

Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

Church Matters

February
2025



Prepared to Serve

The New Hampshire Conference UCC, is presenting Prepared to Serve (PTS) this year, on Saturday, February 22, at Pembroke Academy in Pembroke NH. If you have not attended these workshops in the past, you should consider going! There are many topics to choose from, ranging from "Standing up for Public Education in NH" and "Rebuilding Church: A Roadmap to Renewal" to "Living Fully, Dying Prepared".



From the NHC UCC website: "Prepared to Serve is our annual workshop day put on by the New Hampshire Conference. This event will boost your skills, connect you with others who share your vision, and equip you with tools to bring back to your congregations!"

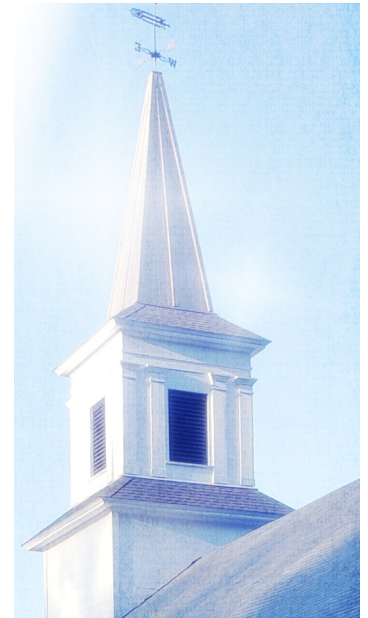
For \$50, attendees can select from a long list of workshops. The registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch at noon (with the option for a boxed lunch if you want to take four workshops). Some workshops fill quickly so be sure to get your registration in early. For more information, see someone on Church Missions or go to <https://www.nhcucc.org/events/pts-2025>.



Church members who have attended have come back energized. If you need a ride, please see Stephanie or Cindy. To encourage attendance, a couple of scholarships may be available through the Missions Committee.



February Rummage Sale February 15, 9AM to 1PM



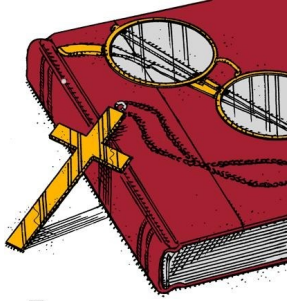
Second Congregational
Church UCC
Wilton NH



Established 1823

ABOUT SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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



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

“Above all, when nothing less would save [His] people... God came to us as Jesus.”

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!

Dear Friends: All the Ways God Helps Us

When young adults land in difficult situations and desperately call home, parents respond in various ways. They might remind their son or daughter of guidelines learned years back — behavior and problem-solving skills to get back on track. Or maybe parents direct their kids to a mentor, expert or resource for assistance. But if the crisis is severe, no doubt these loving parents hop in the car, or even on a plane, and go to their child. They embrace and support them, perhaps even taking initial steps to bring them through the chaos to a new beginning.

When the people of Israel were in the wilderness, exile and countless difficulties in between, God lovingly used each of these strategies. God reminded Israel of the Ten Commandments and other laws he gave to guide their life together. Sometimes he sent prophets and other leaders to direct the people into better ways and times. God does the same today, reminding us of Scripture's guidance and sending us prophetic voices and wise leaders.

A Prayer for Presidents Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled "from sea to shining sea." Amen.

Above all, when nothing less would save people, ancient and modern, from the dangers of sin and death, God came to us as Jesus. God's only Son walked with us, lived through our troubles alongside us, taught us new ways directly and brought us out of the problematic place where we were trapped and into a new beginning.

—Heidi Hyland Mann,
based on a sermon by Pastor Dave Sonnenberg



Planning Committee News



Happy New Year! We are excited about this year's coming events.

Rummage Sales are planned for February 15, March 15 and May 17. The Spring Dinner Plays are planned for April 11 and 12 (dates to be confirmed at this writing).

We had a Family Game Night in January which was well attended. Everyone seems to enjoy these a lot, so we are planning more for this year. "Stay tuned!"

We'll announce other activities later on, but would like to get some feedback on a Summer Craft Fair, like we used to do. Talk to Loretta or Becca. We'll have a meeting about that on March 16 after service. Please come and share your thoughts.

Loretta Smith, Becca Lorden & Ingrid Howard, your Planning Committee
lorettaapril@gmail.com or rlorden80@gmail.com or ingrid928@comcast.net

Special All Church Meeting: February 9

In the annual report for 2024, the Trustees reported on some large projects that needed to be done soon. At the following council meeting, how soon those need to be done with funding was discussed and a course of action proposed. As with all large expenditures, these need to be voted on by a quorum of church members.

There will be an all-church meeting after worship service on Sunday, February 9, to vote on the proposal and to discuss any other church business as needed. Please plan to be there! Thank you!

Book Nook: Reading the Bible with Children

As infants, my sons received children's Bibles. The short stories and bright pictures were perfect for their early introduction to the Christian faith. Soon they started reading the stories back to us. But as their comprehension improved, children's Bibles became "too young" for them, while the regular Bible wording was still beyond their grasp.

Then I tried reading from a modern-language paraphrase. I chose The Message, but others will work, too. No need to worry about a lack of pictures; kids are adept at imagining events. Not sure what passages to read? Consult the scripture references accompanying the stories in a children's Bible. Read the story yourself first, to know where to stop and to avoid less child-friendly passages.

