



Second Congregational Church UCC · Wilton NH

Church Matters

All are Welcome!

June 2020

Zoom Church - something new

In early May, we began experimenting with "Zoom Church." Each worship service is a little better than the one before, as we learn the nuances of how it all works.

Zoom is an internet tool that can be accessed by computer, smart phone, laptop or tablet. It allows for meetings of all kinds. You may have heard of or used similar applications, like Face Time or Duo.

If you are not getting the "invitation" which has the meeting access number, please email 2CCWilton@gmail.com to get the information.

There have been twenty-plus people at each of the first two worship services. We are so pleased with the enthusiasm and participation to do something so new and "techie."

For those that have joined the worship service, there are plenty of on-line articles on how to use (turn on the video, or use Gallery View to see all participants) and suggested etiquette (like staying muted when not speaking, and unmuting before you do).

It's worth the time to learn a little bit about this tool. And it is so great to see everyone!

We will be using Zoom for Church Council and Deacons meetings for the time being.

Big thank you's go to Dana and Del for their diligence in getting everything set up, and to get everyone access to the bulletin beforehand via email.

If you can't Zoom, sermons are posted on the church website: 2CCWilton.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

Kerry's Corner 2

ONA/Book Nook 3

Mission Possible 4
Musical Notes

Contact Info 5
Readers
Flowers

Calendar 6

Second Glances 7
Announcements

Meet Your Church 8
Housekeeping

Bible Quiz 9
Looking Ahead

Bible Quiz
Looking Ahead

Happy 100th Birthday, Lucy!

We want to wish a Very Happy Birthday to Lucy as she celebrates her 100th birthday on June 2.

With love from your Church Family at Second Congregational Church



Social distancing—How are we doing?



“Let us keep all of God’s people in our prayers.”

Well it has been almost three months since we gathered as a community of faith. I must confess I find myself both looking for distractions and being distracted. I also find myself being angry and on edge, going to the grocery store if people don’t follow the directions for the flow of people or when I see an out of state license plate. It’s not the way I want to be, so I find that I have to work a little harder at being who I want to be. I can’t talk for you, but I am finding I need to rely on my faith even more now.

We are in uncertain times. The one thing this pandemic has done is give me time: time to pray, time to reflect, time to connect with my brother more, to check on my mother a lot more than I did before. My hope is that when we get back to “normal” is that I do not forget what this was like; being more connected to family or neighbors out for walks, talking with people they

would not talk to otherwise.

The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Peter 4:12, “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the suffering of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.”

If we think about the words of Paul, imagine the suffering that Christ went through for us! Our “suffering” right now, for some it is more of an inconvenience to our way of living, but for some they have lost loved ones, friends, or perhaps their life. Let us keep all of God’s people in our prayers. And although I think the phrase has been overused, we truly are all in this together.

I share in your desire to “get back to normal” and

worship together again, but I encourage you to make every effort to add to your faith goodness. And to goodness add knowledge, and to knowledge add self-control, and to self-control add perseverance, and to perseverance, godliness, and to godliness mutual affection, and to mutual affection, Love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-8.)

May the Peace of Christ be with you, your servant in

Pastor Kerry

Christ,

Search Committee for settled pastor

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Committee Chair, Leslie Tuttle, as advised the Search Committee will be meeting soon via Zoom with the Reverend Richard Slater at the New Hampshire Conference UCC in Pembroke. There is preliminary work that needs to be done, like research and updating by-laws.

The committee is made up of Leslie, Violet Blake, Sofia Blumm, Lori Dick, Peter Ouellette, Pastor Kerry Richardson, Lamar Smith and Loretta Smith. If you would like to work with this committee, please talk to Leslie or any member.

Announcements will be made as needed to set up meetings and such.

June 2020

ONA: Open and Affirming - continuing the journey

Our ONA journey is on hold, along with so many other things in our church life. Although we can't meet in person for now, it doesn't mean that we should abandon our discernment about ONA.

One of the resources we have been using is the website OpenAndAffirming.org

On their home page is a survey: "How does your church compare?"

The first question is easy: *Does your ONA*

Congregation display a rainbow sign, banner or flag on your street?

The questions get more thoughtful as you progress through the seven questions, ending with *Have you undertaken a study of the transgender experience?*

The questions are thought provoking and offer a glimpse of what becoming an ONA church can encompass.

The website is full of

resources, including a free newsletter.

We encourage everyone to explore this website or the New Hampshire Conference at <http://nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/justice-witness-ministry/open-and-affirming-2>



Book Nook - The Hiding Place

The first sermon I heard at Second Congregational Church, many years ago, was by the Reverend Jane Hawken. In it was a short story about Betsy and Corrie Ten Boom excerpted from Corrie's book "The Hiding Place."

The sisters, in the midst of a Nazi concentration camp, found grace and God's presence all around them. Included in the sermon was the quote "Thank God for the fleas!" (No spoilers here; you have to read the book!)

For the longest time, that was my mantra to get through difficult times. Surely, if these women could survive the Holocaust, I could survive whatever fleas I encountered.

Things are not so difficult now, probably because I've learned to Thank God for my fleas.

