

Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

Church Matters December 2025



Christmas Fair 2025

And just like that, it's here! Saturday, December 6, from 8AM to 2PM, we will be having our annual Christmas Craft Fair.

Featuring

Baked Goods & Foods

Crafts & Gifts

Decorations

Jewelry

Lunch!

Penny Sale

Silent Auction

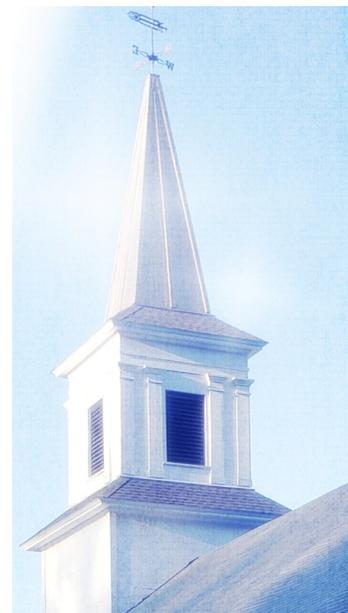
Wreaths

Children's Store

and Pictures with Santa!



Donations can be dropped off on
Friday afternoon until about 7PM



Second Congregational
Church UCC
Wilton NH

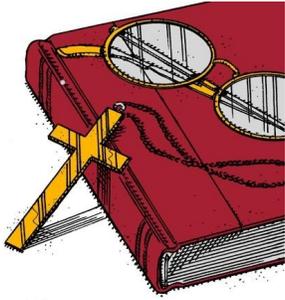


Established 1823

ABOUT SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- The Reverend Gary Klingsporn
Pastor
- Sunday Worship Service 10:00
- 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

Advent Waiting



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

“Christmas... give(s) light and
warmth to winter’s darkness.”

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,

At one time or another we have all attended live performances of plays, concerts, or other events. One time Debra and I were attending a play. There were about 150 other people with us in a theater awaiting the start of the performance. The house lights were burning brightly, people were flooding into the theater, crowding the aisles, looking for their seats. The room was full of loud chatter and laughter. It was the noisy chaos that occurs before the start of a performance.

Suddenly the house lights dimmed. A hush came over the theater. The crowd grew silent. The room was dark except for the small Exit signs above the doors. What a strange and wonderful moment. As I sat there I was reminded of the words of writer Frederick Buechner:

“The house lights go off and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised his baton.... The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens.”¹

We all know moments like that, don’t we? The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. The season of Advent is like that. It’s a season of waiting for Christmas. Advent is that season of anticipation, when the house lights go off, and the footlights come on, the conductor’s baton is raised, even the chattiest stop chattering, and we wait in the darkness for the curtain to rise. Our souls wait for the Lord of Christmas.

Yes, throughout November and December people are already

preparing for Christmas. Christmas trees, lights, wreaths brighten people’s homes and give light and warmth to winter’s darkness. The glow of candlelight is everywhere, and the sounds of music fill the air. With gatherings of family and friends, some people are already celebrating Christmas.

But in the life of the church, Advent is a season of watching and waiting for Christmas. In our church again this year, on each of the four Sundays of Advent, we will light an Advent candle. The candles of: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we pray for Hope and Peace in our world and in our lives. We anticipate the Joy and the Love that the Lord of Christmas will bring into our lives.

During these Advent Sundays, and every day of our lives, we live in those moments of anticipation when “the house lights go off and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. The violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised his baton.... The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens.”

You never know when and where God will show up next. So during this Advent season, and every day of our lives, let’s watch and wait, open to God’s presence. God comes. God always does.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gary

Notes

¹Frederick Buechner, *Whistling in the Dark: An ABC Theologized* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1988), pp. 2-3.

Planning Committee News



Thank you to everyone that made the Fall Dinner Play a fantastic night out. There were a lot of laughs for an appreciative audience. The pork roast dinner was delicious: Actors, waiters, cooks, thank you all so much!

We turn our sights to the Christmas Fair which is coming up fast. The Fair is Saturday, December 6 from 9am to 2pm. Get your awesome crafts done, plan your baking, and your shopping (at the sale).. BRING YOUR KIDS FOR SANTA PICTURES!!

Sign up sheets are in the Link to help set up on Friday and work on Saturday. Or contact Loretta, Becca or Ingrid directly.

Loretta Smith, Becca Lorden. and Ingrid Howard, your Planning Committee
rlorden80@gmail.com. howardingrid67@gmail.com or
lorettaapril@gmail.com.

The Reason for the Season

Amid the bustling and many activities that happen in December, please take the time to reflect and enjoy the foundation of our Christian faith.

The four weeks leading up to Christmas is Advent. Each week special candles are lit signifying, in order, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, with the Christ Candle being illuminated on Christmas Eve.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols is December 24 at 7:00 pm and is a lovely way to celebrate Christmas.

Would you like to be involved? Readers and candlelighters are needed for the four Advent Sundays, as well as Christmas Eve. See Lori Dick, head deacon, or any of the deacons to volunteer.

Poinsettias and Christmas Cards

If you would like to purchase poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary, you can bring them home Christmas Eve. They will be in a 6 inch pot, choose red or white, and \$13.00 each. Plants will be in church on the 14th . You can pickup after Christmas Eve Service or the following Sunday. Please let Cindy know who they are in memory of. Payment by cash or check(made out to Cindy Broderick). Any questions call her at 603-204-7471 or see her in church.

The church Christmas card box is out for exchanging greetings with each other. Bring your cards by Sunday December 21. They will be sorted and ready for pick up on Christmas Eve. This is for folks who are normally at church. Please mail all others.

