



Second Congregational Church UCC· Wilton NH

Church Matters

May 2023



Come to Candidate Sunday on May 14

The Settled Pastor Search Committee is pleased to announce we are recommending that the Second Congregational Church, UCC of Wilton, NH extend a Call to the Reverend Gary W. Klingsporn, Ph.D. to be our Settled Pastor.

Part of the process is Candidate Sunday, on May 14. Reverend Gary will conduct our worship service after which an all-church meeting will be held for the congregation to vote on extending the call. Please make a point to be there for this important vote. Below is part Reverend Gary's biography:

Reverend Dr. Gary Klingsporn recently retired from full-time parish ministry, having served the past twelve years as Senior Minister of the First Congregational Church in Nantucket, MA. Gary and his wife Debra live in Manchester, NH

Earlier in his career, while a graduate student, he served Baptist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches. In 1988 he accepted a call to Colonial Church of Edina a large Congregational church in Minneapolis where he served for twenty years as Teaching Minister and Minister of Spiritual Formation. As a senior member of that multiple staff church he engaged in all aspects of pastoral ministry including teaching, worship, preaching, and pastoral care.

Rev. Gary did his doctoral work at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he received his Ph.D. in New Testament studies in 1985. He has taught biblical studies in academic settings and served as General Editor of the multivolume book series *The Library of Distinctive Sermons*.

Reverend Gary is excited about continuing his next call to ministry as a part-time settled pastor, doing what he loves most — preaching and teaching, loving and caring for people, and equipping God's people to be ministers to the world.

Note: Before May 14, you can listen to some of Reverend Gary's sermons on the website for First Congregational Church in Nantucket.



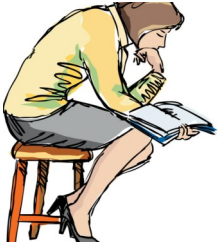
Visit our
our website
2ccWilton.org



Invite a
Friend to Church
Sundays
10:00 am



Ruth - a Pentecost story?



“ ..celebrate the Spirit bridging differences ... uniting all nationalities by making the gospel message intelligible to all people...”

The disciples were celebrating Pentecost, originally a Jewish festival, when the Holy Spirit descended on them and birthed the church. Pentecost, which began as a harvest festival, had come to commemorate the giving of the law. The book of Ruth became integral to festival worship.

Why Ruth? This short story doesn't mention the law, let alone God giving it to Moses. Yet in Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law ("Where you go I will go Your people will be

my people ... " [Ruth 1:16, NIV]), she fulfills not just the letter but the spirit of the law: lovingkindness — all the more remarkable because she's a foreigner. Boaz, too, demonstrates exorbitant kindness to Ruth.

As Christians celebrate the Spirit bridging differences in Jerusalem, uniting all nationalities by making the gospel message intelligible to all people, we too can remember Ruth's story. For in it, God unites two enemy peoples for his grand purpose: Boaz and Ruth's marriage leads to King

David and, ultimately, to King Jesus. Today, the Holy Spirit continues to unite all categories of people under Christ's reign for the good of the world.

NN 5.16

One Ten Club Raffle Tickets are available now!

We have One-Ten Club Raffle Tickets available.

The raffle runs like this: One \$10 ticket enters you into two drawings per week, for 10 weeks. Each Sunday after church from June 25 to August 27, there will be one drawing for \$10, and another for \$20. On August 27, there will be two additional drawings for \$50 and \$100. Each ticket is in every drawing. That's 22 drawings!

Of course, before the drawings begin, we need to sell tickets!

Our goal is to sell 250 tickets this year. If twenty- five people can sell just ten tickets, that would meet the goal pretty easily.

A couple of suggestions:

You can be in charge of selling tickets at the rummage sale on May 20.

Grab a friend and sell outside the post office or grocery store on a Saturday morning.

You can walk around at Summerfest for the last push on the day before the first drawing.

See Loretta or Lori Dick for tickets and more information.

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Housekeeping notes

Please remember to recycle - there are bins for bottles, cans, etc. 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!**



May 2023



Rummage & yard sale May 20

Next up: A Rummage & Yard Sale will be held on May 20 from 9 to 1pm. Weather permitting, of course!

Volunteers are needed for Friday 10AM to unpack bins for the rummage sale.

Helpers & Workers needed for Saturday starting at 8AM to put out the yard sale items. Sale workers needed between 9AM and 1PM. Breakdown & pick up help

needed starting at 1PM. If you can make a trip to Goodwill, Planet Aid, or the recycle center, we will need volunteers for that as well.

Becca Lorden is running the sale this month and can be reached at blorden80@gmail.com
Thank you Becca!!

Planning Committee:
Loretta Smith & Ingrid Howard
Loretta@hiik.net



Christmas Craft Fair

All-Church Picnic June 4 kicks off our 200th anniversary celebration

Looking through the pictures, memorabilia, and records depicting the beginning of the Second Congregational Church of Wilton NH, I've noticed a steady theme through the last 200 years has been fellowship, stewardship, compassion, and more fun! 200 years is a very long time. Yet through all the trials, tribulations and traditions that God has blessed our church and families, it's a great time to remember some of those traditions that were experienced on these grounds. As a past Angel of our Church, Pricilla Jowders, always reminded those of us who worry, that "God takes good care of this church."

