripture:** Romans 2:17-29

The flowers will be given in honor of those who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces  
by Linda C. Hamlin.

**Sunday, November 20, 2022**

**Rev. John T. Dale**

**Sermon:** *Thankful in Difficult Times*

**Scripture:** Thes.5:16-18



**The Diaconate will be conducting the MEMBERSHIP CENSUS during the month of November. Your Shepherd will be contacting you.**



Rev. John T. Dale

One Church Street

Wakefield, MA 01880

781-245-1644 / [office@fpccwakefield.org](mailto:office@fpccwakefield.org)

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

[www.cccusa.com](http://www.cccusa.com)



### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, October 30 9:30a - 43

11:00a - 55

Sunday, November 6 9:30a - 53

11:00a - 66



*Do you need a ride to church?*

*Please call the office.*

OUR MISSION IS TO REFLECT THE LOVE OF GOD BY WELCOMING ALL PEOPLE INTO A LIFE-CHANGING, EVER GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

# The power of prayer...

*Thank You, Lord, Your mercies are new ever morning.  
We are so very grateful for the ways in which You care for and comfort us.  
In Jesus Name. Amen.*

We are so grateful for the life of  
Gadar Abkarian

He arrived safely home with the Lord ~ November 2, 2022  
A service to celebrate his life will be held on Saturday, November 12 at 11a.  
A time of sharing and fellowship will follow in the vestry.

## Our Prayer Needs

Please pray for Pam Abkarian who grieves the loss of her husband, Gadar.  
Nancy Adams, Frank Adams, Bob Blaser, Charles Chapman, Douglas Cook,  
Ed Courier, Teddie Fitzpatrick, Trefina Fox, Gina Gebhard,  
Lenny Hart, Erin Hefferman, Janet Manning, Abettina Morano,  
Pat Serrentino, (hospitalized), Lisa Surles, Stephen Taylor, Samuel,  
Richard and Pat Weisenbach  
and for all those healing and recovering from illnesses  
and for our missionaries around the globe.

## Monthly Congregational Prayer

November 6 at 10:30a

in the Fireside Room. Please join us.

contact Winnie Carpenter at [winniecarpenter@gmail.com](mailto:winniecarpenter@gmail.com)

Please pray for our Associate Pastor Search team as they continue their work as they seek to honor the Lord as they search for the one you have already selected. Guide them Lord. Committee members include: Doug Jackson, Julie Bohn, Kellie Roden, Angelin and Wayne Cocorochio, Donna Nicolai, Pastor John Dale. Tom Martin serving as alternate if needed. Please keep this team in prayer.



Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receiver for around an hour to listen, care, encourage, pray and provide emotional and spiritual support for the person. Caring relationships last for as long as the person's needs persist.

Stephen Leaders: Pam and Ken Hodgson

Stephen Ministers: Bob Blaser, Barbara Flynn, David and Susan Frey,

Judy Gordon, Abettina Morano and Donna Woodland.

---

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,  
plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope..

Jeremiah 29:11



## *The Pastor's Pen* Thanksgiving

*O Lord, I am your servant; I am servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!” Psalm 116:16-19*

Now that the election is over, our minds will shift back to the routine of fall, especially planning our Thanksgiving and Christmas traditions. A time to gather as a church family as we celebrate these significant events, time with our families and a time to remember the past year.

This is my favorite time of year. The heat of summer is gone, the morning air is crisp, but especially Thanksgiving and Christmas!

In Psalm 116, the author remembers all that God has done for him and he desires to do all he can to thank God, offering a sacrifice of thanksgiving, paying back the vows he has made, and simply praising God.

Although we have all experienced significant bumps this past year, I still find myself so grateful. God loves me and has provided salvation, my wife, my children, my mother in-law Mindy, who lives with us, our home, my church, there's just so much to be grateful for.

In 1 Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul writes: “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thes.5:18) Did you ever imagine that it is the will of God for us to be thankful?

Perhaps as you prepare for your Thanksgiving, you can begin by making a list of all the things you are thankful for? As you plan and prepare, you will note the turkey and fixings will cost more, but the time spent with your family, the time spent in thanking God will still make it well worth it.

Pastor John



November 1, 2022

## **STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2023**

*We do not know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future.*

Dear First Parish Family and Friends,

It is a great privilege to connect with you about the life of First Parish as we reflect on our blessings and works of the church in 2022. We have kept our focus always on the Lord working through various hardships but remaining strong in the spiritual welfare of our membership and in the community. First Parish expresses gratitude as we are blessed by the support and contributions from all of you. There are many parts of the Church and it takes each one of us to provide our spiritual and financial gifts to keep us going. God has put you here at this time and for His purpose. Our hope is you know Him personally.

