



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

Church Matters

All are Welcome!

August 2020

When will live services begin again?

The Church Council met in July to discuss how soon it will be before we can worship in person again in our church. It was decided that, for now, we will continue to worship via Zoom meetings.

The Council will meet again in early August to discuss what worship would look like, as there are many details to consider to meet CDC Guidelines for public meetings.

Some of those things are traffic patterns to get people in and out, sanitizers, masks,

social distances, maximum capacity, screening at the door, no singing, no physical greetings. As with anything in this age, is there a liability?

There are no simple answers. But rest assured that everyone misses their church family. We have to make sure that the most vulnerable are protected.

There will be an outdoor service at Cathedral of the Pines On September

27 at 10:00am. More details coming.

In the meantime, we would love to see you as well. Please join the weekly Zoom service at 9AM each Sunday. Please contact the church office 2CCWilton@gmail.com to get the log in information.

We will keep everyone posted on when we can resume live services in our church.

Search Committee progress

The Search Committee's Kick-Off meeting was held on June 24 via Zoom with the Reverend Richard Slater at the New Hampshire Conference UCC leading. Reverend Slater reviewed the resources available on the NH UCC website and who is there to assist us along the way. He gave us an overview of the process. We need to create a profile to go on the website, which will be posted on the NH and national UCC websites, we'll interview candidates, pick one and all done! Okay, it's not going to be that easy! Rev Slater indicates it could take 3-4 months to complete just the profile.

The Committee has met almost weekly since then, getting the groundwork laid to do all that.

As we work on the church profile, we plan to ask everyone for their input. Whether that is by survey, Zoom meetings or small in-person gatherings - or a combination of these methods - we want to hear from you when we start that process.

Some of the questions for you to consider will be

- ◇ Who are we
- ◇ Who is our neighbor
- ◇ Who is God calling us to be
- ◇ Where are we on ONA
- ◇ What are we looking

for in a pastor/teacher

- ◇ Where do we want to be in 2, 5 or 10 years
- ◇ What are some specific concerns you have.

We ask you to consider these and anything else you might think of.

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

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Bible Quiz
Looking Ahead

Greetings from my desk at home!



I just want you all to know how hard your Church leadership is working. First we have been meeting every month - and in August will meet within the first two weeks - to try and come up with a plan that would allow us to meet in person.

This is no easy task; we are trying to take into consideration everyone's wellbeing. Stay tuned for more on that.

Your search committee is meeting almost every week. Although these are all taking place via zoom, the work is even harder this way. You will be seeing some of their work, so watch your mailbox!

Pat Cauchon has "recorded" a lot of music for us. We hope you enjoy that during our worship services via Zoom.

I know these are difficult times. It has put a spotlight on just how much we depend on each other and how important it is to see and be with one another.

How many times have you been faced with an obstacle and said to yourself I can't, or I will not do that? Did you ever think that you would have to wear a face mask to shop? Did you think you would have to stay six feet from your friends? If you are like me the answer is no, but it is exactly the way we must act now, After a while it seems like, well almost like, normal.

For me it speaks to just how flexible we can be. In this time of transitional ministry its important to keep that same sense of open mindfulness. You will be asked in the coming months to do just that, things like:

- ◇ What does ONA mean and what does it mean to me?
- ◇ What do I want in a Pastor?
- ◇ What does it mean to me to belong to Second Congregational Church of Wilton?

I do so look forward to really seeing you soon. Be safe. In Christ service,

Pastor Kerry

"We can see one another's faces instead of the back of their heads!"



Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembered

Friday, August 7, 2020, 6:30-8:00pm

Hosted by Peace Action, NH Peace Action, NH Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, Peace Action Maine, NH Council of Churches, Massachusetts Peace Action, Veterans for Peace - NH Chapter, NH Building a Culture of Peace Forum, American Friends Service Committee-NH Program

Every year, all over the world, people gather to remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On the seventy-fifth anniversary of those bombings, gather with American and international peace groups, for a live streaming remembrance hosted by Kevin Martin, President of Peace Action, the ceremony will be led by Reverend Liz Theoharis co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, and will feature Masako Wada, who was a young girl in Nagasaki and survived the bombing, she is now the Assistant Secretary General of Nihon Hidankyo, the Japanese organization of survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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August 2020

ONA - Open and Affirming

We want to rekindle our case for becoming an ONA congregation. There are some webinars coming up in the next few months that discuss how and why congregations choose the path to publicly make the declaration. Pastor Kerry has also met with the group and continues to support everyone in the congregation, regardless of their position on this issue.

It is not safe right now to meet and discuss in person. Next month we hope to meet as a committee and then have open discussions on the zoom platform this fall. Stay tuned.... In the meantime here are some thoughts on the process.

Q. What can I expect in an ONA church?

A. A community of faith where you and your family are safe!

Because each congregation in the United Church of Christ is independent, and therefore free to make its own decisions, there is a broad diversity of theology and practice in our tradition. In the UCC, there is no hierarchy that can impose uniformity on our churches. Each ONA congregation has independently adopted an Open and Affirming covenant after a journey of dialogue, study and prayer. There are differences between congregations, but generally, an ONA

church:

- 1. is a safe space for open and honest conversation about human sexuality and gender identity.
- 2. encourages LGBTQ members to serve in lay and ordained leadership.
- 3. celebrates same-sex weddings.

