



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

# Church Matters

*All are Welcome!*

February 2021

## Virtual Worship Services

In consideration of rising Covid numbers, Sunday Worship Services will be by Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future. Email Del, our church administrator, at [2ccwilton@gmail.com](mailto:2ccwilton@gmail.com) for the Zoom link. You can join with just a smart phone, and it's not difficult once you get the hang of it!

Service time is 9:30am. Come early or stay after to visit a for a bit.

## You are invited: Come to Church this Sunday

If you haven't tried the virtual Zoom church service, here's what you can expect: A regular order of worship with readers and music. No surprises! Inspirational slide shows accompany the music.

On Communion Sunday, you gather your elements and they are blessed before sharing.

The music on Christmas Eve was wonderful. Music Director, Pat Cauchon, the Music Committee and choir members have

worked hard on expanding on the musical offerings. Some choir members have been singing solos for the hymns, working with Pat individually. Recorded anthems have also been added to round out the services. Thank you all for doing this.

The words to the hymns are provided on screen, so you can sing along at home to any of those, as well as the Gloria Patri and Doxology.

If you would like to participate in the service, other than just enjoying it,

readers are needed to voice the responses and share the Gospel readings.

There is a lot of work that goes into making the service "seamless" - led by Del and Pastor Kerry. We thank them endlessly for this gift each week.

Blessings to all! See you on Sunday!

Our virtual Christmas Craft Fair was very successful at a little over \$1600.00.

Many many thanks to Peter and Stephanie Ouellette for organizing the event. And many more to Del Morgavero, our church administrator, who handled the technical end of things.

And, of course, we thank all the contributors for their baked goods, food items, gift baskets, and a wide variety of crafted items. Without each of you, there could not have been a fair this year!



Sorry, folks, there was no newsletter published in January. The editor took a month off. We are back on track for the New Year!



On our website  
[2ccWilton.org](http://2ccWilton.org)



# More time to be thankful

*Editor's note: This month's Corner item was originally scheduled for January, and I held it over for February. Thank you.. la*



**"If Covid has done anything, it has given us time to think about things."**

So why all the fuss this time of year? Some are grateful that the year has ended, and have high hopes for the coming year, while others dread this time of year. All those year-end payments, credit card payments from Christmas, taxes and other miscellaneous expenses that show up!

But for me, I think about what has just occurred: We have just celebrated the birth of our Lord; we have the excitement of what great things He will do; we have a chance to do things differently this year.

We are always told we cannot "relive" the past. However when it comes to the Church calendar, I believe we can. After all

the seasons are the same from year to year. With January comes the Epiphany, the Baptism of Jesus, then Lent and so on.

If we think about "how" we did those things last year, how can we improve on them? If Covid has done anything, it has given us more time to think about things. We can use that time to feel sorry for ourselves or we can think about the ways in which we can change.

Perhaps we will visit people more; we might even think more of them and appreciate their gifts.

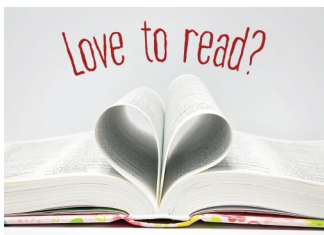
Maybe if we think about the turning over of the calendar page as an opportunity to "turn" over a new leaf, a chance to start over. It is the perfect time to do so, we all have those New Year resolutions

that we make: eat better, exercise more, why not just try to be a better person? What if we increase our own expectations of ourselves? Let us work together on bringing people together.

I would like to offer this, please take some time and listen to the song "Rudolph the red nose reindeer" and if you would like we could talk about what the song says to you. I have my own thoughts and I do not want to ruin the song for you, but let's chat, ok?

