



Second Congregational Church UCC · Wilton NH

Church Matters

All are Welcome!

October 2020



As reported last month, there will be a virtual Christmas Fair this year. We are looking for hand-made crafts, baked goods, wreaths, jewelry, and a silent auction. Details are still being worked out and will be finalized by the next newsletter.

If you would please let us know what you will donate, then the items can be added to the sale list. Our intent is to have photos, when possible, and descriptions of items for sale.

For example, Cindy is planning to have corn chowder portioned out for sale, Peter is making more birch reindeer and Leslie will be making earrings. Let your imaginations go and see if you can come up with some unique ideas.

The way we see it working is a catalog will be available by mid-November, on the church web site and mailed to those without internet. Orders will be taken for sale items. All items will need to be dropped off at the church no later than Friday, December 4. Any purchases will be available for pick up on Saturday, the day we normally have the fair. Money for the purchased items can be paid at that time. Please call us at 654-2282 or email at ouellette99@gmail.com if you are willing to contribute. Thank you!

Christmas Fair co-chairs
Stephanie and Peter
Ouellette

❁❁❁❁❁❁
*Our
Christmas Fair
is going virtual!*

❁❁❁❁❁❁
*Read all
about it!*



The day netted just over \$800. Thanks so much to one and all for helping, And thank you to all our customers and supporters who told us how much they missed us!

A successful yard sale

For our first major fundraiser for 2020, our September Yard Sale was a great success.

Kudos to co-chairs Becca Lorden and Cindy Melhorn for putting it all together. Thank you's go to our helpers, Deb and Mike Degan, Ingrid

Howard, Jan and Glenn Stone, Jessie Salisbury, Darcy and Steve Bartsch, Peter and Stephanie Ouellette and a few others who wandered by and stayed to help. If I missed someone, let me know!

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

Holding on and letting go



".. Look at what is important to you and the future of the Church..."

We have come to that time of year when things change rapidly and drastically. All the life that appeared throughout the spring and summer is ending. We try and hold onto it as best we can; some will buy mum plants hoping that they will give us one more splash of color! My experience has been even those do not last as long as I would like!!

So, what do we do this information and these feelings? It has been said that we can not have a new beginning without an ending, and we cannot have an ending without a new beginning.

In the gospel of John chapter 2:19, Jesus answered" tear down this temple and I will rebuild it in three days." This was hard for them to believe or even understand, after all it had been in the process of

being built since about 20BC. Now we know that he was talking about himself, being killed and rising in three days. So, what does this have to do with our current status?

We - you and I - are in the middle of an interim time for the Church. You want to hold on to all that is familiar to you, but on the other hand you want to bring in new, younger people, you might even want to change the music that "they" might like, but.. "I just cannot let go of the hymns that are near and dear to me!!"

I am not suggesting that you tear down the church, but I am suggesting that you look at what is really important to you and the future of the Church. What are you willing to sacrifice, let go of for the good of the whole church community? Having had to deal with

covid 19, we are doing a lot of things we never thought possible. We have had to let go of a lot of very familiar ways of doing things.

As you go through the search process, get involved, share your thoughts and your ideas. This is a huge opportunity for you and the church.

Remember that even as we enter into fall and then winter, we come out on the other end with new life, new beginnings, things will sprout! Remember nothing ends without a new beginning!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Kerry

*Worship Services will continue for now by Zoom the first and third Sundays of the month at 9am** In-person Serves will be the second and fourth Sundays at 9:30 · Complete guidelines on page 7 for in person services·*

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Book Club

The book club continues to meet twice per month via Zoom on the second and fourth Mondays at 10am. Let Pastor Kerry know if you are interested in joining. He can provide you with links to participate and the subject under discussion. You don't even have to read to join in some interesting discussions!

October 2020

ONA - What would a covenant look like?

Last month we discussed what a covenant could look like for an open and affirming congregation. Per the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC, "An Open and Affirming covenant is more than a statement, policy, declaration or an amendment to a congregation's by-laws. In the UCC's Reformed tradition, a covenant is an *act of faith*, a solemn promise to God in response to God's holy Word. An ONA covenant is a serious step for a congregation in its life of faith."

Are we willing to publicly state what we already practice in our church every week? We have always welcomed people into our church regardless of their race, culture, age,

ability and social standing. What will we risk if we say this aloud?

