



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

# Church Matters

*All are Welcome!*

December 2022

## Christmas Craft Fair



Visit our  
our website  
2ccWilton.org



Invite a  
Friend to Church  
Sundays  
10:00 am



The fair is on Saturday, December 3 from 9 am to 2pm. We are not having a virtual fair this year, but some silent auction items will be available for viewing on line. [Www.2ccwilton.org](http://www.2ccwilton.org)

Some highlights:

**Santa arrives at 10AM !** Pictures will be taken in the sanctuary to enable social distancing.

**Food items** - pies, fudge, cookies, sweet breads - many yummy goodies. Soups, chili, dip mixes and more will be available. We are not able to serve lunch, but we will have soup and sandwiches to go.

Check out the **silent auction**—Includes two handmade afghans that are exquisite and you must have them! [Www.2ccwilton.org](http://www.2ccwilton.org)

Look for the **Penny Sale**, **Children's Store** and **RADA knives**. Knives can also be ordered on line: <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=4839973.a509ce>

There are **wreaths** and other **decorations**. And lots of **great gift items**.

Tell your family and tell your friends and coworkers to come on Saturday, December 3.

We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fair!

[See page three for details on making donations.]



*Christmas Craft Fair - December 3*

## A Christmas harvest

Last summer, my family and I were fortunate to spend time together and to visit the birthplace of Helen Keller, in Tuscumbia AL.

I have always admired Miss Keller, but visiting the homestead and hearing the miraculous story of her transformation from a wild spoiled child to the accomplished woman she became, was truly impressive.

Helen was born healthy in 1880, but severe meningitis left her blind and deaf at the age of 18 months. By the age of seven, her parents had no control over Helen. They could not communicate with her at all, so she just did what she wanted.. And reigned terror over the family

Enter Anne Sullivan, who became Helen's teacher and life-long companion.

Once Anne "unlocked" Helen's mind teaching her to read and write, there was

no stopping Helen. She even learned to speak. She attended various schools, including Radcliffe College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

She became a prolific writer in her own right and was a world-travelling champion of the disabled.

In 1925, Helen gave an empowering speech to the Lions Club International Convention, challenging them to become "Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness." You can listen to this speech at [www.LionsClubs.org](http://www.LionsClubs.org). I highly recommend it.

As we all know, the Lions took up the challenge and have done wonderful work creating programs that help prevent blindness. This includes our local chapter which meets at our church.

I came across the following quote by Helen Keller to share with you:

"Christmas is the harvest time of love. Souls are drawn to other souls. All that we have read and thought and hoped comes to fruition at this happy time. Our spirits are astir. We feel within us a strong desire to serve. A strange, subtle force, a new kindness, animates man and child. A new spirit is growing in us. No longer are we content to relieve pain, to sweeten sorrow, to give the crust of charity. We dare to give friendship, service, the equal loaf of bread and love."

May the subtle forces at work this Christmas, stir your hearts with a new kindness moving into the new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Your servant in Christ

**" Our spirits are astir. We feel within us a strong desire to serve. A strange and subtle force, a new kindness... "**

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

*In case of bad weather this winter...*

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In case of inclement weather, we will be posting on WMUR if we are going to cancel in person worship – however we will still meet via Zoom.

Del, our Administrative Assistant emails the bulletin and the link to Zoom every Friday. If you are not receiving this email, please contact the church

at [2ccwilton@gmail.com](mailto:2ccwilton@gmail.com) or call the church 603-654-9045 and leave a message with your name and email address. We would be happy to get you added to our list.



**Don't forget: We will meet on Zoom instead.**



## Christmas Fair Donations

Donations for the Christmas Fair can be dropped off on Friday, December 2, during set up between 10 am and

noon, or in that evening, or early Saturday morning. Or whenever the church is open!

Contact Loretta if you can work on Fair Day. Thank you! [Loretta@hiik.net](mailto:Loretta@hiik.net)



## Christmas Craft Fair

### Come as you are

If you sometimes have a “love-hate” attitude toward Christmas, you are not alone. Theologian Charles Spurgeon bemoaned the “gluttony and drunkenness” that often marked the holiday in nineteenth century England. “If there be any day in the year of which we may be pretty sure that it was not the day on which the Savior was born,” he said, “it is the 25th of December.”

Yet Spurgeon also wished “there were twenty Christmas Days in the year,” because Christ’s birth represents “supreme joy” because “no forms of etiquette are required in entering a stable.” God offers everyone total acceptance, Spurgeon adds, “for he puts himself into that manger that you may approach him.”

