



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

Church Matters

March 2023



March Sale - Books & Jewelry

Our March Sale will be held on March 18 from 10AM to 2PM.

There will be just Books and Jewelry. Stop by and browse for a little bling to brighten your wardrobe or find a good book. It's not too early to plan your summer reading list.

We will also have coffee and snacks if you want to sit a spell and discuss books, the weather or whatever.

We look forward to spending some time with you!

Spring Dinner Plays April 15 & 16

"Peril on the Mighty Mississippi"

Set sail on the maiden voyage of the Mighty Mississippi, a brand new riverboat with a money-back guarantee to make it from New Orleans to St. Louis in just five days.

There are villains aboard to sabotage that guarantee. And there are plans afoot to woo the Captain's daughter and steal a valuable necklace from a rich passenger.

Thanks go to Bill Goddard and the Players for their talents and hard work on what sounds like another great play.

Dinner will be turkey with stuffing, potatoes and gravy, vegetables, rolls, salad and of course dessert after the first act!

Tickets are \$20.00 per person for the all you can eat family-style dinner and an evening's entertainment.

Tickets can be order by contacting Sue Jean at 654-2255, or leave a message at 654-9045. Last fall tickets sold out, so reserve yours early!



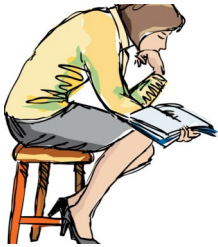
Visit our
our website
2ccWilton.org



Invite a
Friend to Church
Sundays
10:00 am



Prepared to Serve



In February, Stephanie Ouellette, Dana Dahl and I went to the NH Conference UCC workshop called "Prepared to Serve."

Each year the NHCUCC event offers about 30 workshops that cover a range of topics.

This year we learned about how to save on energy bills, how to apply for a Homeland Security grant,

some ways churches can share a pastor, experiencing grace outside the church, gender vs sex,, LGBTQIA and gender identity, secular books for sacred discussions and best financial practices for churches in 2023.

There will be a discussion on some of the things we learned at each of our workshops after worship service on March 6. We

would love to share and discuss some new ideas. Please plan on joining us.

Your servant in Christ,

Loretta

Open and Affirming—what does that mean?

Affirm: to show or express a strong belief in or dedication to [something, such as an important idea]. *From the Merriam Webster dictionary*

Last summer, Second Congregational Church voted to be an Open and Affirming (ONA) church.

That means that we believe that all individuals are entitled to be treated as equals, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientations, handicap, financial strata, or anything else. We are all made by and loved by God.

We are equal in God's eyes.

One definition says that ONA is to go beyond tolerance. Not only do we love our brothers and sisters in Christ, but we welcome them and provide a safe haven for worship and fellowship.

Matthew 5:15: "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick."

Now that we are accustomed to our ONA designation, we intend to

demonstrate Christ's love to our neighbor and make it known that we are indeed, Open and Affirming. And that "All are Welcome" is truly a statement of our faith.

Matthew 5:15:
"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick."



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. Thank you!

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



March 2023



March & April events & more

We are getting ready for a busy 2023.

On March 18 will be a book & jewelry sale. Details on page one.

April 15 & 16 brings the Spring Dinner Play. Info is also on page one.

May: we are hoping the weather will be great to have a yard/rummage sale. That will be on May 21.

In late May we will start the One –Ten Club raffle. We are hoping everybody will help sell tickets. Maybe some one can be outside the Post Office or come up with another great way to sell more tickets!

We are talking about having a Coffee House for all ages. Do you have a talent that you'd like to share on stage? Think about it. You'll hear more about that later.

There will be a game night or cribbage night coming up. That's still in the planning stages.

Don't forget that there will be some 200th Year Anniversary events coming up. There will be a tea and a musical event and some other surprises.

Thank you all for your support. Keep your ideas coming. We'll try to do them all!

Your planning committee:
Ingrid Howard
Loretta Smith

Loretta@hiik.net



Placemat Project

Thank you to Cindy Broderick for spearheading a project for placemat advertising. Now that we are having events again, which include meals, we need to have placemats for each setting. It's a great place for local businesses or individuals to advertise. If you have a business or know of one, ad spots are \$50 each for up to 5 lines. The mats will be used throughout the next year. Give a check to Cindy or Sue Jean with the text for the ad. Or mail to PO Box 246, Wilton NH 03086. We need to have all ads in by the end of March to be ready for the Spring Dinner Play.

