

Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

Church Matters

January
2024

Annual Meeting - January 21

The Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 21, following worship, to conduct the business of Second Congregational Church. This includes voting on the 2024 budget and any other business that comes up. This is your opportunity to participate in the governance of our church. Snacks and refreshments will be served prior to the meeting.

Note: There are still openings on several Committees. Nominations will be gladly accepted from the floor at the meeting.

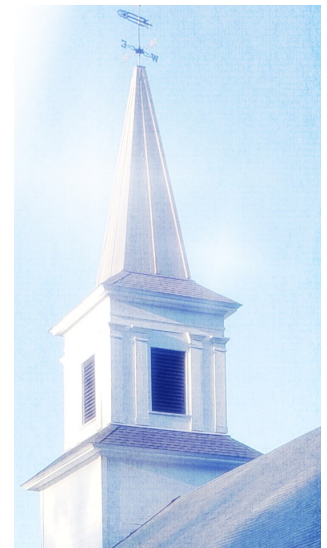
Reminder: Reports from Officers and Committees are due January 1st. If you have not submitted your report by January 1st please bring multiple copies (25) of your report to the meeting on January 21st. Please email reports to latuttle@comcast.net as a word.doc so they can be formatted to fit the page. No verbiage will be deleted.

Cribbage and Family Game Night—January 20

Saturday, January 20, from 6 to 8pm, come to the parish hall for an evening of fun and games. We'll break out the cribbage boards or bring along your favorite game to share. We'll have snacks and door prizes and.. FUN, of course! See you there!

Old Home Days 2024

Every five years an amazing thing happens in Wilton NH: Old Home Days are celebrated in August. The dates are August 10 to 18, 2024. Second Congregational Church participated in the parade and sponsored other activities. This year will be no exception. We will announce a meeting soon to start planning for the parade and other events, and to submit those to get on the OHD calendars. We need you all to help, but maybe eight or ten people can help brainstorm what we want to do this year.



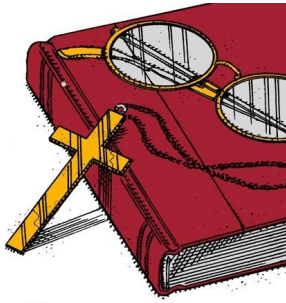
Second Congregational
Church UCC
Wilton NH



ABOUT SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- Established in 1823
- The Reverend Gary Klingsporn
Pastor
- Sunday Worship Service 10:00
(Summer services at 9:30)
- Sunday Services are on ZOOM
- Open & Affirming (ONA)
- In partnership with and home of
the Wilton Collaborative Space
- Contact 2ccwilton@gmail.com for
ZOOM information
- www.2ccwilton.org for full
church calendar, weekly sermons
and more
- Follow us on Facebook: Second
Congregational Church Wilton NH

Moving In



Let us keep our eyes
on Jesus, the author and
perfecter of our faith.
Hebrews 12:2

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, Debra and I recently moved to Wilton. We love our new house at 123 Abbot Hill Acres Road. After only a couple of weeks of unpacking I said to Debra, "This feels like it will take another three months before we're in and settled."

Those of you who have moved know it's a long, messy process. It's great when you get most of the large boxes unpacked and you can

an empty house becomes "home." You're at home and you're there to stay.

This reminds me of a prayer the writer of Ephesians offers for the early Christians at Ephesus. It's a prayer that speaks across the centuries to us: "I bow my knees before the Father...and I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Holy Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in

"That Christ may dwell in our hearts with faith..." Ephesians 3:17

Housekeeping Notes

Turn off lights and turn down the heat to 60 degrees.

Leave bathroom doors ajar to prevent freezing pipes.

In case of inclement weather, we will advise thru WMUR if we need to cancel in person worship. We will meet via Zoom.

Del, our Administrative Assistant, emails the bulletins and the link to Zoom every Friday. If you are not receiving this email, contact the church by email 2ccwilton@gmail.com or phone 603-654-9045. Provide name and email address and we'll add you to the list.

see some floor space. But right now there are still endless boxes and crates in our garage, the kitchen, the basement, and in my little study. It seems like there's clutter everywhere. As we get one room in order, things from the next box come out and life gets messy again.

One of the challenges is losing track of things you need. The daily conversations at our house go like this: "Have you seen the Zip Lock bags anywhere?" "Where's the screwdriver?" "Have you run across the shade for this lamp yet?" "In which box did we pack the kitchen towels?" "How about the Crock Pot?" "Where are my sweaters and tennis shoes?" "I can't find my drill; I know it's here somewhere." "Think we should move this dresser to the other room?" "No, it works better in this room." "Where's the deodorant?"

