

Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

Church Matters

April
2025



April 11th and 12th ~ 7pm

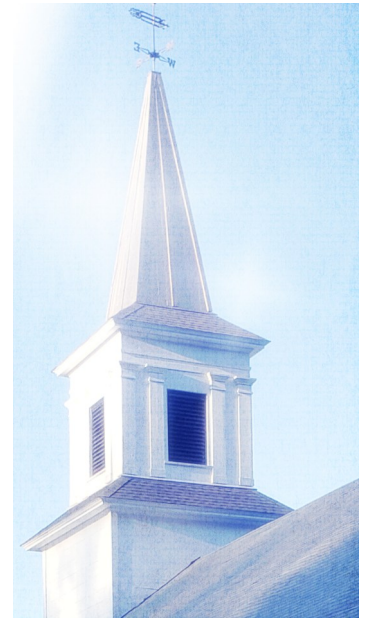
Bed, Breakfast and Broadway

Call 603-654-2255 for Tickets

Homestyle Turkey Dinner

A wacky cast of actors is rehearsing for its big community theatre production of "You Only Die Twice." Marge Cunningham, the author of this "spell-binding murder mystery," runs the Enchanting Dreams Bed-and-Breakfast, which doubles as the community theatre. When she receives word that a top Broadway producer is coming to town to hopefully "discover" some fresh acting talent, she notifies the cast, and they go into high gear to perfect the show before opening night. They decide to stay in character and run their lines as much as possible before the performance. But it's not easy. Fred Atkins plays the cat burglar who can never quite make it through the window without getting his panty hose caught. And then there's Sally Hendrickson who can transform herself into a butler-chasing bimbo with lightning speed. In the meantime, a vacationing couple appears about a possible vacancy at the bed and breakfast. The local actors assume the visiting couple is the producer and his wife, but in reality the man is an overwrought air traffic controller who desperately needs a break before he has a breakdown! "Helping" the situation is the bed-and-breakfast handyman who can't keep anything straight, including important phone messages. The cast may be small-time, but they have one big dream: to go to Broadway! Let the mayhem begin!

Bill Goddard and the Parish Hall Players present this comedic play on April 11 and 12, at 7:00pm. Get your tickets early for an evening's entertainment and a delicious home-style turkey dinner. \$20 per person. Call Sue at 603-654-2255 or leave a message at the parish house 603-654-9045.



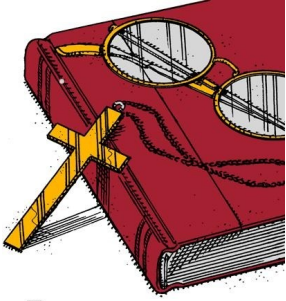
Second Congregational
Church UCC
Wilton NH



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

Dear Friends, It's Friday, but Sunday's Comin'



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

*"They were on the road,
going up to Jerusalem, and
Jesus was walking ahead.."*

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!

Dr. Tony Campolo was for years a professor of Sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids PA. He was also an ordained Baptist minister, a prolific author, and public speaker. At this time of the year, as we move through the season of Lent, to Good Friday, then Easter, I am often reminded of a wonderful story Campolo told.

Dr. Campolo, who was white, belonged to a black church in West Philadelphia. One Good Friday he was among seven ministers preaching in a worship service at the church. When it was his turn to preach, Campolo says he got up and preached what was to him "the perfect sermon."

✠At the end of my message, Campolo says, the congregation broke loose. I was absolutely thrilled to hear the hallelujahs and the cries of joy throughout the place. I sat down next to my pastor and he looked at me with a smile. He reached down with his hand and squeezed my knee. "You did all right, boy!" he said. I turned to him and asked, "Pastor, are you going to be able to top that?" The old black preacher smiled at me and he said, "Son, you just sit back, 'cause this old man is going to do you in!"

Campolo says, I didn't figure that anybody could have done me in that day. I had been so good. But the old guy got up, and I have to admit, he did me in. The amazing thing was that he did it with the use of one line. He preached that one line over and over again. He stood that crowd on its ear with just one line. That line was "It's Friday, but Sunday's comin'!" You should have heard him do it.

He started his sermon real softly by saying, "It was Friday; it was Friday and my Jesus was dead on the tree. But that was Friday, and Sunday's comin'!" Gradually he got louder, "It was Friday and Mary was cryin' her eyes out. The disciples were runnin' in every direction, like sheep without a shepherd. But that was Friday, and Sundays' comin'!"

The crowd kept urging him on, "Preach it, brother! Keep going!" And he did. "It was Friday. The cynics were lookin' at the world and sayin', 'As things have been so they shall be. You can't change anything in

this world; you can't change anything.' But those cynics didn't know that it was only Friday. Sunday's comin'!"

