



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

Church Matters

All are Welcome!

September 2020

Live services have begun!

The Church Council and Diaconate Board met over the summer to discuss how soon it will be before we can worship in person again in our church. It was decided that the first in-person service will be held August 30 at 9:30 am.

We will proceed cautiously and every other week will be worship via Zoom. In-person worship will be the second and fourth Sundays, with Zoom meeting on the first and third Sundays. Times to be

confirmed. On months with five Sundays, the fifth Sunday will be TBA. All attendees will be subject to certain guidelines, which includes wearing face masks, temperature taking, social distancing and one way entry or exit. A complete list of guidelines is on page 7. Please review these as you make your individual decisions to meet in person or not.

These guidelines are in place to protect us all and subject to changes.

In the meantime, 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 as things change.

Yard Sale Schedule September 26

Its official! We are having a yard sale on Saturday, September 26 from 8 am to 2 pm. Becca Lorden and Cindy Melhorn are heading up the sale. So now we need some workers.

Contact Becca at RLorden80@gmail.com or Loretta at Loretta@hiik.net or reply to the next volunteer email reminder.

to drop off donations during the week before.

Please do not leave items to get ruined in the weather. Please be considerate. "No Dumping" in the bin.

Remember: If you are trying to decide Dump or Donation - it probably needs to go to the dump.

Thank you!!



*September 26,
8am to 2pm*

DONATIONS FOR THE YARD SALE WILL BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

REMINDER: We are not able to monitor the donation bin on a regular basis. Please contact Becca or Loretta

Second Congregational Church will hold an Outdoor worship service at Cathedral of the Pines in Jaffrey NH, on Sunday, September 27 at 10AM.

Immediately following will be a Celebration of Life for our dear friend, Paul Kennedy.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

Kerry's Corner 2

ONA/Book Nook 3

Mission Possible
Musical Notes 4

Contact Info
Readers
Flowers 5

Calendar 6

Second Glances
Announcements 7

Meet Your Church
Housekeeping 8

Bible Quiz
Looking Ahead 9

Bible Quiz
Looking Ahead

“Who do they say I am?”



“The Church is not someplace you go; it is a community...”

So, as we have been reading the Gospel of Matthew for most of the month of August, one of them has stood out for me. If any of you have listened to the sermon on the 23rd, you will know that this is the one!, “Who do they say I am?” and better yet who do you say I am? It may be that I am stretching it some here, but here goes.

I have been reading a lot this summer and one of the books I just finished is *Christianity Beyond Belief, Following Jesus for the sake of others* by Todd D. Hunter. In it he talks a lot of the Christian community, what does it mean, and what does it mean to us or you?

One of the comparisons he makes is to first responders, how they are trained to run towards a crisis instead of away from it. When we see them in action on the news we might think as Hunter says “Wow, they are really living in their story; they are faithfully acting their part.” They respond for the sake of others; they are models for how the

ambassadors of the kingdom of God should respond to the world.

I think God would envision something like that for the church. N.T. Wright said this “God’s covenant purpose was to chose a people in and through whom the world would be healed. That purpose, reaching its climax in the Messiah, is now to be worked out through his people”. So, the question is who are God’s people? What exactly is the Church?

The church is not some place you go; it is a community, a group you participate in. Anyone who has played a sport of any kind understands that the team meets together for “practice.” That’s what our Sunday meeting are, or the book group, they are for the teams to prepare to play the game. Remember the meetings are not the game. Christianity-following Jesus- is not lived, is not fully expressed, with in the walls of the church building but in the daily routines of our lives.

If I asked you to draw on a napkin your vision of the church, I would bet that it would be a square with a pointed roof and a cross on top? Right? What if instead you made a bunch of stick people, doing mission work, making meals, or sewing blankets, or better yet figures of different sizes, sexes, colors getting along, working together? What would that look like?

So, what would people say about us? What do people say about us? Better yet what do you say? If Jesus were here, would he be proud of the church we built?

I hope we all can start living our faith in the open community and not just within the walls of the building we are calling Church.

Your servant in and to Christ,

Pastor Kerry



Publication Information
Church Matters Volume # 238
September 1, 2020
Published Monthly
Second Congregational Church UCC 25 Gregg Street, PO Box 246 Wilton NH 03086
Issue # 2020.09
Subscription Price - Free

Book Club

The book club continues to meet twice per month via Zoom. Let Pastor Kerry know if you are interested in joining. He can provide you with dates, links to participate and the subject under discussion. You don’t even have to read to join in some interesting discussions!

September 2020

ONA - Are you welcome at our church?

As we begin our discussions of ONA, I think we need to understand that it is a lot more than just agreeing to same sex marriages. Our ONA covenant should be written to express that all persons are welcome, regardless of their race, ethnicity, age, family structure, faith background, economic circumstances, as well as, sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression. We do this now!

So, why do we need to formalize? People moving to town or searching for a church, especially young or blended families, will

be looking for a church that has publicly declared that they are open and affirming. It is not enough anymore to just say we are welcoming to all.

