



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

Church Matters

All are Welcome!

July 2022

All Church Meeting votes to accept ONA

On June 12 our Congregation voted, after much discussion and careful consideration, to adopt the Open and Affirming (ONA) designation.

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!"

What does this mean? By adopting the ONA designation, we are publicly stating what we have known about our community of faith all along. It is stated in our weekly welcome to service, and in our covenant, voted into our bylaws in June 2021, which reads as follows:

Where do we go from here? The NHC UCC has been notified of our adoption of the ONA designation. Once it has been reviewed, the designation will be added to our church's description on the UCC website. We will continue to welcome everyone, as we have every Sunday.

"We are a church, believing that each of us is created in God's Image. We celebrate everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, 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

The ONA Committee would like to thank everyone for their thoughtful questions and for voting on this important issue.

Submitted by Stephanie Ouellette, with Loretta April and Sandy Blumm

Visit our
our website
2ccWilton.org

Summer hours
through Sept 4
Sundays
9:30 am

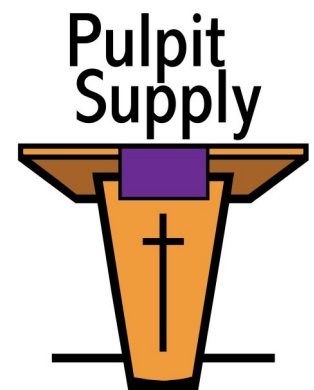
Summer Worship Services

Worship during the Summer is held at 9:30 am. Below is a list of who is covering this summer. Note that Communion Sunday in July is on the second Sunday, July 10.

- July 3 - being led by Dana Dahl
- July 10 - Communion Sunday - led by Rev. Anne Rodman
- July 17 - Rev. Anne Rodman
- July 24 - being led by Stephanie Ouellette and Violet Blake
- July 31 - Rev. Anne Rodman

- August 7 - Communion Sunday - Rev Anne Rodman
- August 14 - being led by Joshua Bartsch
- August 21 - Rev Anne Rodman
- August 28 - Service at Cathedral of the Pines 10:30am - Rev. Anne Rodman

Please come and support our guest speakers. You don't want to miss any of these services.



Editorial - Open and Affirming

I'm very proud of our congregation for voting to become an Open and Affirming, or ONA, Church.

This seems like such a big step, when it really isn't.

Our covenant states "We celebrate everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual and religious traditions."

Basically, it says we are accepting ourselves. We love and cherish our people of all ages. How many of us are "refugees"

from other religious traditions? [I am.] How many of us secretly deal with emotional struggles? Bi-polar, depression - whether severe or mild. [I do.] Anyone related to or friends with anyone in the LGBTQ+ community? [I am.] How about economic struggles? How many are on a limited budget due to retirement, large medical bills, or have a low-paying job? [Me again] When I was young and worrying about how to feed my kids, a kind church member brought me a box of groceries. (I wasn't a member of the church.)

Second Congregational Church embraced me. You baptized my daughter when others turned us away. You supported me spiritually when I was down and out, poor, struggling with kids and grandkids, and other of life's challenges.

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!"

I was welcomed here and so are you.

*In Christ's love,
Loretta April Smith, Editor*

"We are accepting ourselves.."

The soul as soil



Gardeners who've dealt with inhospitable conditions can relate especially well to Jesus' parable of the sower. Drought, invasive critters and thorny weeds often seem to conspire against growers' efforts. Yet when seeds fall on "good soil," the crop yield is abundant — up to a hundred times what was sown (Matthew

That parable emphasizes the need for hearts to be receptive to God's Word. But it's also a reminder to plant Scripture persistently. Just as soil and weather conditions change, so may someone's attitude toward following Jesus. Pastor J. Ellsworth Kalas writes, "Whenever we serve as witnesses to the faith, we must do so with all earnestness, because one doesn't know the season

in which the soul currently abides. That uninterested, distracted or unresponsive person may be nearer the Kingdom than we — or they — realize." Kalas adds, "We dare not give up on anyone at any time — including ourselves."

NN 7.22

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



What's next?

Thank you! Wilton's Summer Fest was held on June 25. Thanks to Sue Jean & helpers for making fruit cups. Thank you to Darcy Bartsch, Dana Dahl, and Stephanie Ouellette for running the event, and to all the volunteers on fair day. Great teamwork!

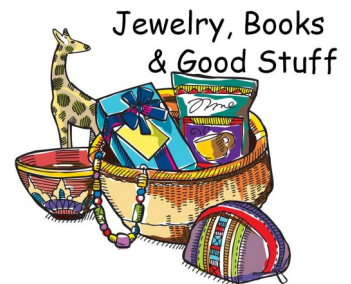
Club Raffle starts on June 26. Drawings are being held weekly on Sunday after services, through August 28. Thank you Lori Dick for doing a lot of the work on that.

Summer Sale July 23. Jewelry - Books - New items. 9-2pm. Watch for emails for set up and working. This should be an easier sale! And a regular **Rummage Sale August 20.**

It's not too early to think about the **Christmas Fair** on December 3. Make a few items to sell each month from now until November. Don't wait!

Contact Loretta if you can help with any of these events. Thank you!

Planning Committee,
Ingrid Howard
Loretta Smith
Loretta@hiik.net



America's powerful document

One of the few remaining copies of the Declaration of Independence was put on display last October in Phoenix. A reporter for The Arizona Republic asked 11 citizens why the document was still relevant today. Here is a summary of their comments:

"It is like a Bible that has been in the family for generations."

"It is one of the world's most precious documents."

"It is a living breathing document with basic values underlying it."