When you move into a house you clean and explore every nook and cranny. You decide what will go where. You move things around, try this and that, until the place becomes you. Gradually, over time,

your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love" (Ephesians 3:14-17).

The writer prays that Christ "may dwell in our hearts through faith." That Christ may "move into" our lives and take up permanent residence — as you or I would move into a house and make it home. It's also a prayer that we will grow in Christ's love.

Christ moving into and dwelling in our lives eventually fills every room, every nook and cranny, and transforms everything. Life is never the same again. It happens through faith, through being open to God's presence in our lives. During this Christmas season and during the new year ahead, may you know the joy of the love of Christ dwelling in your heart and life.

(By the way, we had to buy some new deodorant.)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rev. Gary and Debra



It Takes a Village

We are looking forward to 2024 and have a lot of things in motion already. See the sidebar to the right to get a glimpse of what we have planned so far.

To paraphrase the old saying, it takes a village to support a church.

The Planning Committee has a two-fold purpose: to oversee fund-raising and secular activities. We hope to have more emphasis on FUN-raising this year!

You don't have to be on this committee to have an event, just run it by us to make sure there are no conflicts since we need share the parish hall with the Collaborative Space. We've never said "No" to a great idea. We look forward to hearing from you.

See or email Loretta Smith or Ingrid Howard, your Planning Committee
ingrid928@comcast.net or lorettaapril@gmail.com

"I do not understand the mystery of grace - only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us." Anne Lamott

New Year, New Look

January is a time of renewal and looking forward. It's also a good time to change things up. We hope you like the new look of Church Matters. I am very excited about the new design. Please let me know what you think!

If you would like to contribute to your newsletter as a monthly contributor please let us know. Even occasional or one-time contributions are welcomed and appreciated. Talk to or email Loretta. lorettaapril@gmail.com

Book Nook: Chicken Soup for the Soul

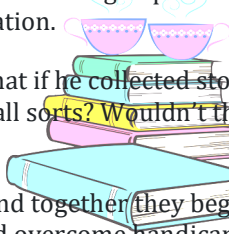
Chicago teacher Jack Canfield was having trouble persuading his inner-city students to want to learn. Many thought they were unable to grasp the lessons and many lacked self-confidence and motivation.

One day, while meditating, Canfield had a vision. What if he collected stories by or about people who had overcome obstacles of all sorts? Wouldn't that be like chicken soup for the soul?

Canfield joined with a friend, Mark Victor Hansen, and together they began to collect inspirational stories about people who had overcome handicaps or personal problems to succeed in life. They took the final collection to 140 book publishers before they found one that would print it. That book became a best seller and encouraged them to publish several other "Chicken Soup" books. There are now 100 million copies of these books in print.

Like the people in their books, Canfield and Hansen believed that they were led by the hand of God to share their inspiration.

NN10.06



Planning Committee

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Cribbage and Family Game night. Looking for someone to run this on monthly or bimonthly.

Rummage Sales - held several times per year. Need people to set up, work the sale, and clean up after. Interested in chairing or co-chairing? Grab a friend and take over!

Spring and Fall Dinner Plays - Interested in acting? See Sue Jean. If that doesn't work, sign up for kitchen or wait-staff.

One-Ten Club Raffle - This could be a big fundraiser for us. Take charge! Or just help sell a whole lot of tickets!

Wilton Old Home Days in August - We like to do a float and have a raffle, also have other events, which we need to submit to the OHD committee early in the year.

Christmas Fair - The Fair is in December, but you can work all year on crafts and things to donate. Bring new ideas. Would you like to chair this event?

WE NEED A PUBLICIST TO PROMOTE ALL EVENTS-SIGNS-POSTERS-NEWS PAPERS-ON LINE EVENT LISTINGS..



Publication Information
Church Matters Volume # 275
January 1, 2024
Published Monthly
Second Congregational Church UCC 25 Gregg Street, PO Box 246 Wilton NH 03086
Issue # 2024.01
Subscription Price - Free

Thank you for a wonderful 2023

Church Missions would like to thank the entire congregation for generous responses to the projects we were involved in during 2023. Here is a partial list of what we did, with your support during the year:

- * We purchased fleece, created and donated over 200 blankets to the Monadnock area Linus Project.
- * In the spring we cooked and delivered soups and lunches to some of our congregation's senior members.
- * With covid easing up we were able to host several in-person lunches during the year. Two were hosted to introduce Pastor Gary to the wider congregation.
- * During Domestic Abuse Awareness Month in October, we collected over four baskets of food and cleaning supplies and donated them to Bridges, the local women's shelter.

- * In December we adopted two families through Bridges and purchased Christmas gifts from their "wish" lists.
- * A new group met during 2023 to make fidget blankets for dementia patients. As of the end of the year over 24 blankets to local nursing homes and adult day care. This group intends to continue meeting in 2024.

