



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

Church Matters

All are Welcome!

April 2020

Our Church in the time of Coronavirus

At the time of printing this newsletter, we are in the midst of the Covid19 health scare. We want everyone to stay safe and healthy. Some activities have been cancelled outright and others are still on the calendar.

Everything is subject to change and we will post updates on Facebook and messages will go out via the church's email list as needed. Efforts will be made to call those that we know aren't connected that way.

If anyone needs help in anyway - even if it's only to talk to someone, please contact Pastor Kerry, or one of the deacons, or leave a message on the church phone. Messages are being checked frequently.

Church services suspended because of Covid19

The announcements went out March 20th that our weekly worship services and other activities are suspended thru April 6, at which time the health situation will be evaluated.

There will be no communion service in April. There will be no Holy Week services (Palm Sunday or Maundy Thursday).

Easter worship is "To Be Announced".

If there is an Easter service, we will get the word out to everyone. Feel free to contact a deacon or Pastor Kerry with any concerns or questions.

In the meantime, Pastor Kerry will continue to record his sermons and

they will be posted. Follow the link on our Facebook page. Make sure to Like and Share to spread The Word. The bulletin will be sent out weekly. It's more than just an "order of worship" - it has prayers, scripture reading and other information.

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Kindness counts

Spring 2020: uncertainty reigns. People are panic-buying groceries and paper goods. Many people are working from home, kids are schooling at home, some are just home without jobs or kids. The news is filled with headlines that create fear. But underneath all that, there are many good people just trying to get by.

Some are organizing their communities to help those in need or that are at high-risk of catching the coronavirus. Some are just doing ARKs - Acts of Random Kindness.

Look around and you will find someone to help you or someone you can help. Reach out to your church family, or your community agencies, and you will find an abundance of kindness.

"Wherever there is a human being, there is a chance for kindness." -Seneca

"The point is not to pay back kindness but to pass it on." - Julia Alvarez

"Join the great company of those who make the barren places of life fruitful with kindness." -Helen Keller

Battling Giants



"The challenge that faces us may not be named 'Goliath' but it may be just as big and intimidating."

The last few weeks have been a bit trying for all of us. Can we or should we go out, should we gather?

By now we have all been to the store and have seen the empty shelves, the uncertainty in people's eyes, the anxiety and the fear.

I would suggest that this is a time for us, not to practice our faith, but to live it. This is the time for us all to really look out for one another. Maybe we can not sit with someone, but we can still reach out with a phone call or a note (remember when we could write a note and send it!!).

I believe that every story we read, every parable that Jesus gave changed those in that time and continues to do that to us today. My hope is that particularly at this Easter time when we gather to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, that we too, are a resurrected people. With all we have gone through in the past few weeks it is my hope that we have learned something from it all.

Because we are still in our Lenten time of prayer, reflection and repentance, have you seen anything in your own behavior that you wish you didn't have or perhaps could have or

"This is the time for us all to really look out for one another."

should have done differently?

We can rise up from this event, we can do better, we can be better. Let us calm our fears and anxiety and be the people that God is calling us to be. May you stay safe and be well.

In Christ service,

Pastor Kerry

Spring Dinner Plays are cancelled

The Spring Dinner Plays scheduled at the end of April have been cancelled. We hope to reschedule for the fall.

Big Thank You to director Bill Goddard, and all the players that have been practicing every week. We hope everyone can try again in the fall. In the meantime, stay safe and well.

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Five Gifts from God



Love makes our friends a little dearer.
Joy makes our hearts a little lighter.
Faith makes our paths a little clearer.
Hope makes our lives a little brighter.
Peace brings us all a little nearer.

—Author unknown

April 2020

ONA: Open & Affirming - is it right for our church

Following service on Sunday, March 8, we had a great discussion about what ONA means for our congregation.

Thank you to everyone who stayed.

One participant said, "I thought we were open and affirming. So why should we do this?"

What a great question! There is no one answer, but we discussed perceptions. We consider our church welcoming, but if someone were looking for a church, would we be seen as Open and Affirming? By going

through this discernment and decision process, we would be able to make that a known quality of Second Congregational Church; newcomers wouldn't need to guess. Studies also show that the ONA designation is something that attracts new worshipers.

Bring your questions to the next discussion in May and we'll all learn a little more.

On Tuesday, April 21st, NH UCC's ONA Concerns Mission Group is offering a live webinar with Andy Lang and a panel discussions on all phases of the ONA process. A

free catered dinner is included. It begins at 5:00 p.m. in Pembroke.

If you are interested in learning more about the process, please speak to someone on the committee. We will be carpooling to this event.