NN 12.22



### A prayer for Christmas

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;  
The warmth of Christmas, which is love;  
The radiance of Christmas, which is purity;  
The righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;  
The belief in Christmas, which is truth;  
The all of Christmas, which is Christ.

~ Wilda English NN 12.22

*Visit our Website & Facebook*

*pages for the Calendar & more [www.2CCWilton.org](http://www.2CCWilton.org)*

*Remember to turn down the heat...*

Just a reminder, now that the winter is nearly here: Please turn down the heat when leaving the parish hall or sanctuary. Please close all the fire doors, but leave the bathroom doors open so the pipes don’t freeze! Thank you!

## Your mission dollars at work



In December, we will deliver Christmas goodies bags to some of our senior members. They were really appreciated last year and it was so nice to connect with these members, some of whom have not been able to come to church.

The Linus Project continues to meet with the Collaborative members. Blankets are delivered to the regional Linus project,

If you would like to contribute, please see someone in Missions for materials and more information.

Also donations have been made to several organizations for the holiday season.

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

## Winter Worship

Starting in January, worship services will be held in the Parish Hall. This is a cost-saving measure due to the high heating costs throughout the coldest months. Please join us in the cozy and warm hall.

## Musical Notes: A collaboration across time and place

For Christmas Day worship, many churches use Psalm 98. It is fitting, then, that Isaac Watts, who interpreted 132 psalms as hymn texts, based a now-beloved carol on it.

Watts (1674-1748) was a student of language, religion, and philosophy. He wanted to make Scripture more relevant to lay people and thought hymns could help. Watts composed more than 600 hymn texts, many still in use. But Psalm 98:4-9, *Joy to the World*, needed music to fit its words.

Enter Lowell Mason (1792-1872), an American choir director. He came across Watts' Psalm 98 hymn text and sought inspiration for a melody from the famous oratorio *Messiah* by George F. Handel (1685-1759). Mason pulled musical phrases from sections of Handel's work, resulting in the tune we

now recognize as *Joy to the World*.

So it is that three men who lived across three centuries and never met - along with the composer of the original psalm more than two millennia earlier - together produced a hymn to the Christ-child, which millions have sung and continue to love.

NN 12.22



December 2022

## Christmas Crack-ups

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? *It's Christmas, Eve!*

What did the gingerbread man put on his bed? *Cookie sheets.*

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday? *Freeze a jolly good fellow!*

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy? *Ornamints*

What goes "Oh,Oh,Oh!" ? *Santa walking backwards.*

What is an elf's favorite music? *Wrap music*

How much did Santa pay for his slay? *Nothing, it was on the house.*

What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take? *Elfies*



NN 12.22

## Christmas Services

*December 24, 7pm Christmas Eve Service*

*December 25, 10am Sunday Worship Service*

*Thank you to the Reverend Larry Smith for leading worship for us  
during Advent and Christmas*

## An Enchanted Noel

**An evening with the music of Dan Kennedy  
Sunday, December 18 at 2pm, in the sanctuary**

**This event is free to the public  
presented in conjunction with the Wilton Collaborative Space.**

## Revised Common Lectionary for December

Second Sunday of Advent - December 4 - Isaiah 11:1-10 - Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 - Romans 15:4-13 - Matthew 3:1-12

Third Sunday of Advent - December 11 - Isaiah 35:1-10 - Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55 - James 5:7-10 -

Matthew 11:2-11

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 18 - Isaiah 7:10-16 - Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 - Romans 1:1-7 - Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas—December 25 - Isaiah 9:2-7 - Psalm 96 - Titus 2:11-14 - Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

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

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United Church of Christ (UCC)*

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Temp Return Service Requested



*On the web at [2ccWilton.com](http://2ccWilton.com)  
On Facebook: *Second Congregational Church Wilton NH and  
Second Glances Thrift Shop**



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

**Each Sunday Church Service 10:00 am in person & zoom**

- December 3 Christmas Craft Fair 9am to 2pm
- December 4 Second Sunday of Advent
- December 11 Third Sunday of Advent
- December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 18 An Enchanted Noel concert 2 to 4pm (page 5)
- December 21 First Day of Winter
- December 24 Christmas Ever Candlelight Service 7pm
- December 25 Worship Service 10am



**“Christmas is a box of tree ornaments that have become part of the family.”** Charles M Schulz

*All are Welcome*