Our first kick off event is planned for Sunday, June 4, 2023 as an ALL Church Picnic. After the worship hour there will be a time for memories, songs, games and fellowship as we enjoy a Potluck Lunch on our own property. Bring a salad, dessert, or side dish to share (enough for 6-8 people) at the "Sharing Tables." The church will provide drinks, utensils, and sandwiches / luncheon selections.

We expect to have a photo booth (indoors) and a sitting quiet circle while outside there will be live music and some fun family games. If you have an idea for games - the list is just beginning - please let someone on the committee know.

More information about more Anniversary Plans will be brought forward on Sundays and updated in the weekly news items sent out by the Church Office. We are looking to book a time for gathering for a Book Study (TBD) as well as a historical look and presentation about our church as seen by the Wilton Community.

Hold these dates:

Friday, July 7 (Cribbage, Cards and Games Night)

Saturday, September 9 4 PM Choir Concert with refreshments to follow

Sunday, October 8 10 AM Worship Anniversary Blessing and Luncheon

Do you have an idea for other activities that would help YOU to celebrate not just the last 200 years, but accentuate the last 25 years? Is there something/someone you'd like to bring forward as an Angel in the Church from the last 50 years that you'd like to see remembered or honored? Would you like to participate in "Bring your kid(s) back to Church Day"? There are no bad ideas! Please send your suggestions to Dana danaldahl@gmail.com and I'll get back to you.



ALL CHURCH PICNIC JUNE 14 - 11:30
POTLUCK LUNCH
SONGS MEMORIES GAMES GOOD FOOD



Your mission dollars at work



The Missions Committee is one of the most visible arms of our church. There are always several projects in the works and each of them brings joy to the community.

The group puts together meals every month and delivers them to those that aren't able to get out or come to church on Sundays. The delivery folks take the time to visit with each member and bring friendship and fellowship along with the meal.

Let Missions know if you would like to help on the next meal prep or delivery.

The Linus Project meets twice per month to make blankets. Materials are available if you would like to help make blankets at home.

A Yarn Fairy has donated a large amount of **yarn to make prayers shawls**. Our stash of shawls is depleted. We can provide you with yarn and patterns to knit or crochet shawls. This is a great project for beginners and experienced yarn workers too. Many thanks for the generous yarn donation.

In conjunction with Church World Services, we put

together **twenty-five kids bags** with notebooks, pencils, crayons and such. Like the cleaning buckets we put together in previous years, the bags will be delivered to kids in disaster sites around the US and the globe.

Scholarship applications are being accepted for high school seniors heading to college,

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

Musical Notes: "Universal Praise"

See how nature now rejoices
in this sunny month of May;
Still to God from all its voices,
giving praises day by day. ...

In the glad green woodland alleys,
every bird its anthem trills!
While flocks feeding in the valleys,
herds upon a thousand hills.

Join with every creature living,
here on land, in air, or sea,
In one great worldwide thanksgiving,
yielding praise, O God, to thee!

All around us swells the chorus,
from this goodly world of ours,
And earth's altar stands before us,
sweet with incense from her flowers.

So with nature still confessing,
his great goodness, let us pay
Grateful homage for each blessing,
of this sunny month of May.

NN 5.23



Prepare to be empowered

May 2023



Contrary to common perception, Jesus' disciples weren't frightened and hiding during the ten days between Ascension and Pentecost. Instead, they were actively preparing for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They "all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts

1:14, NIV) and took steps to replace Judas.

After that inward focus, the disciples were ready to boldly burst forth on Pentecost, empowered and "enabled" (Acts 2:4) by the Spirit. They proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, leading 3,000 people to faith that day, now known as the church's birthday.

"A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community," writes Suzanne de Dietrich in *Free Men*. "These Christians could not keep silent. Their joyful liberty had broken down all the walls behind which people would like to keep them; no prison could silence them." NN 5.23

We Remember

More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to

remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

NN 5.22



Visit our Website & Facebook

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

Revised Common Lectionary readings for May

May 7 Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
 May 14 Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
 May 21 Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10,32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14,5-11; John 17:1-11
 May 28 Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 68:1-10,32-35; John 17:1-11

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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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

- May 4 National Day of Prayer
- May 14 Mother's Day
- May 14 Candidate Sunday
- May 20 Armed forces Day
- May 20 Rummage & Yard Sale 8-2pm
- May 28 Pentecost
- May 29 Memorial Day
- June 4 Church Picnic 11am to 3pm
- June 24 Wilton Main Street SUMMERFEST all day
- June 25 First One-Ten Raffle drawings

2023



"Happiness is like jam. You can't spread even a little without getting some on yourself." Unknown

All are Welcome