Peace, your servant in Christ,

*Pastor Kerry*



## 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!

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*Visit our Website and Facebook pages for the Calendar & more [www.2CCWilton.org](http://www.2CCWilton.org)*

February 2021

## Search Committee update

The Search Committee has been meeting weekly via Zoom since June 2020, with a two-week break at Christmas. The first draft of our church profile was completed and sent on to the New Hampshire Conference UCC for review. While waiting to hear from the NHC, we started going through the by-laws to bring those up-to-date.

The Reverend Richard Slater from the NHC joined our January 20 meeting and made some suggestions to the profile. Overall, he stated, the draft was pretty good, but some areas still need

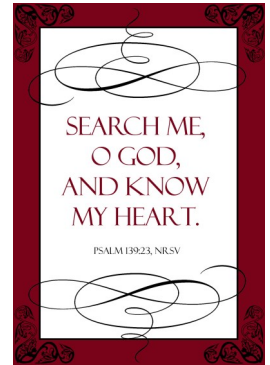
work. Those included minor things like wording and adding more pictures. But a couple of things need more serious discernment. The first being ONA, which he suggested that we make that congregational decision before calling a settled pastor. Especially considering the next big surprise: our compensation package.

Our budgeted compensation is below the UCC guidelines. Reverend Slater had some suggestions, but each one requires serious consideration. Among the suggestions are cutting our expectations to a half-time position or where in our budget we can raise

significant funds for a three-quarter-time position. Other ideas included “yoking” or sharing a minister with another congregation, extending our interim pastor until the pandemic is under control, hiring a designated term pastor, or posting our profile as is and noting the shortfall.

The committee will consider each option. Once a course of action is determined, it will be presented to the congregation.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Loretta Smith for the Search  
Committee*



## Just do it !

A young man told a pastor he wanted to be a Christian, so the pastor instructed him to prepare by reading the book of Acts. After many weeks went by, the pastor wondered if the man had changed his mind about this important decision.

Almost a year later, he finally reappeared. “Where have you been?” asked te bewildered pastor.

The man replied, ““Every time I started to read, I felt prompted to do something like the apostles did: help the poor, tell someone about Jesus. So I stopped reading and started doing. I’ve just been too busy to return.”

—Adapted from a story by Hal Brady 9.2019

## Book Nook—The joy of coloring

In his book *Dangerous Wonder*, the late youth-ministry pioneer Mike Yaconelli debunks the idea that Christianity is “all about coloring within the lines and coloring well.” He writes: “God’s grace is so outside the lines of our understanding that we can only stand in awe and wonder. Christianity is not about learning how to live within the lines; Christianity is

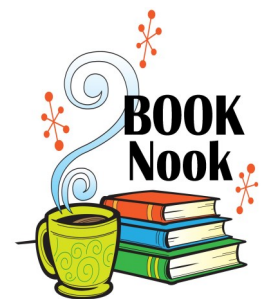
about the joy of coloring. The grace of God is preposterous enough to accept as beautiful a coloring that anyone else would reject as ugly.

“The grace of God sees beyond the scribbling to the heart of the scribbler — a scribbler who is similar to two thieves who hung on crosses on either side of Jesus. One of the two asked Jesus to please accept his

scribbled and sloppy life into the kingdom of God ... and he did. Preposterous. And very good news for the rest of us scribblers.”

NN 8.2010

So for this month’s book suggestion: Find yourself a coloring book and enjoy a little time coloring - by yourself or with your kids. It’s fun for all ages!!



## Mission work continues



### **Linus Project**

The group is still making fleece blankets to distribute throughout southern NH, through the Monadnock Chapter. This letter was recently received at the Linus mailbox:

*"On behalf of the United Way of Greater Nashua, thank you for the donation of blankets to this year's Community Baby Shower Day of Caring. Your donation helped make this a special event for low income moms and dads in the community. Our goal is to help these families give their babies a strong start by providing the supplies and support they need for a healthy beginning. Your*

*support helped us achieve our goal".*

If you are interested in making blankets, we can teach you how. Please contact Stephanie Ouellette for more information.

