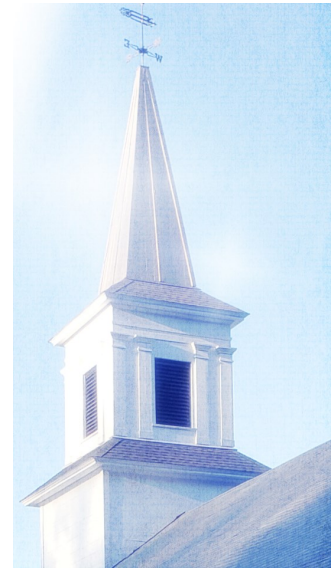


Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

Church Matters

February
2024



PREPARED TO SERVE

Creating New Tables

The New Hampshire Conference UCC Prepared to Serve event will be held February 24, 2024, at Pembroke Academy in Pembroke NH. There are four blocks of workshops and everyone is invited to sign up for a workshop in each time slot with a boxed lunch, or take three and have a lunch break and review the exhibits. The fee is \$50.00 for all the workshops and a great lunch. Here is a sampling of some of the offerings: "Listening to the Holy Spirit", "Creative Worship at the Intersection of Scripture and our Lives", "Caring for each other thru Lay Visitors programs", "Best Financial Practices for Churches", "Praying in Color" and "The Transformed Congregation".

Visit the NHCUCC.org website and go to "events" to find the PTS brochure with a detailed schedule and the workshop descriptions. The pre-registration fee is \$50, but Second Congregational Church will cover the fee if that is a hardship for you. We strongly believe this is an educational and energizing day and well worth the time and effort to attend.

"Prepared to Serve 2024 is your opportunity to expand your knowledge, connect with like-minded individuals and take home resources that will enrich your congregational experience.

"Join us for a day of growth, transformation, and empowerment. Together, let's create new possibilities and explore new horizons."

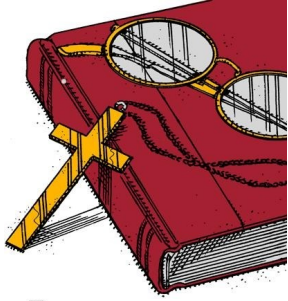
Old Home Days Meeting: February 4

After the worship service on Sunday, February 4, there will be a meeting of to discuss the Wilton Old Home Days festivities that will be held in August. Please bring your ideas on how we can be visible in our community. We will start at 11:30, after a short break to take down the extra tables and chairs. See you there!



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**



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

"Love knows no limits.."

Message: Ground Rules for Love

In *Let Me Be a Woman*, missionary Elisabeth Elliot writes about the "ground rules" for "how this thing called love really works — in a marriage, in the world." Her list reflects many of the principles found in 1 Corinthians 13, the Bible's love chapter.

- This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience. It looks for a way of being constructive.
- Love is not possessive.
- Love is not anxious to impress, nor does it cherish inflated ideas of

its own ideas.

- Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage.
- Love is not touchy.
- Love does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad ... when truth prevails. Love knows no limits to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that stands when all else has fallen.

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.

A Man of Prayer

One of the most familiar pictures of George Washington, our first President, has him kneeling in prayer in the woods of Valley Forge. Those who knew Washington found that he was indeed a man of prayer. In fact, he thought of his service on behalf of his nation as service to God. Henry Cabot Lodge, historian and U.S. Senator, once said of Washington that what raised him to such high glory was his great talent, guided and guarded by religion.

It is prayer and our talent offered to God that can enable each of us to fulfill the role God desires for us. NN 2.04



A President Speaks on Christianity

In 1984 President Ronald Reagan addressed an ecumenical prayer breakfast. He opened his remarks with these words:

"I believe that faith and religion play a critical role in the political life of our nation and always have; and that the Church - and by that I mean all churches - has had a strong influence on the state, and this has worked to our benefit as a nation. Those who created our country - the Founding Fathers and Mothers - understood that there is a Divine order which transcends the human order. They saw the state, in fact, as a form of moral order, and that the bedrock of moral order is religion."

NN 7.03



First Rummage Sale of the Year

February brings back everyone's favorite: Ye Olde Rummage Sale! Saturday, February 17, from 9am to 1pm. Sign up Sheet is in the Parish Hall, or respond to the email that will be going out soon.

The next Rummage Sale will be in May and will be focused on Bags and Books. We have a great selection of purses, including some high-end name brands! And plenty of books to get ready for summer.

If you would like to help on these events, or others, please see or email Loretta Smith or Ingrid Howard, your Planning Committee ingrid928@comcast.net or lorettaapril@gmail.com. We'd love to hear your ideas too!

Cribbage & Game Night Fun



Our January game night was a load of fun with almost twenty people attending. Thanks to those that brought snacks and donated doorprizes. If you couldn't make it, we're going to do it again in March. Put March 23 on your calendars now!

Book Nook: Tracks of a Fellow Struggler

A recent sermon by Pastor Gary mentioned a book by an acquaintance, the Reverend John Claypool. Listen to Pastor Gary's sermon on our website archive at 2ccwilton.org, which sparked the interest in Reverend Claypool's book, *Tracks of a Fellow Struggler: Living and Growing through Grief*.

A bookseller's description reads "John R. Claypool had been a pastor for almost two decades, ministering to others who suffered through the loss of loved ones, when the loss came home the death of his ten-year-old daughter, Laura Lue.