Submitted by Stephanie Ouellette, with Loretta Smith, Violet Blake, eQuanimity Joy, and Sandy Blumm



Book Nook - The Greatest Story Ever Told

A new book is coming soon to the Book Nook library in the church. **The Story: the Bible as an continuing story of God and his People** with a forward by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee is a very readable and accessible format of the familiar words of the Bible.

From the flyleaf of the book: God goes to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people. That is what **The Story** is all about – the story of the Bible. Gods' great love affair with humanity. Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, it sweeps into the unfolding progression of Bible

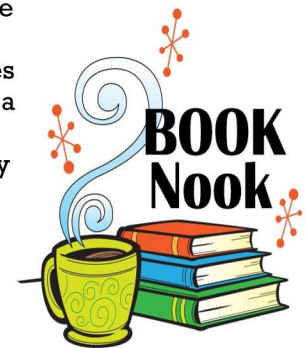
characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. Using the clear accessible text of the Revised Standard version of the Bible, it allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. And like in any good story, it is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance, and redemption!

The Story is made up of direct quoted sections of the Bible with no citations or divisions into "books" of the Bible (ie the book of Mathew or Luke) with added brief synopsis of what is omitted to blend it into one novel.

If you or someone you

know has trouble reading the Bible because of all the notes and numbers and difficult cultural references from ancient times, this is a great alternative. Same words, different form... try it, you might like it!

Prayerfully submitted, eQuanimity Joy



The Senior Book Study Group will not be meeting this month due to "social distancing." We hope to pick it up again in May.



Your Mission Dollars at Work

Church Missions met in February and welcomed two new members, Becky Kennedy and Jan Stone. We discussed some of the classes we took at "Prepared to Serve". One of the workshops was "How to Promote Your Church". We discussed various community projects. Our goal is to reach out to the town and sponsor some discussions that would be of general interest. We hope to work in collaboration with the town library on some of the events. More to come in future newsletters.

Lenten banks were distributed and will be

collected in April, after Easter Sunday. The money will be combined with the Advent bank collection to fund a mission project. We would love your input. Would you like to see it used to fund a heifer project? Or we could put together hygiene kits to be distributed by Church World Service. Do you have another idea? Please let us know.

Crop Walk - as you may know the Souhegan Valley Crop Walk does not have any future walks planned. However, we have been invited to join the Nashua Area Crop Walk which is scheduled for the

last Sunday in October, the 25th. If you are interested in participating please let someone on missions know.

Project Linus is going strong, we delivered another 15+ blankets in March. We are always looking for more people to participate. We meet the first and third Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Stop by and see what we are doing.

Submitted by Stephanie Ouellette, with Cindy Broderick, Dana Dahl, Becky Kennedy and Jan Stone

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." -Aesop

Musical Notes - The finest hymn

Reginald Heber (1783-1826), a vicar and hymn-writer in England, was the first person to compile a hymnal based around the church calendar. He composed the beloved hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" specifically for Trinity Sunday, with lyrics based on Revelation 4:8-11.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

The joyful song celebrates the eternal, omnipotent Triune God. Throughout the verses, Heber used units of three to symbolize the Trinity (God is "perfect in power, in love and purity"; God is worshiped by saints, cherubim and seraphim; and he's praised "in earth and sky and sea").

Heber, who witnessed much idol worship while serving as Bishop of Calcutta, often reaffirmed God's holiness in his hymns.

British poet laureate Alfred Lord Tennyson so admired the uplifting language in "Holy, Holy, Holy" that he proclaimed it the finest hymn ever written.

NN3.20





Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

April 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Communion Palm Sunday cancelled | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Maunday Thursday Service cancelled | 10 Good Friday | 11 |
| 12 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service Worship 10:15 SERVICES TBA | 13 | 14 Lions Club 7pm | 15 Yoga 10am TBA | 16 Yoga 7pm TBA | 17 Second Glances Open 1-5pm TBA | 18 Second Glances Open 10-4pm TBA |
| 19 | 20 Linus Project 10am TBA | 21 Church Council 7pm TBA | 22 Yoga 10am TBA | 23 Yoga 7pm TBA | 24 Dinner CANCELLED—BOTH DAYS | 25 |
| 26 Deacons mtg 11:45am | 27 | 28 Lions Club 7pm | 29 Yoga 10am TBA | 30 Yoga 7pm TBA | | |

NOTE: Events are subject to change after Church Matters has been published. If you have any questions about the calendar, please confirm with the Church Secretary or visit our website: <http://2ccwilton.org>

POST ME ON YOUR FRIDGE OR BULLETIN BOARD!

Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

Staff, Committees, Meetings - Contact Information

Pastor's Office Hours

Office hours for Pastor Kerry Richardson are Mondays 9 to 3pm or by appointment. You can reach him by telephone or email. Church office: 603-654-9045 or kerrywrichardson@comcast.net

Church Council: Meets the third Tuesday of each month, except July and August. 7:00 pm

Deaconate: The Deacons meet on the last Sunday of each month, after worship service, approx. 11:45am, except June and July. Head: Lori Dick (654-6867)

Planning Committee: Sue Jean (654-2255), Patti Booraem and Ellen Martin

Linus Project and Prayer Shawl Ministry: See

Stephanie Ouellette for materials and information

Missions Committee: Cindy Broderick, Dana Dahl, Stephanie Ouellette, Jan Stone & Becky Kennedy

Church Admin Contact 2ccwilton@gmail.com Office telephone: 603-654-9045

Prayer Chain: If you would like to receive the emailed Prayer Chain or request prayers, please email 2ccwilton@gmail.com

Second Glances Thrift Shop: Open at the Parish Hall on the Third Weekend each month: Hours Fridays 1-6:00. Saturdays 9 -2:00 Contact: Loretta Smith, 603-654-9045.

DONATIONS are gratefully accepted. Please drop all donations off at the parish hall, not at the shop. Thank you!

April list of readings

No readers are scheduled for April. Please read the scripture and listen to Pastor Kerry's sermons that can be downloaded to listen to. The link is posted on the Facebook page and will be sent via email. The bulletin will be emailed which shows the prayers that tie in with the reading and sermons. Please make sure that the church administrator has your email address.

Revised Common Lectionary for April

- April 5 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11
- April 12 Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18
- April 19 Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
- April 26 Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-5, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
- May 3 Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

The Revised Common Lectionary is provided so that you may explore more than just the Gospel that is read on Sunday morning. I would be happy to discuss with you any of the other readings and what you find interesting about them. I do hope you enjoy getting to know your Bible.

Blessings, Pastor Kerry

Altar Flowers for April

- April 5 - Open—NO SERVICE
- April 12 - Easter Sunday
- April 19 - Ingrid Howard
- April 26 - Peter & Stephanie Ouellette
- May 3 - Kevin & Sue Jean
- May 10 - John Hutchinson
- May 17 - Open
- May 24 - Walter & Heather Pries
- May 31 - Open

If you would like to bring flowers during the year in memory, in celebration or for no special reason, the 2019 schedule has openings. See the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall or contact Sue Warren at (603) 673-9454 or by email: gbs340@juno.com



No matter where you are on life's journey: *All are Welcome!*

April 2020

What's in Store? Donations gladly accepted!



Second Glances has moved to the parish hall on the third weekend of each month.

That weekend we are open on Friday from 1-6pm and on Saturday from 9am to 2pm. Each day has two shifts that run three hours each. Friday 12:30 to 3:30 and

3:30 to 6:30. Saturday 8:30 to 11:30 and 11:30 to 2:30. We need two people for each shift. Grab a friend to spend a few hours with and come work one shift.

We are at the parish hall, so easy parking, easy access and you won't be alone!

We cancelled the March Rummage Sale, but we hope to be back in April.



Volunteers: Contact Loretta at Loretta@hiik.net or reply to the monthly email. .

DONATION REMINDER: Donated items needs to be clean and in good condition. Please be considerate. "No Dumping" in the bin

NOTE: We cannot take TVs, Computers/Monitors or Air Conditioners. We can't sell them and we have to pay to take them to the recycle center.

"Many hands make light work."



What's in store:



April 17 & 18

Hours:

Friday 1-6pm

Saturday 9-2pm



OPEN

In the Parish Hall
25 Gregg Street
Wilton NH



A wake up call

The good God permits such small evils to befall us merely in order to arouse us snorers from our deep sleep and to make us recognize, on the other hand, the incomparable and innumerable benefits we still have. ...

derstand and love the words: "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"

—Martin Luther NN 11.17

With [our misfortunes], God gives us a light by which we may see and understand his goodness and kindness in countless other ways. Then we conclude that such small misfortunes are barely a drop of water on a big fire or a little spark in the ocean. Then we un-

"Kindness is like a garden of blessings." - Sirach 40:17

When we can't find Easter

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns — however rousing — fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's wrong with me,

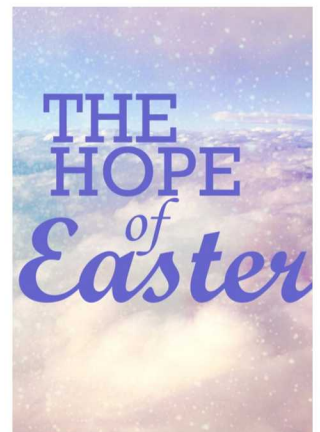
that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay. You're okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us —

if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed — and you shall be too.