If you would like to be included in upcoming events, please email me.

Submitted by Stephanie Ouellette at ouellette99@gmail.com with other committee members: Violet Blake, Sandy Blumm, Loretta Smith and eQuinimiti Joy



Cathedral of the Pines Outdoor worship service will be held on Sunday, September 27 at 10AM. More details will be available soon. Mark your calendar!

Book Nook - Run with the Horses

"If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses?"
Jeremiah 12:5

We all long to live life at its best-to fuse freedom and spontaneity with purpose and meaning. Why then do we often find our lives so humdrum, so unadventurous, so routine? Or else so frantic, so full of activity, but still devoid of fulfillment? How do we learn to risk, to trust, to pursue wholeness and excellence-to run with the horses in the jungle of life?

In a series of profound reflections on the life of Jeremiah the prophet, Eugene Peterson explores the heart of what it means to be fully and genuinely human. His writing is filled with humor and self-reflection, insight and wisdom, helping to set a course for others in the quest for life at its best. (Publisher's Summary)

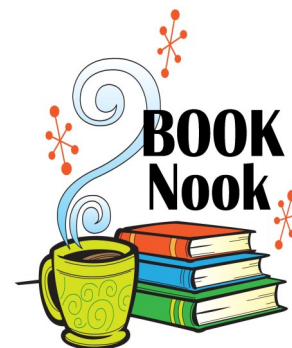
And from:

thesometimespreacher.com

"Peterson sketches Jeremiah's faithfulness to God through all the horrors of his life: mockery, rejection,

famine, siege, desolation, and exile. Through it all he chose to run with the horses, to not be sidetracked by bitterness or disappointment. He was melancholy, but still he hoped in God."

Please read some excerpts from the author of *Run with the Horses*, Eugene Peterson on page 7





Your mission dollars at work!

Lenten Banks - we plan to collect the banks when we are able to meet at church again. As a reminder, we will combine this money with the Advent banks we collected in December. Once we gather the Lenten Banks, we will propose several options.

Linus project is still producing fleece blankets for distribution to area hospitals, Head Starts and emergency facilities. We hope to get back together, when it is safe, to meet at the church hall. In the meantime, if you need supplies, please let someone on the committee know.

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

Visit our Website and Facebook pages

If you haven't already, please check out the church's new website www.2CCWilton.org. It's much more impressive and comprehensive than some of our previous versions. Go there for the most up-to-date Church Calendar, Pastor Kerry's sermons and Church Matters newsletters.

For Facebook people: Please "Like" and "Follow" our Facebook page "Second Congregational Church Wilton NH". We encourage you to Comment and Share content on your own pages. All of these things create a wider outreach for Second Congregational Church. Thank you for your support!

Musical Notes - God's mysterious ways

"God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform." These oft-quoted words, from a hymn by English poet William Cowper, come with an unsubstantiated yet powerful back story.

Cowper, who struggled with depression, decided to commit suicide one night. He called a cab to go to the Thames River, planning to drown himself. Such dense fog arose that the driver got lost and finally stopped to let his passenger out. To Cowper's surprise, he was at his own door! He concluded that God had sent the fog to spare his life. The hymn he wrote in response continues:

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy and shall break
in blessings on your head. ...

His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour.
The bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.



August 2020

What's in Store? We need to have yard sale



We need to have a yard sale! While we have not been soliciting donations, we have quite a back log.

We need someone to set up and run a yard sale in September or October. You can pick your date, but we need to get it set

by August 15, so as to make the newsletter and to do some (a lot!) advertising.

Contact Loretta at Loretta@hiik.net or reply to the next volunteer email reminder.

DONATION 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. Please be considerate. "No Dumping" in the bin

"Many hands make light work."

Thank you!! The SG Team



What's in store:

~~~~~  
**Second Glances Rummage Sales**

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

~~~~~  
**Watch for our next opening!**



## Are you shopping at Amazon?

If your answer is yes, did you know that the Second Congregational Church has an *AmazonSmile* account which generates funds for the Church? That's right - most everything you purchase in Amazon is also available in *AmazonSmile*.

Here's how it works: The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible smile.amazon.com purchases. Obviously these purchases can add up!

The Second Congregational Church was issued a \$38.12 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between January 1 and March 31, 2020.

Want to help? The next time you're looking to make a purchase with Amazon, consider moving to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-6047064> the cost to you is the exactly the same, Only purchases made at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), not Amazon.com or its mobile app, generate AmazonSmile donations. Thank you for your help in this small fundraiser.

Submitted by Dana Dahl

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."  
  
Hebrews 6:10



## 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](mailto:kerryrichardson@comcast.net)

### Meet your church: Trustees

The Trustees of our church consists of five members: The Clerk and Treasurer plus three other members.

They have general care of the church's funds and are responsible for the maintenance of the physical property of the church.

They are described in the by-laws as prudential officers. They oversee the trust funds and endowments of the church, and make sure they are invested properly. They make sure the income is collected and used according to the terms

of the trusts and the instruction of the church.

