



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

Church Matters

All are Welcome!

March 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 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.

Meditations for Lent - Beloved Dust to Dust

The Ash Wednesday Service was lovely, so we are sharing some of the meditations in the newsletter. Below is the first one. We hope you enjoy these and feel their blessings. Ed.

We pause to observe Ash Wednesday together as a faith community. We remember that God made us from fragile, blessed dust and breathes through us the breath of life and love.

From dust we are created in God's image and to God's good dust we shall return. With dust and oil we claim the mark of God's beloved creature.

Today we begin our 40-day Lenten journey to discover who we are created to be as God's beloved.

In daily practices of prayer and service we

will embark upon this Lenten journey. We follow Jesus, God's Beloved Child, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh in whom we see God's image most clearly. So come, let us pray for strength and imagination to follow Jesus wherever he will lead us this Lent.

Palm Sunday and Easter

Holy Week services are still in the works as of this writing. The Deacons will be meeting in March to plan for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter.

While we will miss the in-person experience, I am sure these will be both meaningful and moving, as was the Ash Wednesday service mentioned above.

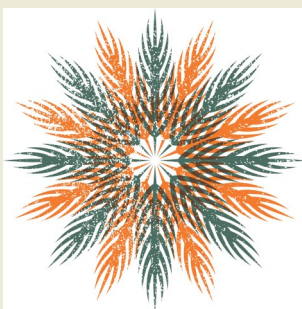
We will get the word out once the Holy Week services are announced.



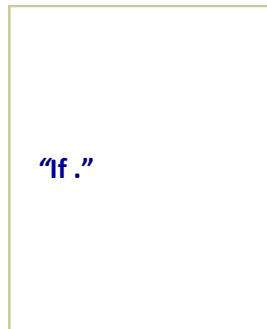
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Invite a
Friend to Church
this Lenten
Season!



Lent: Forty days for Searching



Greetings from my Covid 19 workplace (my couch!). I have been given a lot of time this year to think about what Lent means to me, not only because of the pandemic, but because of the things that I have taken for granted.

Lent is a period of forty days of reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter; you cannot have one without the other. Inasmuch as it is the very foundation of our faith, most Christians do not attend or observe Ash Wednesday services, let alone seek the meaning of Lent.

Which brings me to the message I would like to talk about, a seeker is searching for some thing or someone. Your Church has assembled a "search committee" to find a settled Pastor. During Lent

we are called to search ways to change behavior or attitudes, and to "seek" forgiveness of sin, and to join in the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

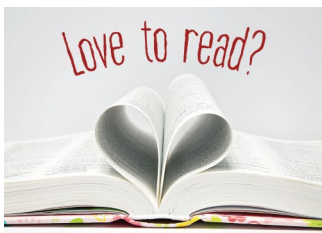
When we break it all down and try to make it a simple task, we are undermining the hard work, sacrifice, determination, dedication that goes into the searching. Have you ever lost anything? At first you are calm, looking where you "think" it is and as time goes by you get a little more anxious almost to the point of panic! When someone is lost, we create a "search party" - the party looks and looks and if they are lucky, they find what or who they are looking for. But have you ever noticed that the "one" who does the finding gets all the credit as if everyone else was not looking hard enough. There will always

be critics of the way you did your search or of your results of it! But do not lose heart, because the one whom you seek wants you to find Him.

My hope for you as you go through your Lenten journey is that you discover places and things that you did not think possible, and that you invite the Holy Spirit into your search. I can not wait to hear you all yell, "I found It".....

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

Meditation on the Breath of Life (Psalm 46:10a) March 2021

Settle into your seat, close your eyes and imagine a place that brings you comfort and peace. Breathe in the goodness of that space. Breathe forth the goodness that is within you. (After a minute or so, when people seem to be breathing deeply together, begin the spoken meditation. Pause at the end of each phrase to let the meaning settle in. Each phrase grows shorter and shorter, until the leader reaches the last word. After that is silence.)



Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am

Be still and know that I

Be still and know that

Be still and know

Be still and

Be still

Be

Meditation on Letting Go

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.”

Book Nook—The challenge of Scripture

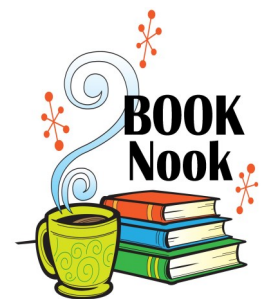
GQ magazine recently included the Bible on a list of 21 books not worth reading, calling the text “repetitive” and “foolish” (among other things). Pushback came from both secular and religious folks. Writing in *USA Today*, Tim Swarens argued that even if you don’t believe in God, the Bible helps you understand Western culture, history, current events and your neighbors.