People who have been marginalized or singled out may not want to risk coming to a church that has not gone through the ONA process. Some may bypass our church without giving it a second glance. And, as we search for a settled pastor, we need to firmly state whether or not we want our beliefs known.

Every single person in our congregation has a voice in this and deserves to be

heard. Whether you agree or not to one or more parts of the ONA designation, we need to listen to each other and decide, as a congregation.

Let's speak openly and honestly once we can get back together. And, most importantly, let's listen to each other.

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



Book Nook - Unafraid... to change

There's a lot of fear and uncertainty in the world right now, a lot of things have changed or are changing that we believed would never change. A lot of things have happened to shake our faith in our world and perhaps even in God. That's why the title of this month's Nook Book ***Unafraid: Moving Beyond Fear-based Faith*** by Benjamin L. Corey, jumped off the virtual shelf.

Benjamin L. Corey, thought he was suffering a crisis of faith, but it turned out to be a spiritual awakening. He was in the Air Force, he was raised Christian, he had a degree in Theology and he knew what he believed, and that what he believed was right. Until things changed.

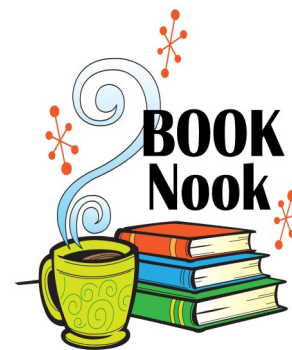
"Corey became aware that the constant fear of hell and judgment that defined his Christian faith was out of sync with the idea that God acts from love, and promises to deliver us from fear. In the wake of this realization came newfound insights. From reading the Bible to re-examining American life and the church's role in the wider world., he began to realize what he had been taught was a distorted version of Christianity that was not only untrue but caused real spiritual harm.

He also discovered that he wasn't alone. Many Christians are yearning to distinguish between the Christianity that has become a rigid American civil religion and the authentic Christian faith

embodied in Jesus. As he recounts his own spiritual journey, Corey offers a powerful and inspiring message of hope for every Christian increasingly frustrated with the church today. Do not be discouraged, he assures us. You do not need to give up your faith; you can rediscover the reality of a vibrant Christianity that delivers us from fear and inspires and guides us all today." From the flyleaf of ***Unafraid***.

May we be unafraid to change as Christians,

Prayerfully submitted,
eQuanimiti Joy





Project Linus

In July 18 fleece and 19 flannel blankets were delivered by our church group for distribution.

Some of the flannel blankets will go to birthing suites and others will go to foster care families who often receive children as well as infants

with very short notice and no supplies. In all 763 blankets were received by the local chapter in July from blanketeers all over the state!

Thank you for supporting church missions so we can continue to fund this project.

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



We will miss you

A fond remembrance of Paul and Heather

With great sadness, we would like to acknowledge the passing of two members of our church family, Paul Kennedy and Heather Pries. Both left us in August to be in God's care.

Heather was involved in so many of our activities - always there for the rummage sales and Christmas fairs, and often with something delicious made with blueberries! Our sincere condolences to her family. We will miss Heather greatly.

Paul has always been here and in the community, to lend his charm to all occasions. He will be missed by his church family, as well as the American Legion and the Milford special needs group. There will be a celebration of Paul's life at the Cathedral of the Pines, after our service at 10AM.

Musical Notes - A Spirit who comforts

In a time when life expectancy was around 40 years, Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) lived more than twice that long. The Benedictine abbess and mystic wrote books and music, founded two convents, conducted four "preaching tours" and much more, despite chronic illness, lack of schooling, grave self-doubt and a male-dominated church and society. Perhaps these poetry excerpts reveal her source of strength and inspiration:

O comforting fire of Spirit,
Life, within the very Life of all Creation.
Holy you are in giving life to All. ...

O sacred breath, O fire of love ...
O most pure fountain
through whom it is known
that God has united strangers
and inquired after the lost. ...

You always draw out knowledge,
bringing joy through Wisdom's inspiration.

Therefore, praise be to you
who are the sound of praise
and the greatest prize of Life,
who are hope and richest honor
bequeathing the reward of Light.



September 2020



Almost all of our fundraising this year has been cancelled, which is a disappointment.

BUT... I think we can have a successful Christmas Fair this year. It will need to be virtual, of course. The plan is to have a catalog with pictures and listings of items and order forms by mid-November to distribute electronically and by mail to those who do not have internet service.

How does it work? Crafters and bakers will commit to make a set number of items which will be featured in the catalog.

All items sold will need to be dropped off at the church in the days ahead of the virtual fair. Then orders will be taken up to the deadline (to be determined).

Orders will be filled and available for pick up at the church at a designated date and

time. So, let your imaginations go wild!

Some of the items we are looking for: Homemade cookies, cakes, pies, etc.

Homemade jewelry, crafts, hand knit items.

We hope to also have a silent auction as well, with bids updated daily.

