



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

Church Matters

All are Welcome!

April 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.

Holy Week events

Our Holy Week services will be via Zoom meetings and will include the following:

April 1, 7pm Maundy Thursday Service

April 2, 7pm Good Friday Service

April 4, 9:30 am Easter Service "He is Risen!"

Easter Service will include Communion and new music

by the choir. Thank you to Music Director, Pat Cauchon.

Note: There will be no sunrise service this year, but we are looking for a spot for 2022. If you have any ideas, let the deacons know.

We would like to extend a Thank you to Cindy Broderick and Lori Dick for handing out palms for Palm Sunday!



Visit our
our website
2ccWilton.org



Invite a
Friend to Church
this Lenten
Season!



Second Glances Rummage Sale—2-weekend event

The Rummage Sale is Back!

There will be a two-weekend event in April.

April 16 & 17, and April 23 & 24. Friday from 1-6 and Saturday from 9-2.

This is the first fundraiser of the year so we hope it is a good one!

To be Covid-conscious, there will be a traffic

pattern to navigate the hall; capacity restrictions; social distancing; plus masks and hand sanitizer will be available.

Lots of folks are required to make this happen, so let Loretta know if you can help for a couple hours on the sale days. We have enough for individuals to cover a whole day, but it would be great to

have a couple shifts each day.

I'm so delighted on the support to make this happen! Thanks so much to all. I hope we can report a VERY successful sale next month!

Loretta Smith for Planning Committee



“Do not hold me...”



“We are being given an opportunity...”

“Jesus said to Mary, do not hold me, but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending” John 20:17

So, as we come off from the Easter high of resurrection and hope, what do we do with it? As some of you may already know and if not, it is mentioned in this newsletter. The search committee with the guidance and support of the Reverend Richard Slater and the NHCUCC, offered me a contract for two more years, which I have accepted.

Now you might be wondering what this has to do with resurrection, if we look at the biblical meaning, Jesus was killed and “was raised on the third day”. But when he appeared to those who knew him, they did not recognize him.

As we slowly come out of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are being resurrected; we are being given an opportunity to “bring new vigor to” the church.

Jesus did not just pick up from where he ended. He brought new life to those who might have had doubts about him. I believe that we are being given a similar opportunity or challenge. We do not have to do things the way we use to; you are not the same church that you were a year ago.

Some of the areas that the search committee identify as places that needed work were communication, ONA, and finance.

I would like to address the communication piece first. This is not just about putting things in the newsletter or on Facebook. It is more about how we communicate with each other: do you listen with the thought “I know what they are going to say” so you have a response ready long before they finish? Or “I know the answer to this one! Been there, tried it did not work then why try again?” (remember new vigor?) And this one will kill any new ways or

participation.” I have been here XX years so you can not tell me anything new.”

If any of this strikes a chord with you remember “do not hold me,” let us work together and bring the resurrected Jesus and new life to your church. I believe we are being given a HUGE opportunity to find some goodness out of all we have gone through this past year. I also know that I have a lot of work to do myself, after all I still have some things from high school (like those bell bottoms I know will come back someday!!)

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Kerry

Visit our Website and Facebook pages for the Calendar & more www.2CCWilton.org

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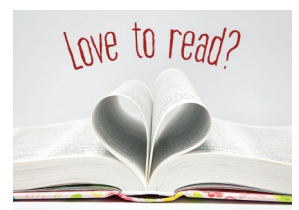
Book Club

Pastor Kerry is starting a new book for the Senior Book Club/Study Group titled "The Heart of Christianity, rediscovering a life of faith by Marcus J. Borg"
If you are interested in joining please let me know.

The book club meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 10:00 AM.

If you want to participate, but this time is not convenient please let Pastor Kerry know. kerrywrichardson@comcast.com

** See the Book Nook write up on page 3, for a write up of the new book.



April 2021

Next Up: One-Ten Club Raffle

The Planning Committee has a few things in the works as we try to get the church back in the swing of things.

Starting in May we will be selling One-Ten Club Tickets for the weekly raffle that starts its drawings on June 13 and runs to August 15. For ten weeks, there will be two

drawings for \$10 and \$20. On the last week, August 15, there will be two additional drawings for \$50 and \$100.

