



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

Church Matters

All are Welcome!

November 2020



Calling all bakers, knitters, crocheters, crafters, photographers, and candy makers:

We will be holding a virtual Christmas fair this year. With your help we can make this a success.

Peter and I will be receiving and cataloging items the congregation has agreed to make/bake/ and sell. We will compile a catalog with descriptions, photos (when possible) and quantities of items which will be available on the church's website (with much help from Del!) from approximately November 14th through December 4. Orders will be received either by email or phone. We will record the items purchased and maintain an inventory of what remains available. Printed catalogs will also be available.

So, let's be creative! The categories will be:

Silent Auction - what have you to offer? A hand knit or crocheted shawl? A dinner for four, to be delivered at an agreeable time in the future? We already have a birch tree reindeer.

Penny Sale - This will work much the same as a live one, tickets will be purchased and tickets will be put into the jars the purchaser indicates. We are still working on items for this. Jewelry - we will have Christmas earrings for sale.

Knives - There is a 2020 Rada knife catalog available.

Crafts - We will be accepting ornaments and hand made decorations. Some of the items to date are birdhouses, fabric trees, holiday face masks for the family and reindeer. There are also American Girl doll sweater and hat sets. We will have some decorated and lit wine bottles too.

Baked Goods - Cookies, cakes, candy, sweet breads - the sky's the limit. We will just need to know what you want to bake. Do you make yummy soup? There will be portions of corn chowder to be sold. How about a

holiday cake or Christmas cookies? Baked items will be received at the church hall on Friday, December 4th. Hours will be determined. Wreaths - Darcy and Steve Bartsch are donating wreaths to be decorated and sold, as in past years. Get your order in early! Themed gift baskets - How about a movie night gift basket with goodies? Italian night? Toys/treats for a pet? Let your imagination run wild!

Most of our fundraising this year has been canceled. This is an opportunity for us to spread holiday cheer, get some Christmas shopping done, all the while supporting our church.

Please call or email with your donations/ideas. Peter and Stephanie Ouellette
654-2282
ouellette99@gmail.com

**CATALOG
AVAILABLE ON
OUR WEBSITE:
2CCWILTON.org
Week of Nov 9th**

*Christmas Fair
Catalog*

*Available week of
November 9th*

*On our website
2ccWilton.org*

Plan ahead for
Christmas Eve
Services.
See page 4 for
details.



How could we be thankful?



"I like this time of year because I have an opportunity to give thanks for all the blessings.."

Greetings! It's that time of year that excites people, but some dread. The colors are bright, the sky is a different shade of blue, and there is that crisp air.

Then there is the rush to put things away; to hunker down if you will because we all know what is coming. First is the time change. We leave in the dark and come home in the dark! And then comes the snow. Now I understand not everyone dislikes the snow like me, and I do feel sorry for them...

But to be honest I enjoy this month the most. During normal times we would gather around the table and share a large meal; go for a walk to make more room for the endless desserts; then complain about how much we eat and promise not to do it again, at least until next year.

I like this time of year because I have an opportunity to give thanks for all the blessings, I have been given all year long.

Now, do I have to wait until now? No, but when we have the time set aside to give thanks for the meal (it is after all Thanksgiving), the focus is on the "thanks". Some of you may disagree, saying with this Covid-19, how can we be thankful. Well if we think back to last March when this all started we were told it will just be a couple of weeks, and then it was just a month, it has now been eight going on nine months. How could we be thankful?

Well here it is for me, I never thought I would be doing services on zoom, we have been able to continue with the book study, we have had search committee meetings every

week for months. I have meet neighbors I never would have met. I have been pushed way beyond my comfort zone. I have been shopping for my mother almost every week, and now share that with my brother which gives all of us time together that we would not have done otherwise. So yes, I am thankful for all the blessings I have received so far this year, I am still not happy about the snow, however I am thankful for what comes next!!

May you have a Happy Thanksgiving, what ever it may look like for you this year.

Peace, your servant in Christ,

Pastor Kerry

Worship Services will continue for now by Zoom the first and third Sundays of the month. In-person Serves will be the second and fourth Sundays. Both Zoom and In-person services are 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!

November 2020

“I will make my covenant between you and me” Gen 7:2 NRSV

The Mayflower Compact was the first covenant in North American history, written in 1620. “We solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic.”

Today, 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.