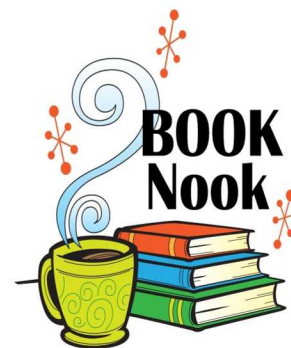
Eventually I actually read Ms. Ten Boom's book and was even more impressed with their story. The Ten Boom family participated in the underground resistance against the Nazis in Holland during World War II, hiding and helping Jews to escape. They are discovered and ultimately sent to a concentration camp for their crimes.

How were Carrie and Betsy able to keep so much of God's love in their hearts in such a horrendous place and how were they able to forgive their captors? The answer of course is God.

It is a thought-provoking story and makes you really think about how much God helps us in challenging times. And how He will use even our small faith to do mighty things, if we would only put our lives and faith into His hands.

As a follow up, I can also recommend "I Stand at the Door and Knock." This is a collection of meditations sharing Corrie's message of faith, hope and forgiveness.

Happy reading to all. May you stay safe and stay well. Prayerfully submitted, Loretta Smith





Wilton Cares - Community Dinners Project

The Wilton Cares group continues to prepare a weekly lunch and dinner from the church kitchen. The meals are then delivered to individuals in the communities of Wilton and Lyndeborough who are at risk for catching the virus. In April, 273 people were served on the five Wednesdays of that month. We have served roast pork, ham, meatloaf, and chicken as well as a variety of soups and salads. All the meals are funded through collaboration with the Wilton Lyndeborough Women's Club (this effort has been headed by Sara Spittel), and the Open Pantry. In May, we served 262 people on the four Wednesdays. The meals have been so appreciated by the recipients. Not only were the meals welcomed, but a lot of people also appreciated contact, no matter how brief, with others.

It has taken a lot of people to coordinate this effort. Our cooks have included Kelly Eshback, Don Rankin, Cindy Broderick, Deb Degan, Donna Crane and Stephanie Ouellette. Our delivery team has included Jared and Jodi Brown, Deb Degan, Bill and Marilyn Goddard, Sara Howard, Don Rankin, Cindy Broderick, Peter and Stephanie Ouellette. A special thank you goes to the head dishwasher, Peter Ouellette! When the cooking is finished for the day, the kitchen is cleaned and ready for the next week. Thank you to Ann Bird for taking care of the recycled materials and for cleaning the kitchen floor area. NH is beginning to reopen so our plan is to continue through June and then re-assess.

If you are isolated at home or know of someone who is and would like a meal delivered weekly, please

email wiltonnhcares@gmail.com or call Stephanie at 654-2282.

There is also an active food and donation drive on Tuesday and Thursday from 4-6 pm and on Saturday from 10-12pm at the Wilton Station, across from the fire station.

Linus Project blankets are still being made, although we are not getting together as a group. Blankets will be distributed again, once the hospitals and municipalities can accept them.

Senior scholarships are being reviewed and will be awarded in the near future.

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

Musical Notes - Like father, like child

As we celebrate Father's Day, we likely see traits in our dads (or other father figures) that we hope to be known for ourselves: integrity, gentleness, a great sense of humor, a love of learning, a humble spirit.

Amy Grant's song "Father's Eyes" tells of a young girl who wants nothing more than for others to recognize her father—and her Heavenly Father - in her. "When people look inside my life I want to hear them say, 'She's got her father's eyes.'"

What characteristics of God your Father are reflected in your eyes, heart and life? And what godly qualities would you like to cultivate?

May others see our Heavenly Father in us!

NN 6.11



Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

Looking ahead...

To summer

To getting back to normal

To resuming church activities

Until then...

Be kind always

Do kind things

Love your neighbor

Stay Safe and Healthy!



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 kerryrichardson@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, except June and July. 7:00 pm. Head: Lori Dick (654-6867)

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry: See Stephanie Ouellette for materials and information

Men's Fellowship Group: Meetings held the first Thursday of the month. See Steve Bartsch or Paul Martin for more.

Missions Committee: Cindy Broderick, Dana Dahl, Stephanie Ouellette (654-2282)

Church Admin: Del
Contact information: 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 Sophia at 2ccwilton@gmail.com

Second Glances Thrift Shop: Contact: Loretta Smith. . 603-654-9045.

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

DONATIONS are gratefully



Altar Flowers for June

If you would like to bring flowers in memory, in celebration or for no special reason, the 2020 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!*



Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Communion Sunday Trinity Sunday	8	9 Lions Club 7pm	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day	15	16 Church Council 7pm	17	18	19	20 First day of Summer!
21 Father's Day	22	23 Lions Club 7pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4 Independence Day

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!

June 2020

What's in Store? Still closed



It's certainly hard to get re-established with our new schedule and location: We are supposed to be at the parish hall on the third weekend of each month!

However the coronavirus is disrupting everything, including our small outreach program known as Second Glances Thrift Shop.

I'm not sure when we will be reopening, but rest assured we will be as soon as we can.