For a small congregation we have accomplished a lot! We could not do it without your help and support. We are looking forward to a happy, healthy 2024! If you have an idea for a project, please let us know. Thank you!

Church missions: Cindy Broderick, Dana Dahl, Becky Kennedy, Stephanie Ouellette and Jan Stone

Musical Notes: Two Ships

The year like a ship in the distance
comes over life's mystical sea.
We know not what change of existence
'tis bringing to you or to me.
But we wave out the ship that is leaving
and we welcome the ship coming in,
although it be loaded with grieving,
with trouble, or losses, or sin. ...

The new ship comes nearer and nearer,
we know not what freight she may hold.
Hope stands at the helm there to steer her;
our hearts are courageous and bold.
Sail in with new joys and new sorrows.
Sail in with new banners unfurled.
Sail in with unwritten tomorrows.
Sail in with new tasks for the world.



From "New Year," Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Home Away from Home

I spent five months as a college exchange student in Spain. The Sunday after I arrived, I walked to a nearby church, hoping worship would ease my homesickness. At first it didn't. The vast cathedral was a different denomination from my home church. No one welcomed me, and I couldn't comprehend all the Spanish.

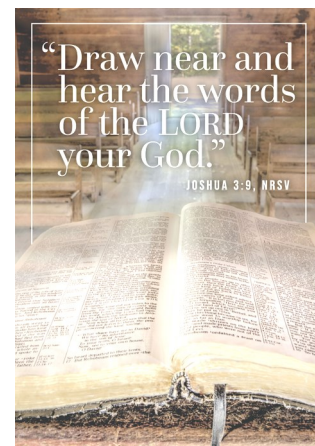
As the priest began reading the gospel lesson, however, I recognized the account of Jesus' baptism. It struck me powerfully that, because our denominations shared the same lectionary (series of Scripture readings for worship),

six hours later my pastor-father would be proclaiming this very passage at my home church. He would do so in a different language and to a different congregation, but it would be the same good news — indeed, the one gospel — proclaimed in *my* hearing.

I felt less homesick then, comforted that through Christ, the Scriptures and the church, I was connected with other Christians, even from far around the world.

—Heidi Mann

NN 1.2012



The Challenge of Scripture

GQ magazine once included the Bible on a list of 21 books not worth reading, calling the text “repetitive” and “foolish” (among other things). Pushback came from both secular and religious folks. Writing in *USA Today*, Tim Swarens argued that even if you don't believe in God, the Bible helps you understand Western culture, history, current events and your neighbors.

For Christians, the Bible — God's inspired Word — reveals God's love and will. It isn't always easy to read or process, but no other book contains such good news.

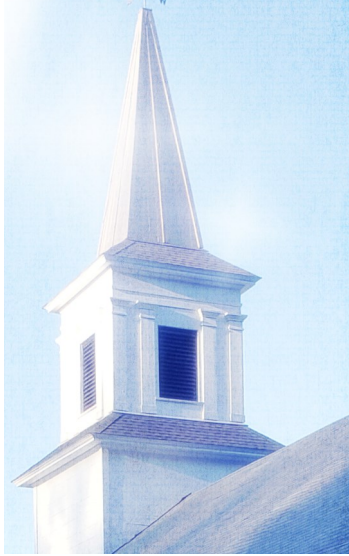
As Danielle Shroyer writes in *Original Blessing*, “Scripture is a sacred book meant to provoke us in ways that will move us toward God. And often, that is the very last thing we are looking for. We would rather have an answer, a simple plan, even a nicely tidy moral story. But Scripture gives us none of these things, because the holy is anything but domestic. We go looking to find a plan and instead are sent on a treasure hunt.”

Published in: [September 2018](#)

Common Lectionary Readings from Vanderbilt University

Baptism of the Lord January 7, 2024 <i>First Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 14, 2024	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 21, 2024	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 28, 2024	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

Second Congregational Church UCC Wilton NH



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

- January 1 New Year's Day
- January date TBA - Old Home Day planning
- January 20 Cribbage & Game Night 6pm to 8pm
- January 21 Annual Meeting snow date January 28
- February 24 Rummage Sale 9am to 1pm
- March 23 Event TBA
- April 19 & 20 Spring Dinner Plays 7pm



On the web at 2ccwilton.com

On Facebook: [Second Congregational Church Wilton NH](#)

Second Congregational Church

25 Gregg Street
 P O Box 246
 Wilton NH 03086

Phone: 603-654-9045
www.2ccwilton.org
 E-mail: 2ccwilton@gmail.com

PLEASE
 PLACE
 STAMP
 HERE

Address Label Here

Temp Return Service Requested