As we move into 2023, we are seeking God to guide us into the future bringing growth through new members and increasing staff to support young families and children. We are encouraged by the participation of First Parish family and friends during the ongoing Vision meetings and hope that our prayers for the future will be answered. Growth is coming in our church both in the building and in our hearts. Sharing the gospel, heat, and light, caring for and maintaining what God has given to us as we ask Him for what we need. May we be good stewards of His gifts as we seek to do His will. Considering anticipated expenses and asking for enough to plan for the future creates a target of \$600,000 as our goal. This may seem out of reach for some, but it is not. When you allow God to work in and through you and you seek Him in all things, ALL things become possible with God.

This year reminds us that financial support, in the form of a pledge to the Operating Budget of First Parish, is vital to carry out the church's work. As we gather for worship inside our building, we continue to be the body of Christ through our ministries, our witness, and our care for one another. We cannot know what lies ahead of us, but we remain confident in the assurance of God's abiding and steadfast love. Because of your generous and faithful gifts, our church can keep doing what love requires of us by nurturing life-giving, joyful ministries both inside our church walls along with our community and beyond.

Our hope is that we become a tithing church and continue to move in this direction. Tithing is a biblical principle that means giving one tenth of what the Lord has given to us. The process is to give it first, off the top, and then live off the nine tenths left. A practice of tithing teaches you how you can depend on the Lord and in return you will receive blessings from trusting in the Lord. Some members tithe, committing ten percent of their income to the work and missions of our church. Others give proportionally by committing a certain percentage. Still, others give as they are able. As you consider your support in the form of a financial pledge and/or working towards tithing, consider increasing your weekly offering by \$5, tithe on each Communion Sunday or raise your annual giving by 1%. He blesses you as you see His hand moving in your finances. Your trust in Him increases. Turn your attention to the Giver of all good things, and rest in the knowledge that you are complete in Him. The one thing you absolutely need is the one thing you can never lose: Jesus' presence with you.

Included with this letter is a pledge card for 2023. Please join others in our congregation by making a financial pledge by Thanksgiving, November 24, 2022. May you prayerfully seek to respond to the Lord's calling upon your heart and commit yourself to trusting Jesus, completely. You can provide your giving to the Church by placing in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, emailing the Collector directly at collector@fpccwakefield.org with your pledge 2023 commitment or through our online giving platform by simply using the QR code below.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further making a financial pledge to First Parish, please don't hesitate to contact us.

May Blessings Abound,

Mark Hatheway, Ryan Peiffer and Ruth Ross  
For Stewardship



Scan to GIVE

**Prayerfully use the enclosed card to return your 2023 pledge commitment.**

**Also, please note on this card if you wish to receive a box of envelopes.**

**You may mail your commitment or place in the offering plate on Sunday morning.**

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,  
who does not change like shifting shadows.*

James 1:17

No. ....

**THE FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
Wakefield, Massachusetts

In grateful recognition that all my time, treasure, and ability come from God, I gladly join with others in the support of Christ's church.

Total Gift \$ ..... Cash Paid with pledge \$ .....

The full amount or balance of pledge will be paid as follows starting January 1, 20 ...

<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Weekly payments of	\$ ..... each	Envelopes will be supplied.
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 monthly payments of	\$ ..... each	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 quarterly payments of	\$ ..... each	Statements will be mailed to you.
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 semi-annual payments of	\$ ..... each	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 annual payment of	\$ ..... each	

for local ministries, including worship, education, pastoral service, church care and upkeep, and the world outreach of the church.

Mr. Mrs. Miss .....

Date ..... Street Address .....

**VETERANS DAY – November 13, 2022**

**On Veterans Day we remember and thank God for the men and women of our congregation  
that served our country in various branches of the armed forces.**

