



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

# Church Matters

*All are Welcome!*

May 2020

## Looking forward to life after social distancing

As the coronavirus epidemic and social distancing continue, most events have cancelled or suspended, including church services and activities.

We miss not seeing our church family and friends on a regular basis is. And we miss the familiarity of a church service, which often brings us comfort in times of difficulty.

Rest assured that eventually these things will come back into our lives. Some of it will be different (will we just smile and wave during the passing of the peace?), but the routine of the

service - the music, the sermons, communion - will be there to welcome us.

***In the meantime***, we have other things to bring us closer to God and our faith community.

Pastor Kerry is available for pastoral care and continues to provide weekly inspiration via recorded sermons (see more in the article below).

Mission works continue with those sewing face masks, making and delivering meals to those isolated. I'm sure that the prayer shawl and Linus Project are still happening

at home (see page 4). Prayer chains are still in service - create your own or send a note to Del at 2CCsecretary@Gmail.com

You can still add to the prayer list. Submit to Del for inclusion.

Your newsletter is still here, so feel free to submit a contribution!

In other words, we may not be meeting in the church, but don't forget that we are the church.

## Weekly sermons are available

When we started recording Pastor Kerry's sermons in October, we never dreamed that they would become a component to a "virtual worship service".

The weekly sermons are posted on line for easy access and you can listen to them anytime. Or listen to them more than once. You can find them here:

\*By going directly to our church's website: [2ccwilton.org](http://2ccwilton.org)

\*Links are posted on our Facebook Page (don't forget to Like & Follow while you are there)

\*A link is included with the weekly email from Del, our administrative assistant.

Both links go to the webpage.

The weekly church bulletin, or order of worship, are also available also at the website. (See page 3 on how to get the most out of your bulletin!)

We are also exploring how a video feed like Zoom might be used to offer a service. Stay tuned for that development!

For now, take advantage of the recorded sermons. I think that you will enjoy them and find them valuable.

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Looking Ahead

## Social distancing—How are we doing?



“We are being asked to do things in a way that we never would have thought possible.”

Greetings from my home on this beautiful spring day. I am sure a lot of you are like me and getting a jump on your spring chores. New life is showing up in some areas that you expected and in other areas you didn't.

Since we last spoke our world has seen some changes of its own, we are seeing a different kind of new growth, in ourselves, in our community, and perhaps in our own family.

One of the many things that an Interim minister is charged with is to get the Church that he or she is serving to look at new ways that they can be church. Where is God calling them to be? And how is God calling them? And how shall they respond?

I think it is safe to say that no one saw this Covid-19 thing coming! We are being challenged in how we can be “Church” - how to be a community of faith, together but apart.

My guess is that eight months ago when I started

here, that if I said we will have to rely on recorded sermons, phone calls instead of meeting in person, that the kitchen would be used for making meals for those who in our community who don't know where there next meal is coming from, that just perhaps you would have said “No Way!” Well here we are, having to do things we never thought we would have to do. And guess what, we are doing it. We might not be delighted with it, but we are doing it. My guess is that we are operating way outside our comfort zone. We are being asked to do things in a way that we never would have thought possible. And guess what? We are even doing things different than “the way we always have,” and we are doing okay for the most part.

We had to start this “social distancing” thing about two weeks into Lent. I don't know about you, but for me I find this rather on point. Think about it: Lent is when Jesus went into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days; Lent is when we

are encouraged to look back at our lives and repent /change direction in our lives. Do we need anything more than what we are going through right now to see that perhaps we can do better, do different, be different, look at our world, our community, with fresh eyes.

We can either learn from all of this, or when we get “back to normal” we can forget what changes we had to make, ignore the lessons we have learned, or we can embrace what has happened and truly be a resurrected people, a changed people. We have proven to ourselves that we can change if we want or need to. Welcome to the Interim Ministry process!!

May you all be safe and be well. Until we meet again and break bread together, Peace I give you.

*Pastor Kerry*

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### ONA: Open & Affirming

Our discussions have been put on hold until church gatherings resume. It is still on all of our minds and we will take up where we left off. Thank you for keeping an open mind so we can continue these important round table talks. Here are a couple of links if you would like to find some information on your own. The UCC New Hampshire Conference has several links on their page.

<http://nhucc.org/conference-ministries/justice-witness-ministry/open-and-affirming-2>

Or look here for more information. [www.openandaffirming.org](http://www.openandaffirming.org)

May 2020

## The weekly bulletin - not just another piece of paper

Several years ago, I wrote the following article. I've brushed it up a little for the present.

Each week we get a bulletin that tells us the order of worship. And after the service, it is discarded or maybe even recycled.

Consider taking it home and using it as a daily prayer guide. Pick a different section each day to read and pray over and to reflect on its meaning in your life. In addition to several small prayers, you can

reflect on the doxology, the Gloria Patri, and the dedication. Of course, the scripture can be read and there's the Lord's Prayer. The music is usually tied to the service, so even if you aren't musical, you can contemplate the poetry of the hymns.

