



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

# Church Matters

April 2023



## Spring Dinner Plays April 15 & 16

### “PERIL ON THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI”



Visit our  
our website  
[2ccWilton.org](http://2ccWilton.org)



Invite a  
Friend to Church  
Sundays  
10:00 am



April 14 and 15, join us for a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and be entertained by a delightful two-act play.

This time, we are 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. Of course, that sort of promise is sure to bring out the saboteurs, including the nefarious Vandall VonLech and his rival in the villainy department, Maleficent Syreen.

While Vandall is at it, he also plots to woo Modesty Steerwell, the Captain’s daughter, and swipe the hefty “Heart of the River” necklace from the riverboat’s wealthy elite passengers, the Poshmores. Can anything stop these villains? Perhaps it’s the noble and brave deckhand, Justin Stalwart, whose heart belongs to Modesty. Or perhaps it’s — would you believe? — an iceberg!

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

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!



## Holy Week Schedule

- April 2 - Palm Sunday 10am service in the sanctuary
- April 6 - Maundy Thursday service 7pm in the parish hall
- April 9 Easter Sunrise Service 6:15am Grand Hill in Mont Vernon
- Easter Worship service 10am in the sanctuary

## Easter - Not resuscitation - Resurrection!



In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This “escape tower” was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth.

Jesus’ resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God’s

power, Jesus didn’t merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples — and us — “Peace be with you.”

*NN 4.23—adapted from Homiletics*

## Death doesn’t win



In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter’s backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter’s foreground means death won’t win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life “isn’t all daffodils,” we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will “give us the joy, and it’s going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well,” added the pastor. “And that just makes me draw closer to God.”

*NN 4.23*

Publication Information
Church Matters Volume # 266
April 1, 2023
Published Monthly
Second Congregational Church UCC 25 Gregg Street, PO Box 246 Wilton NH 03086
Issue # 2023.04
Subscription Price - Free

## Remember to turn down the heat...

Just a reminder, even though the winter is over: Please turn down the heat when leaving the parish hall or sanctuary. Please close all the fire doors. Thank you!

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



April 2023



## Spring is here! Get the volunteerism flowing!

Here are some springtime opportunities for everyone:

**April 14 & 15-** Spring Dinner Plays—waitstaff and kitchen help needed!

**May 20 -** Rummage & Yard Sale  
Set up is the day before. Need workers, and also someone to be in charge this month. See Loretta or Ingrid.

**May & June** Ticket Sales for the One-Ten Club Raffle. Can you sell some tickets outside the post office or your favorite grocery store?

**June 24 -** Summerfest on Main Street. We sell water & Fruit Cups. Need someone to take charge to coordinate it all. This will also be the last day to sell One-Ten Club Tickets: it would be great to have a dedicated person to do that all day!!

We have dates set aside in July through October, the third weekend. And the Fall Dinner Plays are in November. New workers and actors are welcome!

What is YOUR ideas for an event?

*Rummage & Yard Sales*

*Fairs & Festivals*

Contact Loretta Smith or Ingrid Howard.  
Thank you!  
Loretta@hiik.net

*Tickets!*

*Plays*

## It's not too early to think about... The Christmas Fair!

You heard correctly! Every year, this writer makes a resolution to do just that: make something every month of the year for the Christmas Fair and not procrastinate to do it all in November! Some years go better than others, but the thought remains:

If I do one project per month for the next several months, I will have the satisfaction of creation and the church will benefit in December!

You can do it too! Don't wait till the fall. Plan your Fair projects now!

## Second Congregational Church: 1823 to 2023

In case you haven't heard, Second Congregational Church is celebrating our 200th Anniversary in 2023.

Dana Dahl reports for the Anniversary Committee that events are in the works.

First event is an All-Church Picnic on June 4. Plan on attending and bring your family and friends!