However you share God's Word with youngsters, there are no sweeter words to a Christian adult than "Mom [Dad, Grandma, Auntie...], let's read the Bible!"

—Heidi Mann NN 01.13



Put these words of mine in
your heart and soul
Teach them to your children

Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NRSV

Planning Committee

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY RUMMAGE SALE:

2/14 SET UP 10AM

2/15 SALE DAY: 9AM to
1PM with Breakdown at 1PM

MARCH RUMMAGE SALE:

3/14 SET UP 10AM

3/15 SALE DAY: 9AM to
1PM with Breakdown at 1PM

DINNER PLAYS

APRIL 11 & 12 (TBA)

KITCHEN HELP 4PM TO 7:15
PM AND 6:45PM TO 9PM

WAITSTAFF 6:30 PM TO 9PM

See Becca or Loretta about
any of these events



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: Looking Forward to 2025

Looking forward to 2025, Church Missions will continue to support the **Linus Project** by providing fleece and yarn. We have an active group with almost 20 people making blankets. In 2024, we completed and donated over 220 blankets!

Last fall, Missions with the help of our congregation, compiled **blessing bags** for the homeless. We will be assembling more bags in the near future. Here are items that will be collected to go into the bags:

- * Hand & Foot Warmers
- * Hand Lotion & Lip Balm
- * Hats, Socks, and Gloves
- * Small Bottles of Water
- * Juice Boxes
- * Yahoo Chocolate Milk Boxes

In January, we made **chicken soup** to deliver to some of our shut-ins. This gave us a chance to visit some of our members we do not

get to see on a regular basis. We also froze some containers to have on hand. We hope to have another luncheon with the pastor in the spring, once the weather is more predictable. We will provide more details in upcoming newsletters.

We say it a lot, but it is worth repeating. **Thank you to everyone** in our congregation who supports the missions of our church. We could not do it without your dedication and contributions to the monthly "Mission Possible" collection, held on the last Sunday of the month. The money we receive is used to enable us to reach out to our local needs, as well as to the wider community.

Submitted by Stephanie Ouellette, with Cindy Broderick, Dana Dahl, Rachel Doehner, Ingrid Howard and Becky Kennedy

Musical Notes: Music & the Riddles of Life

The author of the 49th psalm developed a wise practice as he contemplated the problems he faced. "I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp" (Psalm 49:4), he wrote. He found encouragement to meet life's difficulties by getting involved with music.

Good music does indeed help our mind and spirit. Whether we play an instrument or sing or simply listen to the harmonies and rhythms of a piano or organ, a band or an orchestra, a soloist or a choir, we may often find "the wild beasts" within us being tamed or at least put under control. Good music imparts inspiration and grace to the fretful spirit.

Think about this: if music is so beneficial for the human spirit, shouldn't those of us who are musically talented use our voice or musical instrument to aid others in worshiping God? This is a challenge to you who have been given the gift of a good voice or playing a musical instrument to join the music program of the church.

NN 09.99

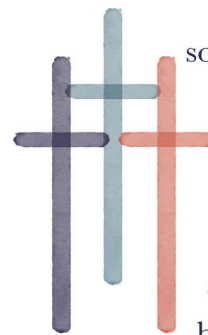


Love Makes Us Worthy

Unlike God, who loves unconditionally, humans often make choices and set limits when doling out affection. But Thomas Merton reminds us, “Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody’s business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.”

As for how to develop and maintain that type of love? Merton shares, “It is in deep solitude that I find the gentleness with which I can truly love my [neighbors].”

NN 2.24



For *God*
so loved the world,
that he gave
his only son,
that whoever
believes in *him*
should not perish
but have *eternal life*.

John 3:16

Lent and Easter

March 5 is Ash Wednesday. A service is being planned for 7PM (to be confirmed, listen for announcements from the Deacons)

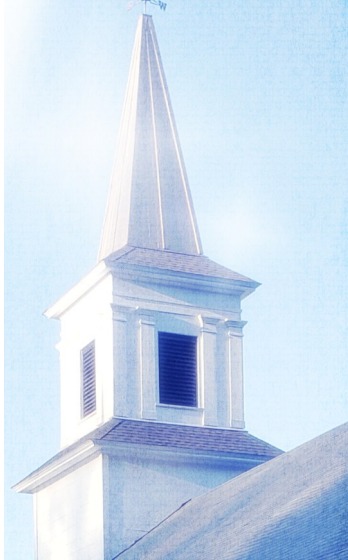
April 13 is Palm Sunday and April 20 is Easter Sunday

“There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.”
Walt Streightiff

Common Lectionary Readings from Vanderbilt University

<u>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</u> Feb 02, 2025	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
<u>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</u> Feb 09, 2025	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
<u>Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</u> Feb 16, 2025	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
<u>Seventh Sunday after Epiphany</u> Feb 23, 2025	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38
<u>Transfiguration Sunday</u> Mar 02, 2025 (Last Sunday before Lent)	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

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

- February is African American History Month
- February 9 Special All Church Meeting after 10AM service
- February 14 Valentine's Day
- February 15 Rummage Sale 9 to 1pm
- February 17 Presidents Day
- February 22 Prepared to Serve NH UCC (see page 1)
- March 5 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm
- March 15 Rummage Sale 9 to 1pm
- March 16 Summer Event Meeting after Service 11:30
- April 11 & 12 Spring Fall Dinner Plays 7pm (page 3)
- December 6 Christmas Craft Fair



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

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"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud." Maya Angelou