

Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

Church Matters

April
2024

Spring Dinner Plays are April 19 & 20

They are coming soon! April 19 and 20, are the dates for our Spring Dinner Plays offering. A wonderful Turkey Dinner with "all the fixin's" will be served starting at 7:00pm, surrounded by two raucous plays, that will have you laughing in your seats.

Many thanks go to Bill Goddard and all those who have been practicing since February to bring us a night of comedy and fun. Special Kudos to Sue Jean for managing the ticket box and the dinner part of the Dinner Plays!

The Widow's Might, or What happened to Henry?

Harriet Highgrade and her husband, Marshal Henry Highgrade, owned a gold mine in the tiny town of Slim Pickins, Arizona... until something very bad happened to Henry. A big rock rolled (or was pushed) from the ledge above the entrance to his mine and crushed poor old Henry to death. The task of investigating the crime falls to Oliver Upright, the Deputy Marshal, who is also in love with Harriet's daughter, Demura. But it is Harriet who steps in at the last moment, delivers the clinching evidence, and proves herself to be the real heroine of the story.

The play features Corinne Cutler, Ashlynn Blanchard, Jim Cutler, Amanda Blanchard-Bosse, Randy Bosse, and Brayden Taverna.

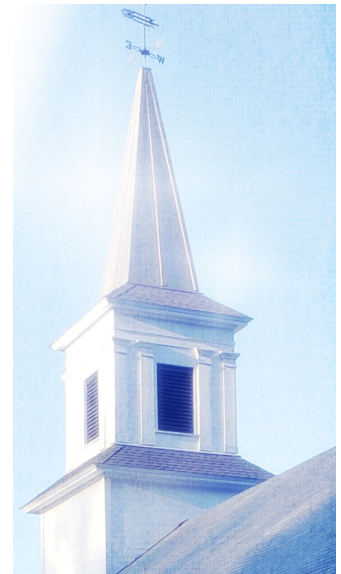
Mixed Nuts

This play is written in the tradition of the great Marx Brothers movies and plays of the '30s and '40s. The not-so-famous lawyer Julius P. Milkson (Groucho) is defending Luigi and Adolph (Chico and Harpo) in court. They turn the courtroom into a circus of hilarious gags. The two are on trial for stealing jewelry from the famous Buckwalter estate.

The Mixed Nuts cast includes Mike Degan, Kermit Williams, Don Taylor, Carl Brown, Chris Meiman, Marilyn Goddard, and Bill Goddard.

Tickets can be obtained by contacting Sue Jean. \$20 per person for the all-you-can-eat dinner and an evening of entertainment.

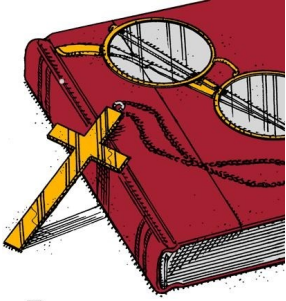
**FOR TICKETS CONTACT SUE JEAN AT 603-801-7267
or leave a message on the church phone, 603-654-9045
LIMITED SEATING - GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY!**



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 ser-
mons and more**
- **Follow us on Facebook: Second
Congregational Church Wilton
NH**

Psalm 23: You Shall not Want



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. Thank you!

Psalm 23 is probably the best known and most popular chapter in the Word of God.

It's no surprise that this is so, since everyone enjoys the theme of the shepherd who cares for his sheep. In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ describes himself as a shepherd. In John 10:11, he says, "I am the good Shepherd..."

The author of Hebrews 13:20 called Christ the "great Shepherd" of the sheep.

"we shall lack nothing, nothing at all.."

Peter, in 1 Peter 5:4, called Him the "Chief Shepherd." He is the shepherd who is over the undershepherds. Indeed Peter likens the church to a sheepfold; it's leaders (in v.2) are admonished to "be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care."

When we turn to Psalm 23, we find the theme spelled out in the first verse: "***The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.***" That is the theme of the chapter and should be separated from all that follows. From now on, the psalm describes the areas where we are not going to lack [anything], if we have God as our Shepherd. What things are we not going to lack?

We will not lack ***rest***, because "He makes me lie down in green pastures."

We will not lack ***guidance***, because "He leads me beside quiet waters.. He guides me in the paths of righteousness.. for His name's sake."

We will not lack ***safety*** in a dangerous world, because "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

We will not lack ***provision*** under the care of the shepherd, because "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you have anointed by head with oil, my cup overflows."

Last of all, we will not lack a ***heavenly home***: "Surely goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the rest of my days, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Isn't it wonderful to be under the care of a shepherd like that – and to be able to say that we shall lack nothing, nothing at all?