Planning Committee

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS FAIR DECEMBER 6

9 TO 2PM

SET UP ON 12/5.

WREATH WORKSHOP on
Wednesday 12/3 6pm

**JANUARY 17: Rummage Sale,
featuring Books and Other
Good Stuff!!**

FEBRUARY 21: Rummage Sale

MARCH 21: Rummage Sale

**Note: Merry Christmas to all
and a Safe and Happy New
Year! ~The Editor**





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

December is a busy month for Missions. We have "adopted" three families through Bridges, the women's support group that provides services for domestic and sexual violence in the Nashua area. Please look for the Christmas tree in the Link and consider taking an ornament and purchasing a gift. All gifts should be returned to the sanctuary no later than Sunday, December 14.

Thank you for your donations in November to support our local Open Cupboard food pantry. We dedicated the November "Mission Possible" collection to the Open Cupboard. This is an ongoing mission as we continue to collect throughout the year non-perishable food items in a basket in the link.

Our missions group continues to support Project Linus by purchasing

fleece and yarn for the group. Our average blanket tally is 29 per month! We have a great group of blanketeers. Please consider joining us. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Missions Group. We are looking forward to new missions for 2026. We hope to have another drive to support the homeless services in NH in January. If you have an idea, please speak to anyone on the Missions committee.

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

Musical Notes: The Angels' Song in Three Words

On the very first Christmas Eve, frightened shepherds were suddenly surrounded by light and music. A choir of angels filled the night sky, singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Kingsley reflected on how those three simple words — glory, peace, and good will — still capture the meaning of Jesus' birth and the hope it brings.

Glory. God's glory isn't shown in dazzling displays of power but in humility and mercy. The baby in the manger revealed God's greatness by stooping low, forgiving, and showing love.

Peace. True peace is more than the absence of conflict. It comes when we follow God's example of selflessness, giving up pride and selfish ambition to live in harmony with one another.

Good will. God's good will toward us is a gift that transforms our lives. Through Jesus, God invites us out of selfishness and sin into a life marked by love, kindness, and community.

The angels' song wasn't meant only for shepherds long ago. It still sings to us today, calling each of us to live in glory, peace, and good will.

NN12.25

His Many Names, Our Great Hope

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah pointed God’s people to the promise of a Savior. In Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) we read: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Even before Jesus’ birth, his names revealed who he is and what he would bring. Each title carries a promise that still impacts our lives today.

- Wonderful Counselor.** Jesus brings wisdom and guidance for every situation. In moments of confusion, we can lean on him to direct our steps with love and truth.
- Mighty God.** He is strong enough to carry our burdens and powerful enough to overcome sin, fear and death itself.
- Everlasting Father.** Jesus reflects the heart of God the Father, offering care that is constant and unchanging. His love doesn’t fade with time or circumstance.
- Prince of Peace.** In a world filled with turmoil, Jesus offers a peace that goes deeper than circumstances, a peace that guards our hearts and minds.

At Christmas, we celebrate more than a baby’s birth. We celebrate the fulfillment of God’s promise, a Savior with many names. Each one reminds us of his eternal love and presence. This season, let his names bring you comfort, strength and peace.

NN 12.25

FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN,
TO US A SON IS GIVEN,
AND THE GOVERNMENT
WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDERS.
AND HE WILL BE CALLED

WONDERFUL
Counselor.
MIGHTY
God.
EVERLASTING
Father.
PRINCE OF
Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6, NIV

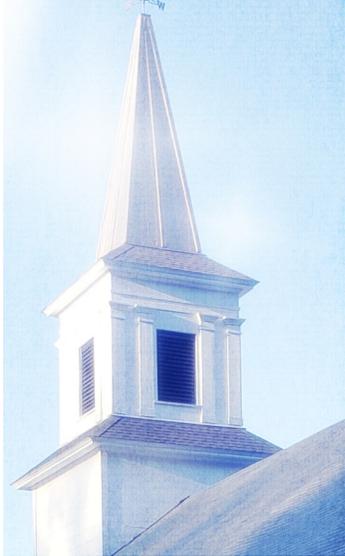
Messiah Sing!

Saturday, December 6, 7pm, Mont Vernon Congregational Church. 4 S Main St
And Sunday, December 7, 4pm, Milford United Methodist Church, 327 N River Rd

Common Lectionary Readings from Vanderbilt University

Second Sunday of Advent Dec 07, 2025	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Third Sunday of Advent Dec 14, 2025	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:5-10 or <i>Luke 1:46b-55</i>	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Fourth Sunday of Advent Dec 21, 2025	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
Christmas Eve Dec 24, 2025	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
First Sunday after Christmas Day Dec 28, 2025	Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalm 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23

Second Congregational Church UCC Wilton NH



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

- December 3 Wreath Decorating Workshop
- December 6 Christmas Craft Fair
- December 6 Messiah Sing! 7pm Mt Vernon Cong Church
- December 7 Second Sunday of Advent
- December 7 Messiah Sing! 4pm MUMC, N River Rd, Milford
- December 14 Third Sunday of Advent
- December 14 Deadline for Giving Tree Gifts
- December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm
Pick up your Christmas Cards!
- December 25 Christmas Day! For unto us a child is born.



On the web at 2ccwilton.com
On Facebook: [Second Congregational Church Wilton NH](https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalChurchWiltonNH)

Second Congregational Church

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PLEASE
 PLACE
 STAMP
 HERE

Address Label Here



Temp Return Service Requested

“Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it’s Christmas.”
Dale Evans