They have the authority to accept or reject gifts and bequests (either property or monies), and further having oversight of the enforcement of the terms of the gifts/bequests.

The Trustees have no authority to make any essential alterations, physical or fiduciary, without a directing vote of the church (church council).

Additionally, the Trustees provide for the employment of the custodian, as needed.

One Trustee is to be elected at each Annual Meeting for three years.

Currently, the Trustees consist of Joshua Bartsch, Peter Ouellette, and Jim Tuttle, plus Clerk Leslie Tuttle and Treasurer Dana Dahl.

The Trustees do lots of "behind the scenes" work. You'd be surprised at the scope of tasks they take on, from keeping the building operational with roof repairs, new furnace, and safety inspections to overseeing grant writing.

### Committee Meetings for August

Most meetings have been cancelled or rescheduled via Zoom. Contact Church Administrator Del at [2ccWilton@gmail.com](mailto:2ccWilton@gmail.com) for more information.

There is no calendar in this month's newsletter. However, the most current church calendar is posted on our website [www.2CCWilton.org](http://www.2CCWilton.org) and is always available there.



### 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!**

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## On God's side

Ever been picked last for a team? Eugene Peterson recounts feeling like a “liability” when this happened to him. In *Run With the Horses* (IVP Books), he says God always wants us on his side — no matter our individual strengths or weaknesses:

“For a long time all Christians called each other ‘saints.’ They were all saints regardless of how

well or badly they lived, of how experienced or inexperienced they were. The word *saint* did not refer to the quality or virtue of their acts, but to the kind of life to which they had been chosen, life on a battlefield. It was not a title given after a spectacular performance, but a mark of whose side they were on.”

Based on its Latin roots, *saint* is the noun form of the verb *consecrate*; in other words, Peterson adds, God gave us “spiritual shape” even before we had “biological shape” (see Jeremiah 1:5). Even before forming us, God set us apart, or consecrated us, as saints — and chose us to be on his side.

NN11.15

## Lively or lifeless?

When Eugene Peterson was a seminary student, he met Willi Ossa, a German-born artist who worked as a church janitor by night. Ossa thought all Christians were hypocrites because the ones he knew in his homeland had supported Nazis.

In *Run With the Horses* (IVP Books), Peterson writes that Ossa

warned him not to become a pastor because “the church squeezed the spirit and morality” out of people. When Ossa painted Peterson’s portrait, the flat eyes and gaunt face served as a “prophetic warning” about what might happen to him.

Peterson kept the portrait, often comparing it to what he saw in the

mirror. The painting, he says, “shows me what I become if I drift from or deny a personal faith in a merciful God.” NN 6.16

## Virtual Services, but not Virtual Offerings

Don’t forget, Pledges and Donations can be mailed to Second Congregational Church, PO Box 246, Wilton NH 03086. We may not be meeting like we used to, but the work of the church goes on. Thank you!



## Revised Common Lectionary for July

|           |                                                                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2  | Genesis 32:22-31, Isaiah 55:1-5, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21                  |
| August 9  | Genesis 37:1-7, 12-28, 1Kings 19:9-18, Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33          |
| August 16 | Genesis 45:1-15, Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Romans 11:1-2, 29-32, Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28 |
| August 23 | Exodus 1:8-2:10, Isaiah 51:1-6, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20                  |
| August 30 | Exodus 3:1-15, Jeremiah 15:15-21, Romans 12:9-21. Matthew 16:21-28               |

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 reading and what you find interesting about them. I do hope you enjoy getting to know your Bible.

Blessings, Pastor Kerry

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

*25 Gregg Street  
P O Box 246  
Wilton NH 03086  
Telephone: 603-654-9045  
Email: ChurchMatters@hiik.net*

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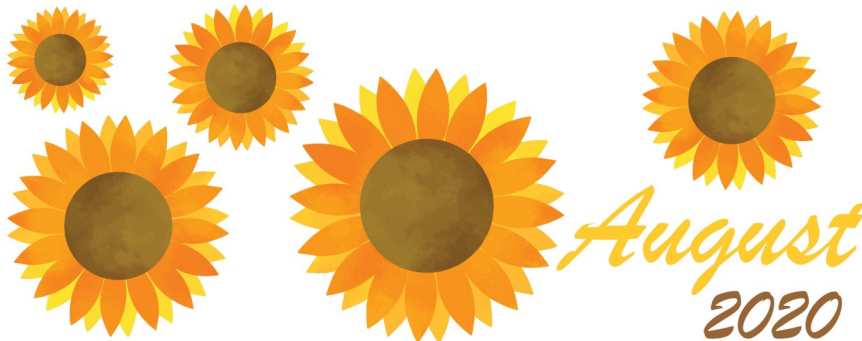
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*On the web at [2ccWilton.com](http://2ccWilton.com)  
On Facebook: *Second Congregational Church Wilton NH and  
Second Glances Thrift Shop*  
.....*

**Each Sunday 9AM: Worship Service via Zoom [2ccWilton@gmail.com](mailto:2ccWilton@gmail.com) for more info.**



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