**We honor all that served, their memory, and their families.**

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Joseph Andrews, U.S. Army**

**John W. Applin, U.S. Navy**

**William Berger, U.S. Air Force, World War II**

**Joseph A. Bernabeo, U.S. Army**

**Frederick A. Beyer, Jr., U.S. Army**

**Richard Clayton Cheever, U.S. Navy**

**E. Ashley Davidson**

**James Donovan, III, U.S. Army**

**Herold Doherty, Korean War, U.S. Navy**

**Stephen Gates, U.S. Air Force**

**Francis George, U.S. Coast Guard**

**LCDR Marion Tucker Hamlin, RN, U.S. Navy, World War II**

**Norman Paul Hamlin, U.S. Air Force**

**Willard C. Iversen, World War II**

**Frederick Howland, U.S. Navy, World War II**

**Leonard Jesse, World War II**

**Leith Leard, U.S. Navy**

**Donald Marchant, World War II**

**Joseph Martin, U.S. Army**

**Ronald P. Martin, U.S. Navy**

**Richard E. Merrill, Army Air Corps**

**Donald F. Millheim, U.S. Army**

**Donald Peabody, U.S. Army**

**Monte Peterson, U.S. Army**

**Richard B. Pratt, U.S. Air Force**

**Robert N. Reid, U.S. Marine Corps, World War II**

**Charles A. Renner, Merchant Marine**

**Edward F. Schmidgall, World War II, Korean War**

**William R. Spaulding, U.S. Army**

**Frank Spencer, U.S. Army, highly decorated**

**Harry W. Spracklin, U.S. Army**

**Morris F. Stoddard, Jr., U.S. Army**

**Warren M. Reeves, Korean War**

**Richard E. Sullivan, U.S. Navy**

**Thomas R. Taatjes, U.S. Army**

**Winston H. “Bud” Thomas, U.S. Navy**

**Wallace I. Van Cor, U.S. Army**

**Arthur Wessels, U.S. Army**

**Henry F. Whipling, U.S. Army**

**David Whitehead, U.S. Coast Guard**

**Robert Wilcox, U.S. Marine Corps**

**Charles D. Willis, U.S. Army**

**E.B. Willis, U.S. Army**

---

**U.S. Air Force**

**Becky Fosnock**

**Dr. David Frey, Vietnam**

**Peter Rearick**

**Allan R. Wilkins**

**U.S. Army**

**Richard Bardet**

**Stephen Brennan**

**John T. Dale**

**Joseph D’Agostino**

**Thomas P. Gordon**

**Mark Hatheway, Desert Storm**

**Chaplain (LTC) Robert Leroe, Desert Storm**

**John McKeown**

**Dexter Wheeler**

**Kenneth J. Wood**

**U.S. Marine Corps**

**James Fosnock**

**Alexander Hurren**

**Ismael Laboy III**

**U.S. Coast Guard**

**U.S. Navy**

**Nicholas Mercurio**

**Robert O’Donnell**

**Gregg S. Whitney, World War II**

# A MISSION MOMENT from Outreach

Meet Craig and Layni Soderberg

Craig and Layni Soderberg are Bible translators who have been working in a predominately Muslim nation in Southeast Asia for many years. They are missionaries with Pioneer Bible Translators. They have translated Bible stories into the IBWE language and trained their colleagues to use these stories to establish fellowships of believers among the people.

They are now part of a team translating the Bible, one book at a time, into the IBWE language. This takes an amazing effort using native translators, doing multiple drafts, and having every book checked by a certified Bible translation consultant along the way. They are very grateful for their native speakers.

Recently they partnered with another mission agency to sponsor a training seminar for about 60 local people. The training was in evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. Their goal is to find two local families that they can bring onto their team to work with them using the IBWE scriptures.

They ask for prayer for wisdom as they test the book of Mark and the draft of Esther. In 2021 they created a Daily Prayer Partners program with the goal of having 1000 partners. Each day the partners receive a prayer request for the missionaries and for the people to come to know the Lord through their efforts. There are presently 350 partners.  
(Pray4TheBanjar.com)

Craig grew up in Lynnfield and Layni is from Malaysia. They have two sons, Josiah, born in 2013 and Samuel born on December 31, 2019. Update: Craig and Layni and the boys are presently in Idaho where they will reside until they receive US Citizenship for Samuel. They did this to get the citizenship for Josiah a few years ago. Apparently, Idaho has the shortest wait time to get a citizenship. While there they are working remotely with the blessings of their supervisors. We look forward to seeing them next spring before they return to Indonesia.



### **Tuesdays at 6:30p**

**Women's Wakefield Bible Study** meets from 9:30 to 11 studying the book of Philippians.  
Contact Judi Manola at [jbmanola@gmail.com](mailto:jbmanola@gmail.com)

### **Wednesdays at 6p ALPHA**

**#tryalpha** <https://alphausa.org/try>

### **Thursdays** (meets weekly)

**At 9:15a Women's Bible study** in the Fireside Room. New Study: Spiritual Warfare  
Contact: Angela Faylor

### **Spiritual Gifts study** at 7p.

Contact: Pastor John or church office

### **Youth & Young Adults**

For information on upcoming events for young adults and youth groups, contact: Julie Bohn.  
[youth@fpccwakefield.org](mailto:youth@fpccwakefield.org)