"It began with some rabble-rousers who believed we should be free, that we should be able to choose our own destiny."

"The document is very much alive. It's organic. It is not archival material. It's real."

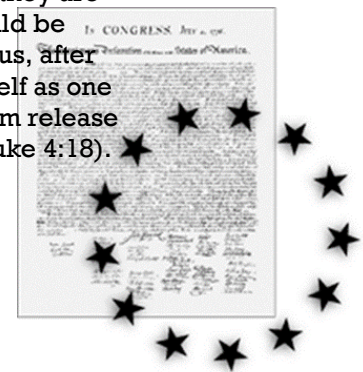
"I think the overwhelming message of the declaration is that it's okay to disagree with the government."

A pastor, Dr. William H. Stewart Sr., of the First Institutional Baptist Church, summarized the general consensus with these words:

"It is one of the greatest documents that has ever been written about people seeking freedom from an oppressive power."

While political and personal freedoms are not the equivalent of spiritual freedom in Christ, they are blessings that should be available to all. Jesus, after all, identified himself as one coming to "proclaim release to the captives" (Luke 4:18).

NN 7.04



The power of kindness

No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves.

—Amelia Earhart

Thank you for our Missions Committee

Project Linus Class

On Tuesday, July 12 at 10:00 we are excited to offer a Project Linus class through the Wilton Collaborative Effort. This class will be open to anyone in the community. The Collaborative Effort will provide funding for some of the materials we will use. Come join us at the parish hall which is the Wilton Collaborative Space. You don't need to know how to crochet, we will teach you the easy stitch!

Mission Possible Collections

Thank you for your

continued support of our monthly collections. Your generosity enables us to continue our community outreach.

Scholarships

Your mission dollars at work - we are able to offer scholarships to two graduating seniors who will be continuing their education in the fall. Anna Bartsch, daughter of Steve and Darcy, and Madelynn Bowen, granddaughter of Leslie and Jim Tuttle, will be presented with their scholarship at a service this summer. We wish them much success!

Walk for the Open Cupboard Pantry

We will be sponsoring a walk again this year with all proceeds going directly to the Open Cupboard. Last year we raised over \$3,000.00, we hope to top that this year. The date for the walk is October 15th. More information to follow in upcoming newsletters.

Your Missions Committee: Cindy Broderick, Dana Dahl, Becky Kennedy, Stephanie Ouellette and Jan Stone.



The ministry of quilting and of mending hearts

To sew is to pray. ... We mend ... turn things inside out and set things right. We salvage what we can of human garments and piece the rest into blankets. Sometimes our stitches stutter and slow. ... Other times the tension in the stitches might be too tight because of tears, but only we know what emotion went into the making.

nn 7.22

Musical Notes: Heavenly Vision



... the LORD opens
the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up
those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

PSALM 146:8, NRSV

Known as the "queen of gospel song writers," Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) wrote more than 9,000 Christian hymns, including "Blessed Assurance" and "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Blind from a young age, she developed a love for poetry and Scripture, memorizing about five chapters of the Bible each week. Crosby was the first woman to speak in the U.S. Senate, lobbying to support education for the blind. She also was an abolitionist who made friends with several presidents.

A well-meaning pastor once told Crosby, "It is a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when he showered so many other gifts upon you."

She responded that her blindness was a blessing she wouldn't wish away. "When I get to heaven," Crosby said, "the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior."

NN 9.16

July 2022

The fate of the revolutionaries

We call them heroes. The British called them traitors. Many of them turned out to be martyrs. Here is what happened to some of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence:

- Five were captured and tortured as traitors.
- Nine joined the revolutionary army, fought and died.
- Eight men had property looted by the British army or by vandals.
- One signer's home was taken over by a British general. The owner, Thomas Nelson Jr., asked General Washington to burn the home down. The general did.
- The home of Francis Lewis was destroyed and his wife

put in jail. She died shortly thereafter.

- Three men had their fields and mills destroyed.

In one way or another, all of the men paid a dear price as a result of their rebellion. Still they were faithful to the pledge they made on July 4, 1776:

“We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of

Right ought to be Free and Independent States And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

NN 6.6



INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Scripture readers are needed.
Sign-up sheet at the service on Sunday!**

**If you would like to contribute to the
newsletter, please email Loretta@hiik.net**

Revised Common Lectionary for July

July 3 - 2 Kings 5:1-14 - Psalm 30 - Isaiah 66:10-14 - Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16—Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10 - Amos 7:7-17 - Psalm 82 - Deuteronomy 30:9-14 - Colossians 1:1-14 - Luke 10:25-37

July 17 - Amos 8:1-12 - Psalm 42 - Genesis 18:1-10 - Colossians 1:15-28 - Luke 10:38-42

July 24 - Hosea 1:2-10 - Psalm 85 - Genesis 18:20-32 - Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19) - Luke 11:1-13

July 31 - Hosea 11:1-11 - Psalm 107:1-9, 43 - Ecclesiastes 1:2,12-14, 2:18-23 - Colossians 3:1-11 - Luke 12:13-21

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.

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United Church of Christ (UCC)*

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Address label here

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Temp Return Service Requested



*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 are Summer hours 9:30, In person and on Zoom

- One-Ten Club Drawings—each Sunday thru August 28
- July 1 Canada Day
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 23 Summer Rummage Sale
- August 28 Cathedral of the Pines 10:30 worship service
- November 11 & 12 Fall Plays 7pm
- December 3 Christmas Fair 9am to 2pm



SUMMER HOURS START ON JUNE 19 - 9:30 AM IN PERSON & ZOOM

“Jesus, keep me near the cross ... hoping, trusting ever” - Fanny Crosby, 1869

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