

Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

Church Matters

March
2024

Holy Week and Easter Services

Easter comes early this year, on March 31.

Holy week starts with Palm Sunday, March 24. Followed by our Maundy Thursday service at 7pm on March 28.

Sunday is Easter! Alleluia, He is Rise, He is risen indeed!

A Sunrise Service will be held by the Mont Vernon Congregational Church, on Grand Hill Road overlooking the Souhegan Valley. Sunrise is at 6:38am, so plan to arrive 15 or 20 minutes prior. It's a spectacular view.

After a long winter of services in the parish hall, our regular service is at 10:00 am in our beautiful sanctuary. Join us for special music and worship, followed by coffee and fellowship.

Old Home Days Meeting: March 10

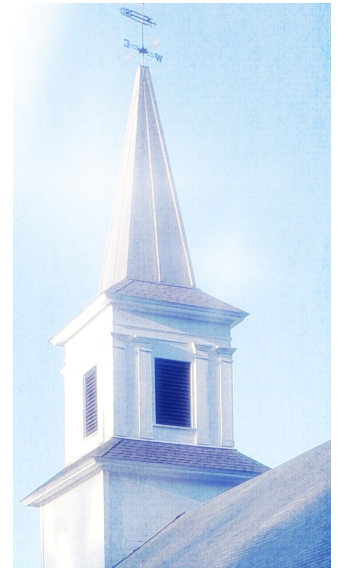
For those interested in helping to plan Second Congregational Church's participation during the Wilton Old Home Days festivities, a meeting will be held after the worship service on Sunday, March 10.

Old Home Days (OHD) are held every five years for a week in August. This year OHD is August 10 through August 18. In memory of long-time OHD chairman, Gary Crooker, the theme is "Darn Near Perfect."

We plan to have a few activities here at the church and have a booth or table set up at the Flat to sell snacks, handout flyers, and sell raffle tickets. Of course, we hope to bring home our third parade float trophy! Please bring your ideas on how we can be visible in our community during OHD.

Spring Dinner Plays: April 19 & 20

The actors have been rehearsing since February and the titles will be revealed soon. Our cooks are planning the dinner already: A traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings, including dressing and cranberries! Tickets go on sale April first! Watch for announcements.

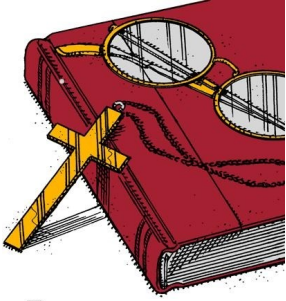


ABOUT SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- 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

The Prayer of Examen

Be still and know that I am God - Psalm 46:10



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

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.

The season of Lent is a special season of prayer and self-reflection. In a sermon a few months ago I spoke about a form of prayer called the Prayer of Examen. This form of prayer is from Ignatius of Loyola, the 16th century founder of the Jesuit tradition. In his *Spiritual Exercises* Ignatius encourages us to pray in this way each day if possible. The prayer helps us reflect on God's presence in our lives.

The Prayer of Examen can be done at any time, but it is perhaps best done *at the end of the day*, as we reflect on our day that has now ended. The idea is to focus on the events and people in our lives, asking where God is present. To become familiar with this form of prayer, let's walk through it. I encourage you to try it.

Find a quiet place. Perhaps light a candle. Close your eyes a few moments, take some slow, deep breaths, and enter into the silence.

Blessings. Ignatius spoke of "Consolations" in our lives. By this he meant the blessings, the gifts, in our lives. What in your life are you most grateful for right now? What gives you joy and brings you life? Another way to think of it is: What are your "highs" — the people, things, or events that bring you joy or make you feel most alive? If it's at the end of the day, ask yourself these questions:

- For what moments in my day today am I most grateful?
- What people or experiences gave me joy and made me feel most alive today?
- When was I most aware of God's presence today?

Name these blessings silently and reflect on them. Give thanks to God for your blessings.

Desolations. Ignatius also spoke of "Desolations." By this he meant concerns, people, situations that drain us of life. What are the Desolations — the places of worry, struggle, hurt, or uncertainty in your life right now? What are your "lows"? Name them silently, and reflect on them. If it's at the end of the day, ask yourself:

- What troubled me most today? What drained me of life?
- What frustrated, stressed me, or made me feel sad today?
- When was I most aware of God's presence in my Desolations today?

Give your Desolations to God, asking God's help, guidance, and peace.

Closing Prayer. End with this or a prayer of your own: *Loving God, thank you for the blessings that give me life, the people and things for which I am most grateful. God, I ask your presence, help, and guidance in those places where I struggle. I give those places to you. Amen.*

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Gary



May Rummage: Bags, Baubles & Books



The next Rummage Sale will be Saturday, May 18, from 9am to 1pm, and will be focused on Bags, Baubles and Books. We have a great selection of purses, including some high-end name brands! Baubles and bling abound for our mid-year jewelry sale. And don't forget plenty of books and games 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

Saturday, March 23, from 6 to 8pm, is our next game night. We will have snacks and door-prizes. . Put it on your calendar now! In January we had lots of fun with almost twenty people attending. See you there!!



Book Nook: *24 Hours... and Final Words*

We have used Adam Hamilton's books for several studies here at 2CC. These are short, but impactful books. Please pick up a copy in our Link Library to read or re-read. These two books are about Christ's journey to Easter.