"This is the story of Claypool's own journey through the darkness, written through four sermons. The first was delivered just eleven days after his daughter's diagnosis of leukemia, the second after her first major relapse nine months later, and the third weeks after her death. The final sermon is a reflection on the process of grieving and was preached three years later.

"For almost half a century, his chronicle of grief has brought comfort to others and continued to speak of the pain of loss and the hope that we can find in its midst."



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.



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Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs ... singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.

Missions

Church Missions is supported with your help through the monthly "Mission Possible" collection. We continue to support and provide fleece for the Linus Project and for the Fidget Blankets groups. Here are a two other projects we continue to be active in.

Prayer shawl ministry

Church Missions has supported the prayer shawl ministry for many years. Included with each shawl is a prayer card with the following:

"Shawls ... made for centuries, universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally-loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles..."

*Written in 1998 by: Janet Bristow
Copyright ©2012*

Shawls can be knit or crocheted, and the pattern options are numerous. We have been gifted with some beautiful yarn for this ministry. So, if you feel called to

contribute by creating a shawl, please let someone on the Missions committee know. We like to have a few on hand, available to hand out anytime to someone in need in our congregation and the wider community.

Bridges Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone for purchasing gifts for the two families we "adopted" at Christmas time. From the Bridges Staff: "...Your support has allowed us to create a safe and uplifting environment where survivors can find solace, healing and a sense of community during the holiday season." And, from one of the mothers "Thank you so much for giving my children a wonderful Christmas. We appreciate your kindness and thoughtful gifts."

Church Missions is excited to start a new year with endless possibilities. What would you like to see in 2024? We thank you for your continued support.

Submitted by Stephanie Ouellette, with Cindy Broderick, Dana Dahl, Becky Kennedy and Jan Stone

Musical Notes: Singing in Church

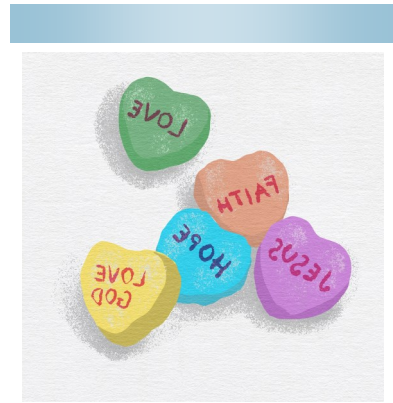
Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sang the songs of Satan. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

—John Wesley

NN 4.08

Beyond Candy Hearts & Roses

The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”



Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine’s Day is as good a reminder as any.

NN 2.2022

Card of Thanks!

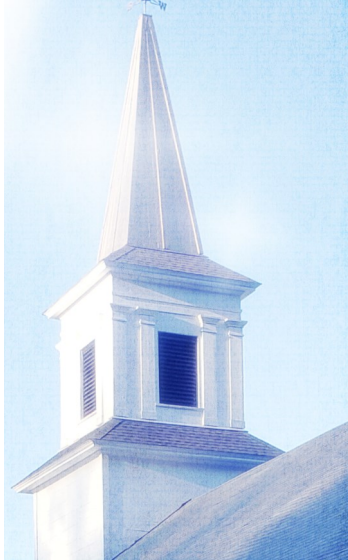
Thank you! Thank you to all for submitting your annual reports on time!

~Leslie Tuttle, Church Clerk

Common Lectionary Readings from Vanderbilt University

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|---|---|--|---|--|
| <u>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</u> February 4, 2024 | <u>Isaiah 40:21-31</u> | <u>Psalm 147:1-11, 20c</u> | <u>1 Corinthians 9:16-23</u> | <u>Mark 1:29-39</u> |
| <u>Transfiguration Sunday</u> February 11, 2024 (Last Sunday before Lent) | <u>2 Kings 2:1-12</u> | <u>Psalm 50:1-6</u> | <u>2 Corinthians 4:3-6</u> | <u>Mark 9:2-9</u> |
| <u>Ash Wednesday</u> February 14, 2024 | <u>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17</u> or <u>Isaiah 58:1-12</u> | <u>Psalm 51:1-17</u> | <u>2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</u> | <u>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</u> |
| <u>First Sunday in Lent</u> February 18, 2024 | <u>Genesis 9:8-17</u> | <u>Psalm 25:1-10</u> | <u>1 Peter 3:18-22</u> | <u>Mark 1:9-15</u> |
| <u>Second Sunday in Lent</u> February 25, 2024 | <u>Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16</u> | <u>Psalm 22:23-31</u> | <u>Romans 4:13-25</u> | <u>Mark 8:31-38</u> or <u>Mark 9:2-9</u> |

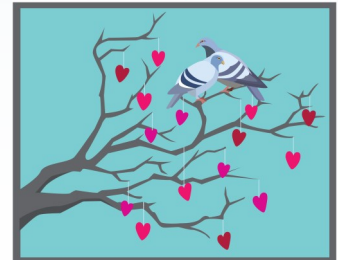
Second Congregational Church UCC Wilton NH



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

- February is African American History Month
- February 4 Old Home Day planning 11:30 after service
- February 14 Ash Wednesday
- February 14 Valentine's Day
- February 17 Rummage Sale 9am to 1pm
- February 19 Presidents Day
- February 24 Prepared to Serve - NHCUCC see page 1
- February 29 Leap Day
- March 23 Cribbage & Game Night 6pm to 8pm
- April 19 & 20 Spring Dinner Plays 7pm

FEBRUARY



On the web at 2ccwilton.com

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

Second Congregational Church

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