Thank you to Lori Dick for initiating this and getting the tickets ready. Starting on May 1st, we need everyone's help to sell at least five tickets. Tickets are available to pick up at the Rummage Sales in April .

Contact Lori or Loretta for tickets (to sell or purchase) and we can get them to you as well.

Loretta@hiik.net or
LDick922@aol.com

Or leave a message on the church phone 654-9045

Planning Committee: Ingrid Howard and Loretta April



Cultivating kindness



Kind hearts are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the flowers.
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden
and keep out the weeds.
Fill it with sunshine,
kind words and kind deeds.

Book Nook—The Heart of Christianity

The new book club selection is *The Heart of Christianity, Rediscovering a Life of Faith*, by Marcus J. Borg. From the Publisher's description:

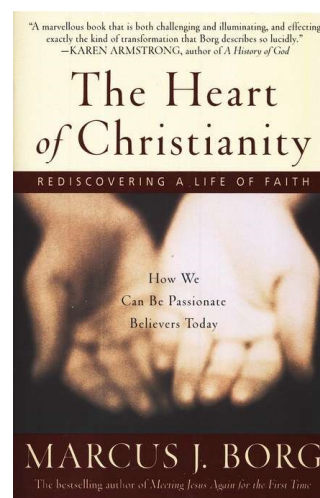
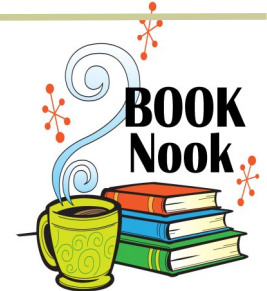
"World-renowned Jesus scholar Marcus J. Borg shows how we can live passionately as Christians in today's world by practicing the vital elements of Christian faith.

"For the millions of people who have turned away from many traditional beliefs about God, Jesus, and the Bible, but still long for a relevant, nourishing faith, Borg shows why the Christian life can remain a transforming relationship with God. Emphasizing the

critical role of daily practice in living the Christian life, he explores how prayer, worship, Sabbath, pilgrimage, and more can be experienced as authentically life-giving practices.

"Borg reclaims terms and ideas once thought to be the sole province of evangelicals and fundamentalists: he shows that terms such as "born again" have real meaning for all Christians; that the "Kingdom of God" is not a bulwark against secularism but is a means of transforming society into a world that values justice and love; and that the Christian life is essentially about opening one's heart to God and to others."

About the author Marcus J. Borg is a theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland OR. Visit www.marcusjborg.com for a full biography.



New program with Milford Boys & Girls Club

The Missions committee met in March to discuss updating the church website and new missions for 2021.



We continue to support the Open Cupboard Pantry and Holy Joe's Cafe. We also provide fleece for the Linus Project and yarn for Knots of Love, a mission to provide hand knit caps for men, women, children and veterans undergoing chemotherapy. If you would like more information and/or to participate in one of these missions, please let us know.

New for 2021

Missions began a collaboration with the Souhegan Boys & Girls Club in Milford and the Be Strong Families' model parental support program. The Parents' Cafe, as designed by parents, with parents, and for parents, is

an endeavor to reach out to families with supportive conversations and support empowering their family relationships and communication, among other topics. "These transformative conversations not only prevent violence and fight oppression, they give hope, create amazing leaders and help overlooked communities thrive." from <https://www.bestrongfamilies.org/>

Watch the church's website and Facebook for more information for the May 2021 start-up event.

Crop Walk

Since the Souhegan Valley Crop walk ceased in 2018, we have been invited to join the annual crop walk in the Nashua Area. We have not had any representation from our church for the Nashua area walk. Funds would have been distributed to our

area, but the general consensus is that our food pantry would see very little in donations. We would like to know the interest level if we held our own informal crop walk this fall, with all the benefits to go to the Open Cupboard Pantry. Hunger and food insecurity is still prevalent in our area, we want to keep the conversation going! We have not worked out all the details yet. Please contact a missions committee member if you would like to participate.