For Christians, the Bible — God’s inspired Word — reveals God’s love and will. It isn’t always easy to read or process, but no other book contains such good news.

As Danielle Shroyer writes in *Original Blessing*, “Scripture is a sacred book meant to provoke us in ways that will move us toward God. And often, that is the very last thing we are looking for. We would rather have an answer, a

simple plan, even a nicely tidy moral story. But Scripture gives us none of these things, because the holy is anything but domestic. We go looking to find a plan and instead are sent on a treasure hunt.” (NN 9.18)

During this Lenten season, spend some time with the Scriptures as you settle into your book nook this month.



“Glocal” Christians



Often when we talk about living as a missionary, debate arises about whether we are to minister locally or go globally. The phrase “glocal” Christians means we’re to be both local and global in our mission. Jesus lays down a challenge that isn’t either/or but both/and.

Being glocal involves being aware of your surrounding community as well as your larger world, and then entering into it with the love of Jesus. God is already at work out there. Our job is simply to have our eyes open to see him and join in that labor.

As you and your church decide what part in God’s story you’re being asked to play, don’t fall into the debate about whether it’s in local ministry or global ministry. Be radical followers of Jesus in both.

—Rev. Mike Paulson

NN7.14

Card of Thanks

The Jowders family wishes to extend our sincere thank you for your cards, kind words of sympathy and generous donations made in Dad's name. As a 75-year member he was so dedicated to his church and took such pride in the property and loved all their members and the outreach to his community.

With love and gratitude, Susan, Patti, Robin and families

Musical Notes: What to do when the ‘rests’ come

John Ruskin, one of England’s greatest thinkers of the 19th century, once pondered the importance of “rests” in a musical composition. He began to compare those “rests” put in by a composer to the “rests” that come to us in life; the times, for example, when our lives seem to be put on hold for awhile. The times when, for whatever reason,

we are compelled to sit and wait until we realize God is now telling us to move on ... out of the wilderness into the promised land God has prepared. Ruskin wrote: “There is no music in a rest, but there is the making of music in it.” So as God lets the music of

our lives unfold, be pleased with the tune, “rests” and all.

— Adapted from *Dreams in the Desert*, compiled by Mrs. Charles E. Cowan

NN 9.01



March 2021

Search Committee work

The Search Committee is continuing to move forward in our search for a settled pastor. We have completed the profile and have had conversations with the Reverend Richard Slater at the New Hampshire Conference UCC on next steps.

More information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks as we review our options.

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Tuttle for the Search Committee



Planning Committee 2021

Loretta Smith and Ingrid Howard are serving on the Planning Committee this year. Plenty of help will be needed and we are counting on you.

Once Covid is under control, we plan to get the Rummage Sales back up

and running on a monthly basis. Coming up this Spring will be a One-Ten Club Raffle. Watch for details!

We plan to cover refreshments for the Wilton Town Meeting to be held outside on June 10.

If you have an idea and can help make it happen, please let Loretta or Ingrid know. We have lots of ground to make up in fundraising and hope we can make a difference.

Updates are coming!

An ancient stewardship message

Some Christians actively avoid church on Stewardship Sunday because giving is a private matter “between me and God.” New pastors are even sometimes advised never to preach about money, lest certain people get riled up. Yet Jesus talks frequently in the Gospels about giving and sharing our material goods — and he wasn’t the first in Scripture to do so.

A thousand years before Christ’s birth, King David prepared to hand over the kingdom to his son, gathering tons (literally!) of gold, silver and other materials for Solomon to use in building the temple. Revealing his take on stewardship, David prayed: “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand” (1 Chronicles 29:14, NIV).



“She out of her poverty has put in everything she had.”

MARK 12:44

Revised Common Lectionary for March & April

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
April 4	Easter - Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18
April 11	Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2.2; John 20:19-31
April 18	Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-48
April 25	Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

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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Worship Services - see below or email 2ccWilton@gmail.com for more info.

Each Sunday Church Service 9:30am via Zoom

**March 5 World Day of Prayer
March 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 15 Senior Book Club 10am via Zoom
March 20 First Day of Spring
March 22 Senior Book Club 10am via Zoom
March 28 Palm Sunday
Mach 28 to April 4 Holy Week
April 4 Easter Sunday "He is risen indeed!"**



***"Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the
empty place in someone's heart." Mandy Hale***

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