Use your bulletin to jump start a meaningful conversation, or prayer, with God.

*The bulletin is available weekly, in conjunction with Pastor Kerry's recorded sermons.*

*Read the scriptures before listening to the sermons, for added depth. Most music is recorded and often can be found on-line.*

*With a little bit of preparation, we can have a "whole service" experience!*

*Until we can be together in person, we can worship together in spirit.*

*Blessings to all!*



## Book Nook - Reading in the time of Quarantine

Writing safely from far away physically, but close in thought and prayerfully, I wonder what people are reading, and why during the quarantine days. Some people are reading books they've had but never finished. Some people are rereading those books they enjoyed the first time around. Some people are reading to escape from reality, and some are reading to understand reality. Most people are reading to find comfort and inspiration, and even spiritual support in difficult times. If only we could drop by church and pick up a Book from the Nook, there are many books for difficult times there.

How about reading and watching what the authors of the Nook books are

posting to their websites! Here is a partial list of a few folks who have beautiful encouraging words to read and listen to on their author websites:

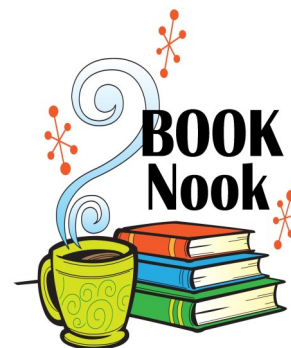
Rob Bell, author of *Love Wins*, among many other books, does something called the Rob Cast (instead of a pod cast). Check his website **robbell.com** for engaging thoughts, videos, and uplifting messages for tough times. He is hip and funny and full of faith.

Joan Chittister, the author of our Senior Book Group book, *The Gift of Years*, offers teachings in video and written form to hear about difficult times from a woman who knows about difficult times. Wise and witty comments from a

wise and witty woman, lift the spirit and attitudes at **joanchittister.org**.

Richard Rohr, author of *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, posts daily meditations, Scripture readings, uplifting insights and videos on the Center for Action and Contemplation (the school he founded) website. Check out his calming and peaceful approach at **cac.org**.

Happy and healthy reading to us all! Prayerfully submitted, eQuanimity Joy



## Wilton Cares - Community Dinners Project



### Community dinners through the Wilton Cares project

There is a group from our church who are working in collaboration with the Wilton Lyndeborough Women's club to prepare and serve meals to people isolated during the virus crisis. We have been meeting Wednesday mornings, cooking and packaging the meals for delivery in the afternoon. Our first delivery was on April 1st

and we delivered to over 50 people. The meals have been a welcome break for shut ins.

If you are isolated at home or know of someone who is and would like a meal delivered weekly, please email [wiltonnhcares@gmail.com](mailto:wiltonnhcares@gmail.com) or call Stephanie at 654-2282.

4-6 pm and on Saturday from 10-12pm at the Wilton Station, across from the fire station.

Submitted by Stephanie Ouellette, with Cindy Broderick and Dana Dahl.

There is also an active food and donation drive on Tuesday and Thursday from

## Linus Project

Although we are not meeting regularly and blanket deliveries are on hold, we are still working on blankets in anticipation of need once everything opens up again. Second Congregational Church works with [Project Linus Southwest NH Chapter Serving the Monadnock Region](#). Their Facebook page highlights who some of their donors and sponsors are, as well as sharing some of the touching thank you notes from blanket recipients. Project Linus has recently put their volunteers' sewing skills to work making face masks for the current pandemic situation.

We thank all our 2CC blanketeers for all their work on such a worthwhile mission—making blankets and face masks.

More details on the project are available on this website: [www.ProjectLinus.org](http://www.ProjectLinus.org) as well as the local chapter's Facebook page (search the name in blue above).



## Musical Notes - A Mother's Day hymn

Sing praise to our Creator God!  
Earth prospers from the way  
God "mothers" each new child into  
This world day after day.

God fabricates in motherhood  
A channel from above  
That longs to share with every child  
God's Comfort, Grace and Love!

Sing praise to our Creator God,  
Who "mothers" us from birth!  
Providing what we truly need  
Throughout our lives on earth.





## Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

# May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>Most events have been suspended due to the coronavirus. Please listen or look for schedule changes via emails, Facebook and our updated website: <a href="http://2ccwilton.org">2ccwilton.org</a></p>						1	2
3 Communion	4	5	6	7 National Day of Prayer	8	9	
10 Mother's Day	11	12 Lions Club 7pm	13	14	15	16 Armed Forces Day	
17	18 Victoria Day	19 Church Council 7pm	20	21 Ascension Day	22	23	
24	25 Memorial Day	26 Lions Club 7pm	27	28	29	30	
31 Pentecost Deacons 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 (654-2282)

**Church Secretary:** 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. Thank you!

## May list of readings

### Revised Common Lectionary for May

May 3	Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
May 10	Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
May 17	Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 6:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
May 24	Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-335; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
May 31	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23

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

**“The mere whisper of the Holy Spirit can drown out the thundering noise of an entire world.”  
—David Jeremiah**

## Altar Flowers for 2020



If you would like to bring flowers 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

“Where flowers bloom, so does hope.”  
—Lady Bird Johnson

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

May 2020

# What's in Store? Hope to see you in June!



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

**However we are closed during the current coronavirus situation. We hope to be able to open in June.**

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

**We are not able to monitor the donation bin on a regular basis.** Please do not leave items to get ruined in the weather. Email Loretta before dropping off and we can make an arrangement to be there.

**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."*

Thank you!!

The SG Team



## What's in store:

~~~~~  
**June 19 & 20**

**Hours:**  
**Friday 1-6pm**  
**Saturday 9-2pm**

~~~~~  
**OPEN**  
**In the Parish Hall**  
**25 Gregg Street**  
**Wilton NH**



## Be a good steward

When the church budget was being drafted for 2020, little did we know that a pandemic would take hold for months and that we would be cloistered for an extended period of time!

In this year's budget, we started with a shortfall in pledges, placing our trust in God and believing in our members and friends to support the church's ministry. Let us all show our faithfulness with good stewardship through the next few months. Even though we are not in the church building weekly, we still need to support our community missions as well as regular overhead expenses. If you haven't already done so, please

mail your pledges and offerings to Second Congregational Church. PO Box 246, Wilton NH 03086. Many have kept up on their pledges and that is gratefully appreciated.

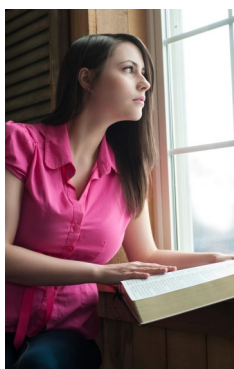
On the other side, if we ever get back to some semblance of normalcy, we need to do some serious fundraising. We already have the previously mentioned budget gap, but it will most likely be bigger now.

Please provide any suggestions to the planning committee as they oversee any proposals and will welcome the help.



## 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 kerryrichardson@comcast.net



## Meet your church: The Planning Committee & Publicity

As described in the Church By-Laws, **The Planning Committee** shall consist of three or more people. They shall be responsible for the organization and oversight of fellowship and fundraising activities of the church, enlisting help when needed.

The keyword here is "oversight." Often the planning committee is in charge of an event, but they

aren't supposed to do it all. The rest of us need to step up with ideas and leadership, especially for fundraising. The planning committee would love to focus on fellowship events. This year's committee is Patti Booraem, Sue Jean, and Ellen Martin. Anyone is welcome to attend meetings, make suggestions, or join the committee for the rest of the year.

**The Publicity Coordinator** shall be responsible for all publicity of the church, enlisting help when needed. Whether it's the hours for Sunday services, ongoing activities or special events, the coordinator makes sure it gets in the local papers as best as we can. (Sometimes the local papers seem to be uncooperative!) Currently, Jessie Salisbury is the publicity person.

## Mom... Waiting by the window

American poet Margaret Widdemer penned a poem about her mother which she called "The Watcher." She told of how her mother, in the winter, watched out the window waiting for her children to return. In the summer, she watched by the gate. Margaret told how she and her siblings teased their mother "who had such foolish care." Yet, down deep, they were grateful for their mother's watchfulness. She ended

the poem with the thought that her dear mother must still be watching.

Waiting till we come home to her,  
Anxious if we are late -  
Watching from Heaven's window,  
Leaning from  
Heaven's gate.

-Poem in Lissa Roche's The Christian's Treasury

## Housekeeping items

**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.

**Remember to close doors & turn down the heat!**

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



### A prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



I remember my mother's prayers, and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life. Abraham Lincoln

Biology is the least of what makes someone a mother. Oprah Winfrey

The phrase "working mother" is redundant. Jane Sellman

The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness. Honoré de Balzac

A child needs your love most when he deserves it least. Erma Bombeck

If at first you don't succeed, do it like your mother told you. Author unknown

When services resume (TBA):

Each Sunday: Choir Practice 9:00am

Worship Service 10:15am

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

Check out our newly updated website:  
[www.2ccwilton.org](http://www.2ccwilton.org)

**Bible Quiz**

While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following "proper" protocols. Who defended them?

- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. Jethro
- D. The Lord

Answer: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)

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

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*On the web at [2ccwilton.com](http://2ccwilton.com)  
On Facebook: *Second Congregational Church Wilton NH and  
Second Glances Thrift Shop**

**Each Sunday: Choir Practice 9:00am *Worship Service 10:15am***  
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**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey:  
*All are Welcome!***