Submitted by Stephanie Ouellette with Church Missions Members
Cindy Broderick
Dana Dahl
Becky Kennedy
Jan Stone

"The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies." Kate McGahan

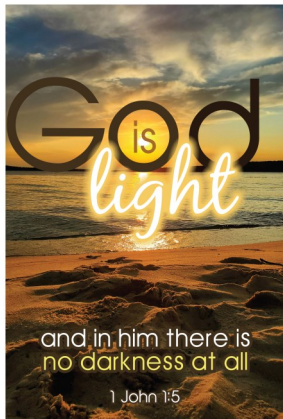
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"Easter is very important to me. It's a second chance." Reba McEntire

* * *

"The earth laughs in flowers." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Musical Notes: What can I do?



Pastor and hymn writer Phillips Brooks penned these words in the 19th century, but they're just as relevant for Jesus' followers today:

"[People] are questioning now, as they never have questioned before, whether Christianity is indeed the true religion ... Can [Christianity] meet all these human problems, and relieve all these human miseries and fulfill all these human hopes?"

"It is for us, in whom the Christian church is at this moment partially embodied, to declare that Christianity ... can do for the world [that] which the world needs.

"You ask, 'What can I do?'"

"You can furnish one Christian life — so faithful to every duty, so ready for every service, so determined not to commit every sin — that the

Christian church shall be stronger for your living in it; and the problem of the world be answered; and a certain peace come into this poor, perplexed phase of our humanity as it sees that new revelation of what Christianity is."

NN 6.16

Search Committee update

April 2021

The Search Committee completed our Church Profile and submitted it to the NHUCC for review. We were told it was thoughtful, well written and presented a good picture of our church community, however, we were told that the benefits we are offering are less than the UCC guidelines for a half-time pastor. Our last three settled Pastors have been three-quarter-time pastors. In addition, COVID protocols at this time preclude us from being able to conduct in person interviews and meeting with a prospective pastor in a neutral pulpit

After much prayerful discussion, we extended the length of the Interim Call to Pastor Kerry

Richardson. We have reduced the weekly hours in the contract to almost meet NHUCC guidelines for half-time and agreed on a new set of focus points going forward:

- Guide and support the congregation in its work on the five interim developmental tasks
- Guide the congregation through discernment of ONA and voting on designation
- Familiarize the congregation with part time Pastoral leadership
- Guide the congregation through Stewardship and Budget resolution
- Work with the congregation on communication and organization
- Guide the congregation

through understanding of conflict management and resolution.

As goals are accomplished other focus areas may be added.

These focus points are in addition to “regular” worship and pastoral support activities. We entered into this extended Interim agreement for two years, allowing us as a congregation to work on and resolve these five areas before we call a new Pastor. It is anticipated that these tasks will be addressed one or two at a time. As a committee we will continue to update the church profile to keep it current and continue our work reviewing the By-laws.



For everyone who *asks receives*, and for everyone who *searches finds*, the *door will be opened*.
Luke 11:10, NRSV

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Tuttle for the Search Committee

A bountiful life

“Life is given to you like a flat piece of land,” said actress Jeanne Moreau. “I hope that when I’m finished, my piece of land will be a beautiful garden.”

God, who put the first human in a garden to care for creation, blesses us with talents and resources to wisely manage. In gardening terms, God gives us

the plot of ground, the seed, the wisdom and strength to bring forth beauty and abundance. Yet we do the work, with God’s help, to make it a reality. Like Adam, we till, but God gives the increase. God’s provisions and our labor bring the garden — and our lives of

stewardship — to fulfillment.

As stewards, we ponder: When God calls us home, what will our garden be like, and what will it have produced?

NN 3.21



Revised Common Lectionary for April

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 readings and what you find interesting about them. I 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*

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

Each Sunday Church Service 9:30am via Zoom

April 1 Maundy Thursday Zoom service 7pm

April 4 Easter Sunday "He is risen indeed!"

Sunday Service 9:30am

April 13 Senior Book Club 10am via Zoom

April 16-17 Second Glances Rummage Sale } Friday 1-6

April 23-24 Second Glances Rummage Sale } Saturday 9-2

April 27 Senior Book Club 10am via Zoom



**"The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends
and love never dies." Kate McGahan**

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