We need somebody who knows the way, who has been over this course before. In fact, we need somebody who knows us, and knows what He wants to do with us. That is precisely the kind of guide we have in Jesus Christ.

May it be so for you,

One of His Disciples

Guest contributor:
Dr. Harold N. Smith

Editor's note: Psalm 23 is in the Common Lectionary Reading for April 21



Spring Dinner Plays - Can You Help?

Volunteer opportunities abound when the spring dinner plays come around! April 19 & 20.

Bakers and Cookers: Sheet cakes are needed for dessert. Turkey cookers are needed - we supply the turkey & a box of dressing; you cook, slice, make gravy and deliver to the church.

Kitchen workers and waitstaff are needed for Friday and Saturday. Check the sign-up sheets to see where there are openings.

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!

Our Next Sale: Bags, Baubles & Books

Saturday, May 18, from 10am to 2pm, is our next rummage-type sale. We will have brand new and gently used name-brand handbags along with other accessories, including new jewelry items. Note the hours are a little different, so we can do a same-day set-up. Watch for sign up sheets and spread the word. This should be a great sale!

June events

In June, we would like to participate in Milford's Pride Fest on June 1, and Wilton's Summer Fest on June 22. See Loretta on getting those things started now and how you can help.

Book Nook: Children of God Storybook Bible

There is a new Children's Bible in the Church Library. Written by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and beautifully illustrated by artists from around the world. *Children of God Storybook Bible* is a wonderful book for children to read and relate to both Old and New Testament stories. Each story ends with a simple prayer to help the children understand the story's application in their lives. For example, the Exodus 7-12 story of the Israelites leaving bondage in Egypt, ends with this prayer: "Dear God, Help me to bring freedom to all of your children." I found the prayers at the end provided me with a new understanding of the stories and the Word. Don't wait for a child to visit so you can share. Go ahead and read these stories for yourself. Submitted by Dana Dahl

April bible study coming to the Parish Hall soon!

Pastor Gary Klingsporn will be offering a study group in April. Watch for announcements for details, which had not been finalized at the time of publication. It will be held in the parish hall and be an opportunity to learn and share fellowship.

Wilton Old Home Day Planner

August 10 to 18

As in past years, Second Congregational Church will be participating in the quinquennial event known as Wilton Old Home Days (OHD).

A planning group has had a few meetings and here are some ideas we decided upon.

- ◇ Ham & Bean Supper
- ◇ Booth at the Flat
- ◇ Parade Float
- ◇ 200th Anniversary/Renovations
- ◇ Food Auction
- ◇ Trivia Night
- ◇ Raffles: One Ten Club and a big-ticket item drawing.
- ◇ Homecoming Service at Church

We will need lots of help to make this all happen. Does one task call you to take charge of that portion? Please consider how you can help.

All are welcome to the next OHD planning meeting on Sunday, April 14, after service at about 11:30.



Missions: Caring for Each Other

Follow up to "Prepared to Serve" workshop *Caring for each other through a Lay Visitors Program*.

An important part of caring for each other in our congregation includes reaching out in response to short term needs, or outreach to the community.

During this workshop it was evident that a lot of churches in the state have part time pastors, just as we do. How can a lay person be effective? How can we initiate prayer with those we visit? How can we avoid the "wrong things to say"? This training will allow us to supplement Pastoral Care done by Pastor Gary, not replace his pastoral visits.

Pastor Gary has offered to help us start up a lay visitor's program, with on-going support for each other as we build this ministry.

Pastor Gary has recommended a book by Kenneth C Haugk: *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart: How to relate to Those who are Suffering*. This book has been ordered and will be added to our lending library. It will also be considered for use during the visitation training.

Are you interested in learning more about lay visitation? Please speak to Stephanie Ouellette. Once the group has been formed, we will set up training times in the near future.

A Card of Thanks

Dearest fellow parishioners and friends,

The Dahl family sends its deepest appreciation in all the prayers, and emotional and financial support you've graciously given to us over these last few months and years. We are excited and happy to have our grandchildren within our home to stay. Their transition to a new house, school, and friends has not been easy for them, but each day we see their signs of feeling safe and secure.

Thank you for being such generous and loving people. We are grateful to serve the Lord alongside all of you.

In His Service, George Sr., Dana, George Jr, Belle and Georgie.

Musical Notes: Keep on Shining

Charles W. Naylor (1874-1950) was a traveling evangelist until misfortune struck. First a tentpole fell on him as he prepared for a meeting. A year later, a bus accident left him partially paralyzed.