Visit our Website & Facebook

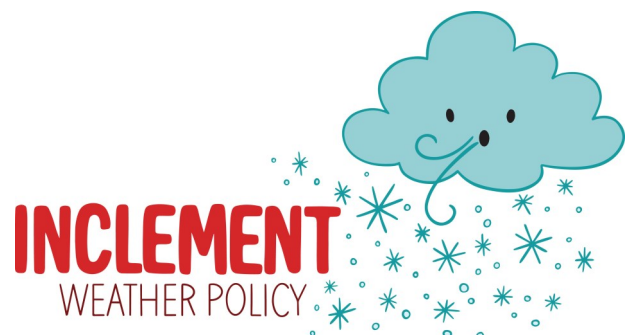
pages for the Calendar & more www.2CCWilton.org

In case of bad weather this winter...

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 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.



Missions - Fidget Blankets and more

Your mission dollars at work! Here is a sample of where your mission dollars are being used.



A donation was made to the family in Lyndeborough who have a young daughter currently receiving cancer treatments.

The Linus Blanket group continues to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month to work on blankets. We average about 10 blankets a month. These blankets range in size from infant through teenager size. There is a constant need for these blankets. They are distributed throughout the Monadnock Region to police, fire, rescue, Head

start and hospitals to provide comfort to children who are traumatized or ill.

In February Missions met and made a big pot of chicken soup. The soup was delivered to some of our senior members. This will give us a chance to reach out to members we do not see often in person and visit. We will make soup again in March, on the 21st. If you want to help, please let someone on the Missions Committee know.

A request was received from the Rehabilitative Services department at St. Joseph's Hospital in Nashua for fidget blankets. These blankets, also called activity blankets or boards, are used as an

alternative means to soothe and calm Alzheimer's and dementia patients. In collaboration with the Wilton Community Center, Missions will be offering a class on March 16 and 23 from 9:00 to noon. Everyone is invited to come. If you cannot come but would like to donate sewing notions such as buttons, zippers, rickrack, etc., please let Stephanie Ouellette know.

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

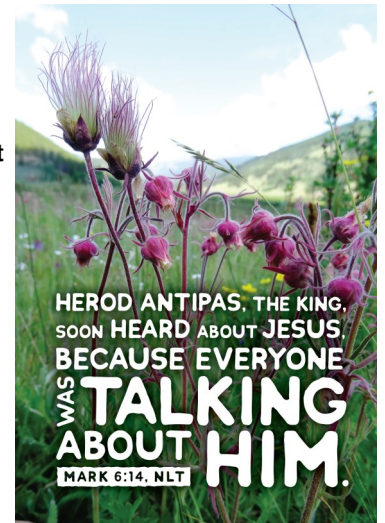
Musical Notes: Prove it!

In *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, King Herod mocks the bound prisoner who's brought to his courtyard. "So, you are the Christ. You're the great Jesus Christ!" he sings. "Prove to me that you're no fool: Walk across my swimming pool!"

Likewise, the Pharisees demand evidence that Jesus is speaking for God (see Matthew 12:38). It's easy to poke fun at them, but have you ever faced a tough decision and thought, "If only God would give me a sign"?

Jesus tells the religious teachers about the "sign of Jonah," a metaphor for his upcoming death and resurrection. Though it's meant to be a sign for all, not everyone accepts it as truth. Luke 16:31 notes that if the rich man's brothers weren't predisposed to listen to Moses and the prophets, then "they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead" (NIV). Signs are useful only to people who accept their messages and act accordingly.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



Light Hearted Blessings

- May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you're dead!
- May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.
- May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.



SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, “Is this one leaf, or three?” Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

“Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.” John Wooden

“Still round the corner there may wait / A new road or a secret gate.” J.R.R. Tolkien

“To experience genuine human love, to be part of a community of love is to experience the presence of God.” John J. McNeill

Revised Common Lectionary for March

March 5 Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5,13-17; John 3:1-17

March 12 Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 19 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 25 Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 45; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

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.

*Second Congregational Church
United Church of Christ (UCC)*

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Temp Return Service Requested

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On the web at 2ccWilton.com

*On Facebook: Second Congregational Church Wilton NH and
Second Glances Thrift Shop*

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

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

**March 3 World Day of Prayer
March 6 Communion Sunday
March 12 Daylight Savings Time begins "Spring Ahead"
March 17 Community St Patrick's Dinner 5pm
March 18 Books & Jewelry Sale 10 to 2pm
March 20 First Day of Spring
April 3 Palm Sunday
April 10 Easter Sunday**

2023

"God doesn't just give us grace; he gives us Jesus, the Lord of grace." Joni Eareckson Tada

All are Welcome