If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Peter and Stephanie Ouellette, ouellette99@gmail.com or 654-2272.



*Our
Christmas Fair
is going virtual!*



*Read all
about it!*



Search Committee: Congregational meetings planned

The Search Committee is meeting weekly. We are gathering information for our profile, which is a comprehensive picture of where we are, who we are and who we want to become as a church as we move forward with our search for a settled pastor.

We are planning congregational gatherings in socially distanced outdoor meetings and/or Zoom meetings to hear from our members rather than using written surveys.

We encourage everyone to attend one or more meetings and to share your thoughts about our direction and a new settled pastor. We hope everyone will participate in their meeting

and send additional comments to the committee.

In the next several weeks we will begin to put the collected data to "paper" as we prepare our profile.

The plan is to submit our profile to the UCC this fall so we are "published" as seeking a pastor/teacher no later than the first of the year.

We will begin reviewing the By-laws this fall as well to determine what updates and changes would be appropriate and present proposed new By-laws to the church for a vote at Annual Meeting. The last time our entire By-laws were updated was in 2011 and voted on at Annual Meeting

in 2012. There were 4 amendments adopted between then and now, which will be incorporated into one document.

Thanks to all for your continued support and your future input as we proceed with the congregational meetings very soon.

Submitted by Leslie Tuttle

"For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

Matthew 7:8

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: Pastoral Relations and Nominating

We've got two committees for you this month, starting with the Pastoral Relations Committee. This committee acts as a liaison between the Pastor and the congregation. The purpose is to provide support for the Pastor and maintain an ongoing and health relationship between the two. The committee also provides an ongoing evaluation of the Pastor and congregational ministry, reporting to the Diaconate.

The committee also negotiates yearly with the Pastor on compensation and benefits and makes recommendations to the Diaconate. Members to include the Moderator, a Deacon and two other members of the church. They meet twice per year.

The Nominating Committee is comprised of three members and is charged with preparing, prior to annual meeting, a slate of officers and committee

members whose terms are expiring. The nominations are voted upon at the Annual Meeting. The Committee also nominates persons to fill any unexpired terms of office when needed. Again, the committee is comprised of three members.

Visit our Website and Facebook pages for the Calendar & more

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!



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

Guidelines for in-person church services (subject to change)

Face masks are required and will be available if someone forgets theirs or doesn't have one.

Hand sanitizer will be available in convenient locations

Floors will be marked with tape at 6' intervals to help people with their social distancing

Temperature will be taken of everyone attending - any temp over 100.4 cannot be allowed in.

Attendance will be taken at each service

Deacons will seat people, seating from front to back - then at end of service leave back to front,

Pews will be marked with tape at 6' intervals to keep the social distancing. Family units can sit together, which may require a

quick adjustment of the "other" 6' space

Bulletins will already be in the pews - bibles and hymnals have been removed. Please bring your own Bible from home instead.

Offerings can be left in the pew or continued to be mailed in

While the weather is good - have windows and doors will be open .

People can sign up to be the responsive reader & scripture reader (they would do both). They would sit up front on the altar for the whole service and do their readings from there. There is still more than 6' of distance with Kerry up there also.

The bathrooms – cleaner is available for people to wipe down areas before and after their use.

If you test positive for the coronavirus, please stay home.

Do not come if you don't feel well.

Do not come if you exhibit any symptoms of sickness, including sore throats, coughing, fevers, etc. Please keep us all safe

Please tell us if you test positive for the coronavirus.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work through all of this together.

Guidelines will be strictly adhered to and are subject to changes. People not respecting the guidelines will be asked to leave.

Matching donations

Many companies have monies set aside for charitable donations and are available as matching grants for their employees. This encourages donations to the employee's choice of organization, and doubles the amount available. Ask your employer if they will match your donation to Second Congregational Church. The church clerk, Leslie Tuttle, can provide any supporting information needed. Typically this is a letter of acknowledgement of your gift and our 501(c)3 number. Very easy and very helpful to the 2CC! Thanks for your consideration!



Revised Common Lectionary for September

September 6 Exodus 12:1-14, Ezekiel 33:7-11, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20
 September 13 Exodus 14:19-31, Genesis 50:15-21, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35
 September 20 Exodus 16:2-15, Jonah 3:10-4:11, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16
 September 27 Exodus 17:1-7, Ezekiel 51:18:1-4 & 25-32, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

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

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WILTON, NH 03086
PERMIT NO. 2**



Address label here

All are Welcome!

Temp Return Service Requested

.....
On the web at 2ccWilton.com

*On Facebook: Second Congregational Church Wilton NH and
Second Glances Thrift Shop*
.....

Each Sunday 9AM: Worship Service via Zoom 2ccWilton@gmail.com for more info.

September 6 Church Service 9am via Zoom
September 13 Church Service 9:30 in-person
September 20 Church Service 9am via Zoom
September 21 Church Council meeting 7pm via Zoom
September 26 Yard Sale 8-2pm
September 27 Cathedral of the Pines service 10am



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey:

All are Welcome!