Despite experiencing chronic pain, Naylor became a prolific author and hymnist, dictating almost 150 songs. He often wrote about God's loving care amid adversity. One of his hymns begins:

When the winds of persecution blow,
When the streams of hatred tow'rd you flow,
When your foes in number seem to grow,
Just keep on shining.

"God's comfort in our times of sorrow is not an imaginary thing," Naylor wrote. "It can be so real that it is a balm for our wounded spirits. Having passed through the experience more than once, [I know] how real and vital and sustaining the comfort of God can be." NN 4.24

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Our Next 200 Years: Renovation Project

The Church's buildings need some repair. In recognition of the historical significance of the buildings and how they are used here in Wilton NH, it is important that we have a strategic plan to keep these historical structures as close to their original designs as possible. To accomplish this efficiently, a Project Leader or Leaders is needed.

The **Project Lead**, is a volunteer position, to assist the Trustees, Financial Team, and other Church leaders, to prioritize the work needed to include the financial costs as well as any possible impact to our services that would need to be scheduled. This person(s) will develop a plan, along with other volunteers, highlighting what needs to be restored along with a proposed sequence.

With research by several members of the congregation, we have discussed funding opportunities to assist these repairs. We reviewed

grant opportunities to assist the funding of this important work. One of the grant programs we found is National Fund for Sacred Places (<https://fundforsacredplaces.org/>). This may or may not be the actual funding assistance but did spur our imagination on what we 'could' do.

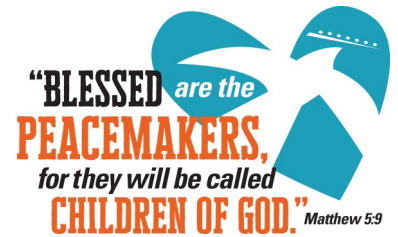
The Project Lead would hold meetings with various church groups to determine what the structures need as we move into the next 200 years.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. The team will likely include many who have already committed to the project. *Are you looking for a way to help the Church plan and implement a future for Second Congregational Church?* Please contact either Peter Ouellette (prouellette1017@gmail.com) or Dana Dahl (danaldahl@gmail.com) with any questions.

Blessed are You

The Beatitudes receive little attention, lamented novelist Kurt Vonnegut. "But, often with tears in their eyes, [Christians] demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And, of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard [anyone] demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere."

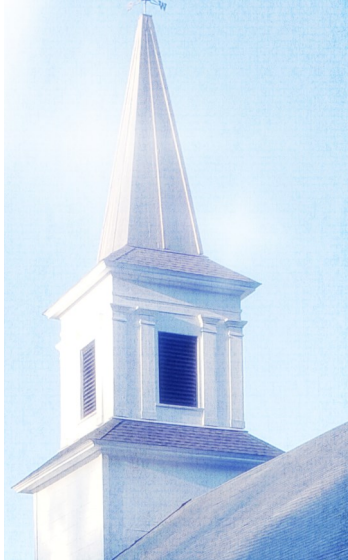
Jesus' Beatitudes have much to teach about selflessness, mourning, peacemaking and more. Jim Berger, author of *Being Sermon on the Mount Christians*, explains that those teachings were once "viewed as a mandate for the faithful." Post-Reformation, they became less law-like and more of a "liberating directive." Berger writes, "For Jesus, being and doing are inseparable. The Sermon is at once theory and praxis. It is not enough to read it or hear it. Jesus intends it to be how we live." NN 4.24



Common Lectionary Readings from Vanderbilt University

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| <u>Second Sunday of Easter</u> April 7, 2024 | * Acts 4:32-35 | Psalm 133 | 1 John 1:1-2:2 | John 20:19-31 |
| <u>Third Sunday of Easter</u> April 14, 2024 | * Acts 3:12-19 | Psalm 4 | 1 John 3:1-7 | Luke 24:36b-48 |
| <u>Fourth Sunday of Easter</u> April 21, 2024 | * Acts 4:5-12 | Psalm 23 | 1 John 3:16-24 | John 10:11-18 |
| <u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u> April 28, 2024 | * Acts 8:26-40 | Psalm 22:25-31 | 1 John 4:7-21 | John 15:1-8 |

Second Congregational Church UCC Wilton NH



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

- April - watch for announcements about bible study in April
- April 14 Old Home Day Committee meeting 11:30am
- April 19 & 20 Spring Dinner Plays 7pm
- April 24 Administrative Professionals Day
- May 18 Rummage Bags Baubles & Books 9am to 1pm
- June 1 Milford Pride Fest 2024 12pm to 4pm
- June 22 Wilton Summerfest all day & fireworks at night
- August 10 to 18 Wilton Old Home Days Celebration



On the web at 2ccwilton.com
On Facebook: [Second Congregational Church Wilton NH](#)

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