**Men's Breakfast Group**  
**1st Saturday of the month**  
**9 o'clock**  
**Next one is December 3**  
**Come and join us.**



### **Young Couples and Family Fellowship Group**

**Young Couples and Family Fellowship Group:**  
If you are a family with school aged children or younger or newly married or soon to be, come join us for a simple meal, activity, fellowship, and support. We meet monthly. **Our next gathering is Saturday, November 12 from 5-8pm.** Enjoy a night off and support the youth winter event to Camp Berea Snow Camp at the same time! Drop off your kids at the church and the Youth group will play games and have pizza with your children. You are free to have some time off on your own or with your spouse! All donations for the night will go towards the Youth's Retreat - Berea Snow Camp trip. For more info, please email [winnie.carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:winnie.carpenter@gmail.com).

#### **Do Not Be Anxious**

And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"  
**Luke 12:22-25**

**Jesus knows me, this I love...**





## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER & CLOTHING CLOSET

NOVEMBER 20, 2022

Our church family will again be hosting a Community Thanksgiving Dinner & Clothing Closet on November 20, 2022, for those that live in Wakefield and surrounding communities. All are welcome. The Clothing Closet will be open from 1-2 p.m. and dinner will be served at 2:00 p.m. in the dining room.

We are seeking volunteers to help set up, serve our guests, clean up and deliver meals to those unable to attend. Many hands make light work!!! If you can volunteer in some way, please see Bonnie Mullen or Linell Nester. If you know of someone who could benefit from a meal and unable to attend, please let Ruthie in the office know their name and address as she will be maintaining the list of meal recipients.

We rely on monetary donations to make this dinner possible. If you would like to make a donation, it will help to defray the costs of this dinner and/or help out towards the upcoming costs of the next community dinner. Checks may be made out to FPCC with a notation "Community Dinner" in the memo line.

Thank you!  
Bonnie Mullen & Linell Nester



Visit our Tech Corner  
happening at the next  
Community Breakfast  
& Clothing Closet  
Event November 20 at 2p

If you would like some technical assistance, please stop by! We are here every month, spread the word!



*Marriage Retreat*

see Courtney Hatheway with interest.





# Christmas Fair

**Saturday, December 10, 2022**

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

*Gifts, baked goods, jewelry, holiday home décor,  
Christmas cards, arts and crafts, gift baskets, refreshments,  
and much more!*

**First Parish Congregational Church**

One Church Street Wakefield, MA

781-245-1644 [office@fpccwakefield.org](mailto:office@fpccwakefield.org)



The Fair Committee plans to have a "Church Sponsored Artisans" table at the Christmas Fair this year.

If you are an artist, woodworker, crafter, etc. please consider donating an item and sharing your talent for a great cause!

Please see Beth Rollins or Courtney Hatheway with interest.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Filled boxes will be collected up until the final day Sunday, November 20. A brochure with all the details will be provided with each box.

We pray that your heart will be touched as you experience the happiness of sharing Christmas through a gift for a child.

Thank you from Outreach.



## Upcoming events...

Save the dates !!!

**November 12** Saturday from 5-8pm Parent's Night Out!

**November 20** 1p Clothing Closet  
2p Community Dinner Served  
6p Thanksgiving Service

**November 27** 1st Day of Advent  
Boy Scout Wreath Sale

**December 2** 6-8p Pie Social

**December 3** 5-6p Living Nativity

**December 10** 9a-1p Christmas Fair  
5-8p Cookie & Gingerbread Decorating

**December 16** 7:30p Messiah Sing

**December 17** 6:30-9:00p Youth Talent Show to support Berea Snow Camp 2023

**December 24** 5p ~ Children's Pageant  
10p ~ Candlelight Service

**December 25** ~ One service of Worship 11am

Connecting: To and Through Christ.

# The Lion's Den

2022-2023

LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH BROTHERLY AFFECTION. OUTDO ONE ANOTHER IN SHOWING HONOR. -ROMANS 12:10

*Julie Bohn*

Youth Leader

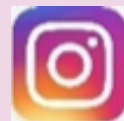
youth@fpccwakefield.org

Mark your calendar for the upcoming  
youth Talent Show  
December 17 at 6:30p  
to support the 2023 Berea Snow Camp

Follow us on Facebook



and



Instagram!

**WCAT: View 11a service on Sunday (previous week)**

**Sunday 7pm (Sunday morning service)**

**Monday 8pm, Wednesday noon, & Friday at 7pm**

**Channel 3 for RCN & Comcast/Channel 40 for Verizon**