UCC, Boxborough MA's covenant states, in part, "We are an Open and Affirming (ONA) church, believing that each of us is created in God's image. We celebrate everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education, or spiritual and religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry and mission of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith. We

strive to demonstrate in all ways that "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

These covenants may not fit our needs, but they are an excellent example of what our covenant might include. The committee welcomes your comments. Please feel free to contact any one of us to discuss further.

Submitted by Stephanie Ouellette with Loretta Smith, eQuanimiti Joy, Violet Blake and Sandy Blumm. Pastor Kerry welcomes your comments too and will speak to anyone on the subject.



Book Nook - Open to the Holy Spirit

Open to the Spirit: God in Us, God with Us, God transforming Us, by Biblical scholar and teacher Scot McKnight, is a straightforward examination of what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit, the often confusing member of the Trinity. Through Biblical study, theology, and life experience he seeks to answer such questions as: Who exactly is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do in our lives? How can we know the Holy Spirit more deeply? Is it possible to be aware of the Holy Spirit's promptings and to act on these

promptings in our lives, our churches, our world?

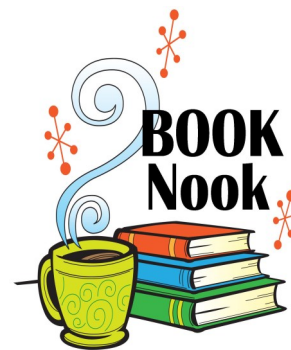
"Many today have little patience with the church, but they love Jesus. They have concluded that if Jesus believes it, they are all for it. So let's start there. What did Jesus believe about the Spirit? What did Jesus know about the Spirit? How did Jesus practice the Spirit? More importantly was Jesus open to the Spirit?" p. 8

"Each of us is designed by God to be receptive to the Spirit. We are spirit-ual beings. We can, with free will, choose to be open or

we can be shut or we can be a little bit open and whole lot shut but we cannot as Christians deny our design. If we deprive ourselves of knowing the Holy Spirit, and refuse to open to the changes that occur when we seek to know the Holy Spirit, then we are refusing to walk with Jesus, refusing to become more like Christ." p. 8

This informative book is in the Nook when you feel open to reading more about the Holy Spirit!

Prayerfully submitted, eQuanimiti Joy





Mission work continues

Linus Project The group continues to work on fleece blankets even though we are not meeting now. In August we delivered another 8 blankets. The project coordinator for our area was especially happy to see our assortment as their youth and teen shelves were virtually empty. If you would like to work on this project, we have fleece and yarn available.

Greater Nashua Crop Hunger Walk

This year, the Crop Walk for Hunger, in conjunction with the Nashua Area group, is taking place during October, virtually. There are several routes that can be taken. The Milford Methodist Church has a walk route they have invited the Souhegan group to use, if we want. The crop walk will raise funds locally as well as globally, as in past years. The differences

this year: you can walk whenever is convenient for you during the month; there is a waiver to be signed before participation regarding Covid-19. For more information, please contact Stephanie Ouellette.

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

Musical Notes - The mind of Christ

Kate Wilkinson (1859-1928), who ministered to young women in west London, wrote only one hymn. "May the Mind of Christ, My Savior" is a powerful message based on Philippians 2:5. "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (NRSV).

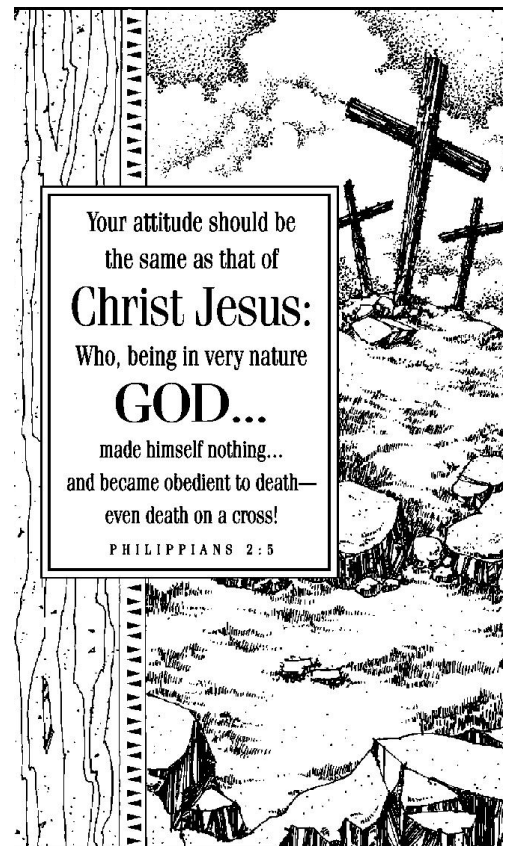
Here are a few verses, which can also serve as prayers:

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By his love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through his power.