A church’s covenant is a firm, public declaration of that church’s intentions to serve one another and its

community. Here is an example of a covenant of the Plainfield Congregation in Plainfield, IL:

We, the people of the Plainfield Congregational United Church of Christ, seek to be a community of Christians who celebrate and live in openness to the voice of the Still Speaking God. We celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of each expression of God’s diverse family as well as our oneness in Christ. As we seek to live out our mission to “live Christ’s compassion and promote justice, healing and wholeness of life” we welcome into our community persons of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith

background, marital standing and family structure; and we invite them to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our congregation as we seek to “grow together in faith and love.”

What do we want our covenant to say to anyone looking at our church? Yes, we are warm and welcoming. But, how do we show that before someone sets foot in our door? If you would like more information or would like to attend a zoom meeting on the subject, please contact someone on the ONA committee.



Submitted by Stephanie Ouellette, with Violet Blake, Sandy Blumm, eQuanitmit Joy, and Loretta Smith.



*Christmas Fair
Catalog*

*Available week of
November 9th*



*On our website
2ccWilton.org*



Book Nook - Hymn Books in our Hearts

The hymnals are missing from the pews at church right now due to health restrictions, but the hymns are not missing from our lives. We keep the tunes and words we love to sing tucked in the hymnal of our hearts, and pull them off the shelf to hum every once in a while. The Book Nook for this month is dedicated to a hymn we often sing in the fall: hymn number 723 in the section titled Special Times and Seasons – apt title for this whole year. **For the Fruit of All Creation** is written by Fred Pratt Green, composed from a Welsh melody by Luther O. Emerson, the words follow:

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For God’s gifts to every nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.

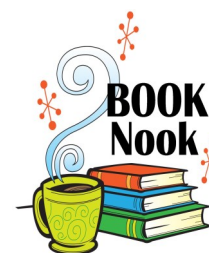
In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done. In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Thanks be to all who farm our food, all who cook and share their creations, all who care for those who are in pain and suffer, all who are neighborly, all who seek peace, all who make music even in “Special Times” like these. Thanks be to God.

Prayerfully submitted,
eQuanimity Joy





Mission work continues

Linus Project

In October we delivered another eight fleece blankets to the regional group. These were combined with the other donated blankets, pillow cases, hats and mittens for the month, totaling 423 since we began! Some were donated to Elliot Pediatrics, Keene Head Start and the Monadnock Area Transitional Shelter. If you would like information

on how to participate in this worthy cause, please let Stephanie know.

Christmas Store

Missions has reached out to the group who runs the community Christmas store, asking how we can help. Naturally, the covid virus has meant the store will look much different this year. Instead of the traditional "store", families will be provided with gift

cards for groceries and needed items. There are over 150 families that qualify in the Wilton-Lyndeborough area. If you care to make a donation, please send it to the Missions Committee and it will get

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



Plan ahead for Christmas Eve Services.

Christmas Eve - new protocols for Covid

This year Christmas Eve service will be different than in previous years due to the Covid Pandemic.

We will be offering two in person services by reservation only. We will have a 4:00pm and 7:00pm service. We will also be offering folks to attend either service via Zoom.

Please call the church at 654-9045 to reserve a spot

for in-person or if you'd like to join by zoom.

For in person reservations, we will need the names of all the people in your group along with how many will be attending and which service you would like to attend.

Please visit our church website for the protocols we are following for in

person worship.

For zoom reservations, we just need to know which service you would like to attend, your name and an email address to send the link to.

Thank you for your understanding.

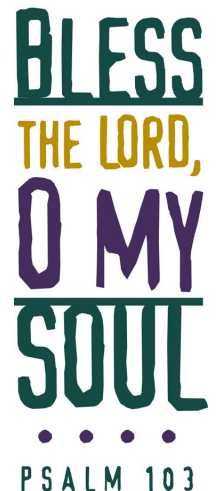
Submitted by Lori Dick for the Board of Deacons

Musical Notes - Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

—Psalm 103:2-5, NRSV

The psalmist's all-encompassing list is a good example of all the gifts of God we should gratefully acknowledge. Personalize this ancient prayer by pondering your own experiences of God's forgiveness, healing, redemption, love, mercy and satisfaction of your daily needs.



November 2020

Second Glances Rummage Sales

We are ready to start our Rummage Sales again.

We have lots of inventory and need in the community. We also need to fill in some of the 2020 fundraising void.