On July 7 is a family game night. There will be a musical event currently planned for September 9

Visit our Website & Facebook pages for the Calendar & more  
[www.2CCWilton.org](http://www.2CCWilton.org)

and a commemorative worship service on October 8.

More details are pending. Watch for more events!



## Your mission dollars at work



Missions continues to support the Linus Blanket Project, which meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in the parish hall. The workshop is open to the public.

The group has also been making soups and other dishes to share within the community. The meals are

delivered with a brief visit and have been gratefully received. If you would like to help with that, please let us know.

Lenten Banks can be turned in this month, which help fund these projects and more.

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

## Five for Five

Second Congregational Church has been proud to be a “5 for 5” church for many years prior to Covid and like many things that got pushed aside. But we are slowly getting back on track. We are working on regaining that designation in the years to come.

From the NH Conference UCC: “The success and sustainability of the United Church of Christ’s national ministries is relying on your church’s contribution to basic operating support and mission. Being 5 for 5 means that your church is a leader, providing support to Our Church’s Wider Mission and the [Special Mission Offerings](#): One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund.”

Please consider giving generously whenever these offerings are taken.

## Musical Notes: Sharing the load

In 1969 the Hollies released “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother.” Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan’s Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied,

“He ain’t heavy, Father. He’s my brother.” Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been “carried” at some point, and we’ve likely “carried” someone else. The Hollies’ song declares: “His welfare is my concern.” Jesus said it this way: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The load isn’t too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.

### Brothers & Sisters in Christ



**Let brotherly love continue**  
Hebrews 13:1

April 2023

## The God who hides

Isaiah declares, “Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior” (45:15, ESV). But why would God hide? Isn’t our knowing God the point? Martin Luther explained that God hides in unexpected places so as not to be found where the world assumes a god would be — in power, status, fame, wealth — but to be found in weakness, humility and places of suffering.

“Those who have found God in the cross of Jesus Christ,” said 20<sup>th</sup>-century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “know how wonderfully God hides himself in this world and how he is closest precisely when we believe him to be most distant.” So God assures us of his presence in the humble manger, among the poor and outcast during

his ministry, in the excruciating suffering of the cross, and with us in every struggle.

God hides not to avoid us but so we will discover him precisely where we need him most, and where others need us most.

NN 3.23

## Newsletter contributions are welcome

Would you like to be a contributor to the Church Matters newsletter?

Please talk to Loretta Smith, or submit an article, essay or poem. Artwork is good too!

Maybe you’ve written something in the past and would like to share your thoughts.

Have you read a good book? Seen a great movie? Reviews are an excellent way to contribute.

The best way to submit items is by email, but you can just hand it to her if that is easier.

Deadline is the 15th of the month, for the following month’s newsletter. We can

be flexible if you communicate when your item will be ready so we can plan the space.

Email address is: [Loretta@hiik.net](mailto:Loretta@hiik.net)

## Revised Common Lectionary for April

April 2 Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

April 9 Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

April 16 Acts 2:14, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 23 Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4,12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 30 Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:1-25; John 10:1-10

The Revised Common Lectionary is provided so that you may explore more than just the Gospel that is read on Sunday morning. NOTE: Additional readings are suggested for Holy Week. Please visit the Vanderbilt website for this information. <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>



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

25 Gregg Street  
P O Box 246  
Wilton NH 03086  
Telephone: 603-654-9045  
Email: ChurchMatters@hiik.net



Address label here



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

Holy Week April 2 to 9  
April 3 Palm Sunday Service 10am  
April 6 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm  
April 10 Easter Sunrise Service in Mont Vernon  
April 10 Easter Sunday Worship 10am  
April 14 & 15 Spring Dinner Play 7pm  
April 26 Administrative Professionals Day  
June 4 Church Picnic 11am to 3pm  
July 7 All Community Game Night

2023



***"Still round the corner there may wait, A new road or a secret gate." J.R.R. Tolkien***

*All are Welcome*