"It was Friday! And on Friday, those forces that oppress the poor and make the poor to suffer were in control. But that was Friday! Sunday's comin'!"

The old black preacher kept working that line over and over. By the time he had come to the end of his sermon, Campolo says, I was exhausted. He had me and everybody else so worked up that I don't think any of us could have stood it much longer. At the end of his message he just yelled at the top of his lungs, "IT'S FRIDAY!" and all five hundred of us in that church yelled back with one accord, "BUT SUNDAY'S COMIN'!" ✠

On his way to Jerusalem, toward the end of his life, Jesus spoke often of his suffering and death. Mark's Gospel says: "They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again'" (Mark 10:32-34).

That's the story of "Friday": Jesus' suffering and death. But Mark's passage ends with the words: "and after three days he will rise again": "Sunday's coming!" That's the good news of the Easter gospel. Easter begins in the darkness. But it never stays there. Easter breaks out into the glorious light of triumph, joy, and celebration. If we're Easter people, people who live the resurrection, we know that "It's Friday, but Sunday's comin'!" It always does!

A blessed Easter to all of you.
Grace and peace,

Pastor Gary

Planning Committee News



March was busy! Thank you to all who stepped up to help make and serve refreshments at the Wilton Town Meeting. We had a terrific Rummage Sale. The good weather brought a lot of bargain hunters in. Thanks to all worked hard to make that a success. The next Rummage/Yard Sale will be May 17. We will focus on Craft Supplies which was a big hit last fall.

But first! The Spring Dinner Plays are upon us! See page one! Workers needed to cover kitchen and waitstaff for both nights. See sign-up sheets or talk to Sue Jean.

Lots of exciting things coming up this year. See the Volunteer Opportunities box on the right.

Loretta Smith, Becca Lorden and Ingrid Howard, your Planning Committee
howardingrid67@gmail.com , Rlorden80@gmail.com or
lorettaapril@gmail.com.

The Psalms - Lenten Study

Pastor Gary presented a study of the Psalms during the first four weeks of Lent in hand with his Sunday Sermons. The audio is available on the 2ccWilton.org website. Each of the four sermons is under 30 minutes, and I recommend that you take the time to listen. It will certainly enhance your understanding of the Psalms: why they were written and how they apply to our lives today. From the handouts, below are the three perspectives and a few of the Psalms that demonstrate them:

Orientation (Psalms 145, 104, 33, 23, 8, 131, 133)

A strong sense of confident faith and trust in God.

A feeling of blessing and well-being.

Life, faith and the world are well-ordered and reliable.

Disorientation (Psalms 13, 51, 86, 35, 88, 109)

Times of crisis, fear, loss, awareness of one's sin.

Feeling of "Where are You, God?" and All is not well.

Anguished seasons of hurt, suffering, and alienation. Life and faith feel disoriented

New Orientation (Psalms 30, 40, 138, 34, 66)

On the other side of Disorientation, when a crisis is over.

Prayers have been answered. There's been healing or deliverance.

Life is back to normal gain. Faith and life are reoriented with a new sense of well being.

From: Walter Brueggemann, The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary (1984 Minneapolis Augsburg Publishing House)

Book Nook: Looking for Reviews

Have you read a good book lately and would you write a review? While we started out with books on the Link Library, you can review any book that applies to Christianity, church life and practicing our faith. This can be a one-time review, or as often as you come across a good read. Let Loretta know if you'd like to share a good book or two.

Planning Committee

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DINNER PLAYS APRIL 11 & 12

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

WAITSTAFF 6:30 PM TO 9PM

MAY RUMMAGE SALE:

5/16 SET UP 10AM

5/17 SALE DAY: 9AM to
1PM with Breakdown at 1PM

JUNE 21 WILTON SUMMERFEST

NEED A COORDINATOR

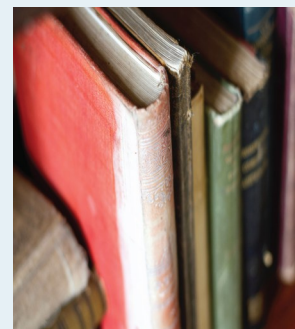
JULY 19—2CC SUMMER FAIR

CHRISTMAS FAIR DECEMBER 6

9 TO 2PM, SET UP ON 12/6.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT:

NEED A COORDINATOR





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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Earth Day - April 22, 2025

Missions

Thank you to everyone for their generosity in bringing in donations for the blessing bags for the homeless. Christopher and Alexandra Gerry picked up the donations on Sunday, March 16. We put twenty-five bags together with socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, body wipes and snacks. We also donated woolen hats, mittens, scarves, socks and lots of individually wrapped items to be distributed as needed in the Manchester area.

In a related project, Missions provided twenty-five comfort bags to the Gerrys to bring on their recent mission to Costa Rica.