May his beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only him.

NN 9.13



October 2020

Second Glances and Rummage Sales

We had a successful yard sale in September. Many people were very glad to see us and asked when the Rummage Sale was returning.

Is it time to give the Rummage Sale a shot?

We will be investigating that idea in the next couple of weeks. Other thrift shops in Southern New Hampshire have had successful openings, which also encourages us to get going.

Donations are being

accepted only in person, please do not leave items in the box, especially with winter weather not that far off.

I also wanted to share that Second Glances donated almost 100 pairs of shoes to the Wilton-Lyndeborough PTO's shoe drive in the spring. They collected about 1400 pairs of shoes (even with the pandemic). We were happy to help them out.

Part of our mission is to reach out into the

community and this was a great example.

If you know of a situation that we can help with our collection of clothing or household goods, please let us know, or have them contact the church for us to get back to them.

Thanks to all for a great yard sale.

Watch for new adventures for Second Glances. We are hoping for sooner rather than later!

The SG Team



Our
Christmas Fair
is going virtual!



Read all
about it on
Page 1!



Search Committee: What's next

The Search Committee continues to meet weekly. We have completed our congregational survey meetings. We heard from many, but not everyone. An email or letter will be coming your way for one more chance to share your thoughts on any or all of these questions:

What brought you to Second Congregational Church and what made you stay? What do you see as our roll in the community? Where do you see church in 5 or 10 years? What qualities make a good pastor? What do you like or dislike about worship service in general?

This information will help us paint 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.

In the next several weeks, we will use the collected information to prepare our profile. Our goal is to have that published by year end.

We will also be reviewing the By-laws this fall to determine what updates and changes would be appropriate and then present the proposed new By-laws to the church for a vote at Annual Meeting. This process was last done in 2012.

Thanks to all for your continued support and input

as we proceed to our next steps. Contact any one of the committee if needed.

Submitted by Loretta April for the Search Committee:
Leslie Tuttle (chair)
Lori Dick
Ingrid Howard
Becky Kennedy
Peter Ouellette
Jan Stone
Lamar Smth

"Give your servant
therefore an
understanding mind
to govern your
people, able to
discern between
good and evil"

1 Kings 3:9

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: Stewardship

From the church By-Laws: The Stewardship Committee shall promote stewardship throughout the year as it encourages the giving of time, talents and treasure by the congregation in support of the mission of the church. It shall be responsible for seeking pledges and contributions to help finance the annual budget. It shall also organize and promote any giving campaigns in cooperation

and consultation with the Finance Committee. The committee will be comprised of at least three members of the church.

Historically, Stewardship drives are held in October or November, after the annual budget is proposed for the coming year.

Did you know that what is not covered by pledges, must be supplemented by Fund Raising? This is why fundraising is such an

important part of our budget!

Please consider increasing your pledge to make sure the pledges equal the budget.

Wouldn't it be great to have Fun-raising events instead of Fund-raising ones?

Thank you to our Stewardship Committees, both now and in the past, that are a key part of our success!

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.

Thinking about Stewardship

Christians give to the Lord because they are grateful. The giving of themselves in totality - body, mind, spirit, talents, time and material resources - is the Christian way of expressing their thankfulness to God for all that they have. Responding to the immeasurable love and grace of God, dedicated Christians open their hearts and hands toward God in a spirit of appreciation and love.



Revised Common Lectionary for October

October 4	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9,12-20; Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4-14; Matthew 21:33-46
October 11	Exodus 32:1-14, Isaiah 25:1-9, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14
October 18	Exodus 33:12-23; Isaiah 45:1-7, I Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
October 25	Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; I Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-36

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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On the web at 2ccWilton.com
*On Facebook: Second Congregational Church Wilton NH and
Second Glances Thrift Shop*
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Worship Services - see below or email 2ccWilton@gmail.com for more info.

October 4 Church Service 9am via Zoom
October 11 Church Service 9:30am in-person
October 12 Senior Book Club 10am via Zoom
October 18 Church Service 9am via Zoom
October 20 Church Council meeting 7pm via Zoom
October 25 Church Service 9:30am in-person
October 26 Senior Book Club 10am via Zoom



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

All are Welcome!