24 Hours that Changed the World: "No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this Lenten journey, Adam Hamilton guides us through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life. Each chapter is designed to help the reader experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before. Whether readers are long-time Christians or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, they are invited to join the author in retracing the last 24 hours of Jesus' life."



Final Words from the Cross: "In this inspiring follow-up book, Hamilton explores these final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. "

Because Jesus Said So

One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can't wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. "You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend," Begg says. "You've never been in a Bible study. You've never been baptized. You didn't know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!"



In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief's entrance interview. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, "On what basis are you here?" The thief simply replies, "The man on the middle cross said I can come."

"Every thing that seems empty is full of the angels of God." Hilary of Poitiers

"This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before." Leonard Bernstein



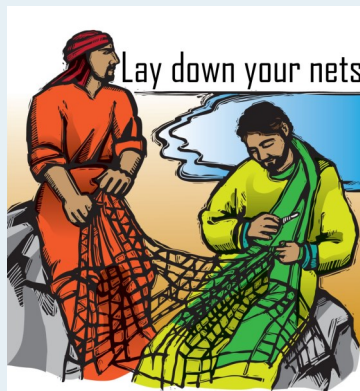
Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying

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Missions

Missions continues to support the Linus Blanket project, providing fleece and yarn when needed. Missions also accepted a cash donation from the Wilton Community Center and a private donor. We thank them for their support. We have an average of 12 crocheters every meeting. It is a great time to come, sit, have some tea or coffee and visit, all while creating beautiful blankets for this worthy cause. You do not have to know how to crochet, we can teach you! Linus meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:00.



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

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Musical Notes: Christ Still Calls Us

The rugged hills of Galilee drop down to meet the sea
Where burly men still mend their nets, still fish there eagerly.

The sea's the same place where Christ said, "Lay down your nets and heed
My call to love all people, and serve them in their need."

"I'll help you fish for humankind," he told them long ago.
His call's still heard, His help's still real today, as we well know.

Yes, people are still leaving "nets" wherever they might be,
And as disciples still go forth to serve Christ willingly.

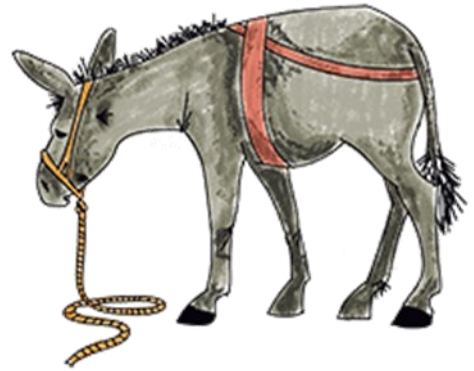
Peggy Ferrell

Be the Donkey

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis in World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of the donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments on the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it even entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give Him all the praise and all the honor.”

Jesus told his followers they’d need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. Buy how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring Him into a world that desperately needs the Good News of the Gospel. NN 03.24



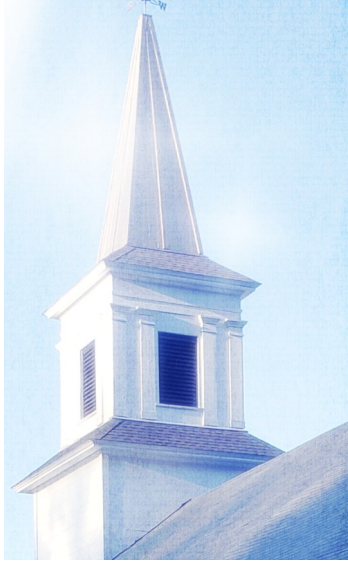
“Being negative only makes a journey more difficult. You maybe given a cactus, but you don’t have to sit on it.”

Joyce Meyer

Common Lectionary Readings from Vanderbilt University

<u>Third Sunday in Lent</u> March 3, 2024	<u>Exodus 20:1-17</u>	<u>Psalm 19</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 1:18-25</u>	<u>John 2:13-22</u>
<u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u> March 10, 2024	<u>Numbers 21:4-9</u>	<u>Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22</u>	<u>Ephesians 2:1-10</u>	<u>John 3:14-21</u>
<u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> March 17, 2024	<u>Jeremiah 31:31-34</u>	<u>Psalm 51:1-12</u>	<u>Hebrews 5:5-10</u>	<u>John 12:20-33</u>
<u>Liturgy of the Palms</u> March 24, 2024 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>		<u>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29</u>		<u>Mark 11:1-11</u>
<u>Resurrection of the Lord</u> March 31, 2024 <i>Easter Day</i>	* <u>Acts 10:34-43</u> or <u>Isaiah 25:6-9</u>	<u>Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</u> or <u>Acts 10:34-43</u>	<u>John 20:1-18</u> or <u>Mark 16:1-8</u>

Second Congregational Church UCC Wilton NH



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

- March 1 World Day of Prayer
- March 10 Daylight Savings Begins
- March 17 St Patrick's Day
- March 19 First Day of Spring
- March 23 Cribbage & Game Night 6pm to 8pm
- March 24 Palm Sunday 10am
- March 28 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
- March 29 Good Friday
- March 31 Easter Sunday 10am
Sunrise Service in Mont Vernon 6:15am
- April 19 & 20 Spring Dinner Plays 7pm
- May 18 Rummage Bags Baubles & Books 9am to 1pm

MARCH



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On Facebook: [Second Congregational Church Wilton NH](https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalChurchWiltonNH)

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