Currently all gatherings at the church are suspended. Once the Church Council decides to re-open, we will get going again.

But, it's not as simple as "Hey, We're Open!" We need to be sure we are meeting state retail guidelines, including masks, gloves, and sanitizing; the safety of our volunteers.

There are lots of things to consider. Maybe we will have a yard sale or two to be outdoors. More info will be provided as we have it.

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 hold off on any donations until the fall. Please do not leave items to get ruined in the weather.

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:

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TBA

**Hours:**

**Friday 1-6pm**

**Saturday 9-2pm**

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OPEN

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



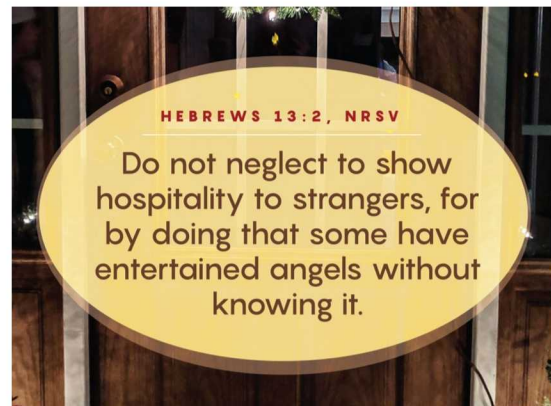
Welcoming the Holy

Abraham and Sarah welcomed three strangers who turned out to be the Lord. Jesus said, "If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple," the giver will be rewarded (Matthew 10:42, NIV). An ancient Jewish proverb asserts: "Hospitality is one form of worship." A Russian Orthodox monk is said to have told a younger one, "Sometimes I see a stranger coming up the road and I say, 'Oh, Jesus Christ, is it you again?'" And an old Gaelic poem declares,

"Often, often, often, goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

Sometimes we think we must do something big to serve God. Today, when you smile at someone on the street, take time to entertain a child's question, bring cookies to a new neighbor, thank a server or clerk ... know that you are serving Jesus, that you are worshiping God.

Heidi Mann NN 6.20



Pastor's Office Hours

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Meet your church: Music and Flower Committees

As described in the Church By-Laws, "**The Music Committee** shall have general charge of the music program in collaboration with the music staff. The committee shall be responsible for the hiring of musicians. It shall consist of at least three members; one of whom can be taken from the congregation without being a member of the church." They keep the music organized and order new music, as well as

finding supply organists when needed. The current music committee is John Hutchinson, Darcy Bartsch, Dana Dahl and Pat Cauchon.

The Flower Committee is responsible for coordinating and scheduling flowers for worship services. Flowers can be donated in honor of or in memory of the giver's choice. The committee is in charge of getting that information into the bulletin

and newsletter. This committee also coordinates Easter lilies or Christmas poinsettias, taking orders and working to purchase from House by the Side of the Road, a consistent supporter of 2CC. The by-laws call for two people to be on this committee, but Sue Warren has handled this on her own for the last several years. Thank you, Sue!



Highly esteemed

After returning from a lengthy mission trip overseas, John Huffman and his fellow passengers were held up in customs for two hours. When he finally made it to the packed airport lobby, Huffman realized it might take a while to find his family. But suddenly, his 3-year old daughter ran toward him yelling, "Daddy! Daddy! That's my daddy!" and launched into his arms.

"What a welcome" he writes. "I have never felt so loved and acknowledged in my life." Perhaps that is how God feels when we call on his name in worship and prayer, acknowledging him as our heavenly Father - and honoring him above all else.

NN 6.20

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

An invitation to rest

Summer calls to mind a slower pace, time off from school and work. But many still face daily demands this time of year: farmers work long hours; teachers may take seasonal work to make ends meet; parents with kids now home all day may catch up on work late at night. Still, may the longer days and warmer weather beckon you into a bit of free time this season. Listen:

“When you take time to replenish your spirit, it allows you to serve others from the overflow. You cannot serve from an empty vessel.” —Eleanor Brownn (public speaker and educator)

“Sometimes it's important to work for that pot of gold. But other times it's essential ... to make sure that your most important decision in the day [is] which color to slide down on the rainbow.” —Douglas Pagels (author)

“Rest time is not waste time; it is economy to gather fresh strength. ... In the long run, we shall do more by sometimes doing less.” —Charles Spurgeon

“Come to me, all you that are weary ... and I will give you rest. ... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” —Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30)



NN 6.20

Bible Quiz

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Which of the following are mentioned in the list that follows?

- A. a time to teach, and a time to learn
- B. a time to mourn, and a time to dance
- C. a time to fast, and a time to eat
- D. a time to work, and a time to rest

Answer: B (See Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.)

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**

Flag Day - Stars and Stripes

In August 1949, Congress approved June 14 as Flag Day, a national observance.

The American flag has changed designs more than any other flag in the world. In fact the United States didn't have a standardized flag until 1912! And even after standardization, the flag changed three more times with the addition of new stars representing new states.

Adapted from NN 6.207

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United Church of Christ (UCC)*

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*On the web at 2ccwilton.com
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:
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