—Heidi Mann NN 4.18



Pastor's Office Hours

Office hours for Pastor Kerry Richardson are Mondays 9 to 3pm or by appointment. You can reach him by telephone or email.
Church office: 603-654-9045 or kerrywrichardson@comcast.net

Meet your church: The Missions Committee

As described in the Church By-Laws, "The Church Missions Committee shall seek to foster a missionary spirit in the church, and to promote participation in the missionary enterprises of the church. This committee shall be composed of three or more members."

Our current Missions Committee are Cindy Broderick, Dana Dahl, Becky Kennedy, Stephanie Ouellette, and Jan Stone.

The committee has taken us around the world with some of their projects, such as The Heifer Project, Operation Christmas Child, Holy Joe's Cafe , and Fair Trade goods. They have worked closer to home in Boston at Seafarers Mission, providing Church World Services with disaster relief kits, and the Souhegan Valley Crop Walk. In town, they support the Open Cupboard Pantry, provide scholarships to high school seniors going to college and help local families in need. And they support the

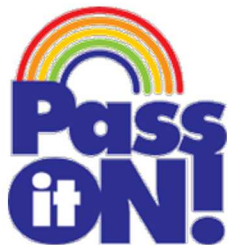
groups that make prayer shawls, prayer beads and blankets for the Linus Project.

Ask one of these wonderful ladies for more details. They are always looking for new ideas for outreach and I bet *your* idea is a good one!

~*~*~

And if you have a suggestion for this column, please let Loretta know!

Pass it on



Pass on the word of encouragement in an honest compliment

Pass on the look of encouragement in a generous smile

Pass on the touch of encouragement in a hearty handshake

Pass on the kindness of encouragement in a thoughtful deed

And let the encouragement of Christ flow through you.

Housekeeping items

Remember to close doors & turn down the heat!

Please close all doors (including the fire doors inside) **and turn down all thermostats** when leaving the premises. Turn out the lights. Please don't assume someone else will do it. Double check! Thank you very much!

Recycling: Please make every effort to sort your trash when you are in the church and place it in the

correct bin.

Plastic: Wilton sorts 1 and 2. Soda bottles (1) and Milk containers (2) are separate. Throw away 5, 6 & 7.

Steel cans and aluminum cans are separate.

Clean paper and thin cardboard go together.

Pizza boxes and magazines are trash.

Weekly bulletin: If you have an item or announcement to include please submit them to Pastor Kerry, at least a week in advance.

Newsletter items: news or creative writing welcome. Submission information is below.

Church Matters is published monthly by Second Congregational Church (UCC), P O Box 246, Wilton NH 0386 (603) 654-9045. Editor: Loretta April Smith, email: Loretta@hiik.net. All comments, suggestions and submissions are encouraged and welcomed. Deadline: The 15th of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves all rights to edit any submissions as to length or content. Please submit via email or drop off in the mailbox in the parish hall. Original photos by permission; copyright by Lamar Smith. If you do not wish to receive Church Matters, please let us know at this email address: 2ccWilton@gmail.com

What are the chances?

“The lot is cast into the lap, but the decision is the LORD’s alone” (Proverbs 16:33, NRSV). This comforting verse tells us that nothing happens by chance. Chance is arbitrary, accidental, unplanned and unpredictable, without cause or meaning. Sometimes chance appears to aptly describe the events and happenstance of life.

But Genesis to Revelation declare in unison that even chance is under God’s control. Every seemingly meaningless, random and inexplicable event plays a part in the Master’s grand design.


There is no luck, then. Everything has a divine purpose, though we often can’t discern it. It’s just a matter of faith.
NN7.11

“You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late.” - God's Little Devotional Book for Women

Bible Quiz

Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon until three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does not mention this event?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



Answer: D (See Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19.)

Each Sunday: Choir Practice 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am

All are welcome to fellowship and refreshments after the service in the parish hall.

Looking ahead...

- April 5 - Palm Sunday no service
- April 9 - Maundy Thursday no service
- April 10 - Good Friday
- April 12 - Easter Sunday Sunrise Service TBA
- April 17 - Second Glances at the Parish Hall 1-6pm
- April 18 - Second Glances at the Parish Hall 9am to 2pm
- April 22 - Administrative Professionals Day

Good News! Andy LeFrançois is on our prayer list and had a bone marrow transplant in March. By all reports, he is doing much better, but still has a way to go. He is home now and we pray he stays well. If you would like to send a card, here is his address:

Andrew LeFrançois
5 Hersey Street
Bedford NH 03110

*Second Congregational Church
United Church of Christ (UCC)*

25 Gregg Street
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Telephone: 603-654-9045
Email: ChurchMatters@hiik.net

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*On the web at **2ccWilton.org***
*On Facebook: **Second Congregational Church Wilton NH and
Second Glances Thrift Shop***
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No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey:
All are Welcome!