### **Chemo Caps**

There is a continued need for chemo caps for men and women undergoing chemo treatments. There are simple patterns and certain yarns that have been approved by the American Cancer Society. If you would like more information or want to start knitting, please contact Stephanie Ouellette for patterns and yarn.

### **Thank you**

We want to thank everyone who made donations to the missions group in the last few months. We were able to make a contribution to the Open Cupboard and the Nashua Children's Home, on behalf of our Congregation.

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

## Open Cupboard Pantry

Winter is especially difficult for so many families in our area who sometimes need to make the decision to buy groceries or heating oil, for example.

An additional strain has been put on families with so many out of work. Since we have not had in person services at our church, we have not been able to make donations into the basket we keep in the link.

The Open Cupboard accepts monetary donations. If you wish to make a donation to help with some of these other needs, please send a note (or use the memo line) to request that the funds be used "wherever it is needed" This gives them the option to use donations for other areas of need (such as emergency dental work, gas cards, etc).

Your donation it can be sent to the Open Cupboard, PO Box 111, Wilton 03086.

The Open Cupboard is a resource for residents of Temple, Wilton, Lyndeborough and Greenfield. All donations are tax deductible.

## Musical Notes: Instruments of Praise

Some innovative musicians play instruments that actually melt at their fingertips. Their ice creations — everything from drums and a pipe organ to harps and didgeridoos — make awe-inspiring sounds (search online to hear for yourself).

The unique challenges posed by dissolving instruments seem to increase their impact. "ICEstruments" sculptor Tim

Linhart says concertgoers, whose bodies also are largely composed of water, often feel a "spiritual connection" to the music.

Although people don't melt, our physical bodies eventually return to ashes and dust. Despite that impermanence, God created us as wonderful instruments to make joyful

noises for him: "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!" (Psalm 150:6).

—adapted from *The Wired Word* 1.2020



February 2021

## The power of love

By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love's practicality in everyday life: "Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way." He also calls

love "the WD-40 of relationships" because it "can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can't seem to penetrate."

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God's help, can change hearts and lives. "Love all [people],

even your enemies," he advises. "Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother."



## Many ways to give

If you weren't able to attend the annual meeting, you may not know that pledges are down and the budget is up, despite cutting back in many areas. We appreciate everyone doing the best they can in these times.

It's not too late to make 2021 pledges. Please donate as you are able and let the stewards know. It is gratefully appreciated.



### Time, Talents & Treasure

Other ways to help: Can you help run a fundraiser? We expect that once the Covid vaccines are out, we'll be able to start fundraising again. We need your help! See Loretta Smith on the Planning Committee if you have ideas and can help implement them.

Does your employer offer a program to match your charitable donations? Find out how to take advantage of this benefit. You may only need a letter from the church for verification.

Do you purchase from Amazon? Order through their AmazonSmile Foundation which donates 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) purchases. 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 exactly the same and does not affect any other program you participate in (like Amazon Prime). Together we can make a difference!

## Revised Common Lectionary for February & March

February 7	Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
February 14	2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
February 21	Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
February 28	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
March 7	Exodus 20:1-147; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
March 14	Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
March 21	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
March 28	Palm Sunday - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...



2 Timothy 3:16, NRSV

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

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United Church of Christ (UCC)*

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**Worship Services - see below or email [2ccWilton@gmail.com](mailto:2ccWilton@gmail.com) for more info.**

**Each Sunday Church Service 9:30am via Zoom**

**February is African-American History Month**

**February 14 Transfiguration Sunday**

**February 14 Valentine's Day**

**February 15 Senior Book Club 10am via Zoom**

**February 15 Presidents Day**

**February 17 Ash Wednesday**

**February 22 Senior Book Club 10am via Zoom**



***“I would permit no man. No matter what his color might be, to narrow and  
degrade my soul by making me hate him.”*** Booker T. Washington

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