The February *Mission Possible* collection totaled \$185.00. Thank you! This helps to

fund the many projects we have in our community.

Back by popular demand - Lunch with the Pastor! On Thursday, April 24, Missions will be hosting a luncheon with Pastor Gary. This is a great time for some of our members who cannot come to church on a regular basis to get together and socialize. There is no charge, but reservations are highly encouraged. Please see anyone on the Missions committee to reserve a spot.

Missions continues to support the Linus Project by providing fleece and the Fidget Blanket group.

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

Special Easter Services: Good Friday & Sunrise

Good Friday Service 7pm. Instead of a Maundy Thursday service, please come for Good Friday at 7pm

Easter Sunrise Service: As we have done for several years, we are invited to join our friends from the Mont Vernon Congregational Church at their Sunrise Service on Grand Hill in Mont Vernon. Sunrise is at 6:49, so arrive about 15 minutes beforehand to find parking and not miss the lovely view from Grand Hill.

Musical Notes: The Majesty of God's Creation

Earth Day offers a reminder to be wise stewards of God's creation. Former U.S. Senate chaplain Lloyd Ogilvie wrote about how the universe reveals the greatness of its Maker. "If we were to drive a car day and night at top speed without stopping," he writes, "it would take us nine years to reach the moon, 300 years to reach the sun, 8,300 years to reach the planet Neptune, 75 million years to reach Alpha Centauri, and 700 million years to reach the Pole Star.

"This is the reason the Psalmist, even with his limited cosmology, could say, 'When I consider the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God, and dost crown him with glory and majesty!' (Psalm 8:3-5)." Astonishing indeed!

Paradoxical Commandments “Do It Anyway”

The below inspirational poem is generally known as the “**Do it Anyway**” poem of Mother Teresa. It was written by Kent M. Keith as “*Paradoxical Commandments*”, and Mother Teresa promoted it by hanging a framed photo of this poem on the wall of her home, although some reports indicate it was written on an actual wall at the home for children in Calcutta.

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered;
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

Do good anyway.

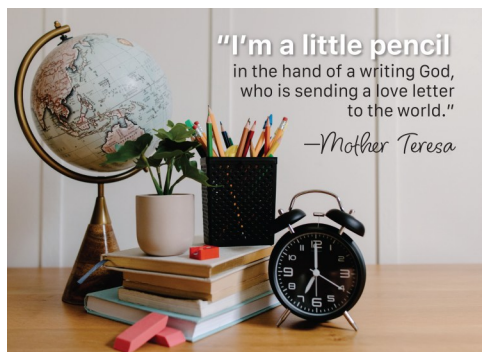
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you’ve got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis,

it is between you and your God;

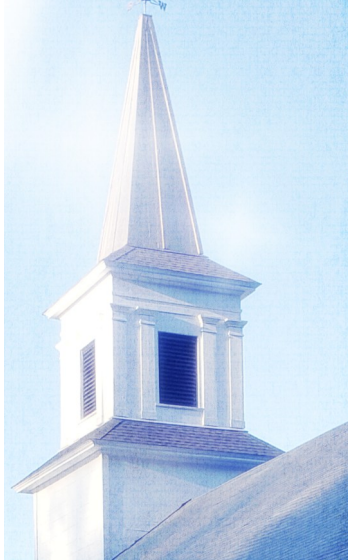
It was never between you and them anyway.



Common Lectionary Readings from Vanderbilt University

Fifth Sunday of Lent April 6, 2025	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalms 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Sixth Sunday of Lent Palm Sunday April 13, 2025	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
Maundy Thursday April 17, 2025	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday April 18, 2025	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalms 22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1-19:42
Easter Sunday April 20, 2025	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
Second Sunday of Easter April 27, 2025	Acts 5:27-32	Psalms 118:14-29 or Psalm 150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31

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

April 11 & 12 Spring Dinner Play 7pm (page 1)

April 13 to 20 Holy Week

April 13 Palm Sunday

April 18 Good Friday Service 7pm

April 20 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service in Mont Vernon 6:49am (page4)

Worship Service 10am

April 22 Earth Day

April 23 Administrative Professionals Day

May 17 Rummage/Yard Sale 9am to 1pm

June 21 Wilton Main Street Summerfest

July 19 2CC SUMMER FAIR RETURNS!

December 6 Christmas Craft Fair



On the web at 2ccWilton.com

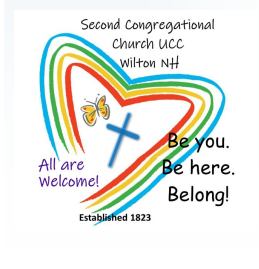
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Second Congregational Church

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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Temp Return Service Requested

"There are always flowers for those who want to see them." Henry Matisse