We only have one sale month left in 2020 and

that is November. We definitely plan to restart in January 2021.

But.. We need volunteers to set up, work the sale, and break up when it's over.

If you are not able to be out or are concerned

about the coronavirus, you are not alone.

However, please consider an extra monetary donation to fill the void.

Thanks to all for your help!

The SG Team



*Christmas Fair
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*On our website
2ccWilton.org*

Gift Baskets for our Church Community



Because of the current pandemic situation, we will not be Christmas Caroling to our older members this year.

We would like to let them know that we are thinking about them and thought we would put gift baskets together and deliver them on December 20.

We have about a dozen folks on our list and we are looking for donations to go in the baskets.

Suggestions are homemade cookies, breads, toiletries, warm socks, tea, etc. Items can be dropped off at any of our in person Worship Services (11/8, 11/22, 12/6 or 12/20)



Search Committee: Working on the Profile

Thank you to all who attended the survey meetings or responded to the written requests.

Over the next few weeks, we are working on our church profile. We hope to have that completed by year end and published in January.

There is a lot of work to consider the intricacies of how are church works and where we are going. There

is a lot of forethought and planning about where we want Second Congregational Church to be in the future.

Once the profile done, we will be reviewing the By-laws to bring those up to date.

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 Smith

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

Philippians 2:3-4

Pastor's Office Hours

Office hours for Pastor Kerry Richardson are by appointment only. You can reach him by telephone or email. Church office: 603-654-9045 or kerrywrichardson@comcast.net

Meet your church: Treasurer, Collector, Finance, and Auditor

As we prepare budgets for the upcoming year, this month is dedicated to our financial leaders. Starting with the Treasurer. The Treasurer receives and disburses all monies of the church. The Collector is in charge of collecting all funds that come into the church. Both the Treasurer and Collector present reports monthly. The two positions are cross-support for each other with the Collector serving as

Assistant Treasurer and vice versa. Both positions are bonded.

The Finance Committee has the responsibility for periodic review of the financial status of the church. It prepares the annual budget for the approval of the Church Council prior to Annual Meeting. The Committee is comprised of the Board of Trustees, three Deacons, Auditor, Collector and at least one member of the

stewardship committee. Other interested parties may attend the budget meetings.

The Auditor examines the accounts of the Treasurer, Collector and of any other committee or organizations of the church. A written statement of findings is provided at Annual Meeting.

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

November 2020

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.

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.

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

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.

Many ways to give

As a hen and a pig walked down the road, they noticed a church sign advertising a breakfast of “Ham and Eggs!”

“That’s nice,” said the hen. “A chance for us to serve the congregation.”

“Easy for you to say,” replied the pig. “For you, it’s a contribution; for me, it’s a sacrifice!”

Versions of this story appear on inspirational websites, with comments about the chicken being *involved* in breakfast, while the pig is *committed*. Opinions differ, however, about which animal has the right idea. Some people warn against being the pig, sacrificing yourself for success; others say the chicken isn’t all-in.

“People who give themselves to Jesus with a trusting abandon” are like pigs, says Rick Lawrence in *The Jesus-Centered Life* (Group). That total, “without reservation” commitment, he says, shows a willingness to give your life to Jesus — as he gave his for you.

On the other hand, giving consistently, day in and day out, even in what might seem to be small ways, also is valuable. Maybe the moral is not to judge others’ stewardship because we all give differently. NN 8.19

Revised Common Lectionary for November

November 1 Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 43; I Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

November 8 Joshua 24:1-3,14-25; Psalm 70, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 90:1-12; I Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-20

November 22 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

November 26-Thanksgiving - Deuteronomy 8:7-18; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19

November 29 Isaiah 64:1-9; Palm 80:1-7, 17-19; I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

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)*

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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.

November 1 Church Service 9:30am via Zoom
November 8 Church Service 9:30am in-person
November 9 Senior Book Club 10am via Zoom
November 15 Church Service 9:30am via Zoom
November 17 Church Council meeting 7pm via Zoom
November 22 Church Service 9:30am in-person
November 23 Senior Book Club 10am via Zoom
November 29 Church Service 9:30am via Zoom
November all month - Virtual Christmas Fair (pickup December 5)



**CHRISTMAS FAIR CATALOG AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: 2CCWILTON.org
Week of November 9th**

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

All are Welcome!