

Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

Church Matters

January
2026



Welcome 2026!

We are so excited about the New Year. Here are the upcoming highlights. Mark your calendars so you don't miss any of these events:

Annual Meeting is January 25, after our regular worship service. This is where everyone reviews the previous year and plans for the next, including voting on the new budget and any warrant articles that come up. Committee reports should be sent to church clerk, Leslie Tuttle, by January 1, so get them to out "now!"

Rummage Sales are planned for January 17, February 21, March 21, May 16, June 20, August 22, September 19, and October 17. Set up on Friday and the sales are Saturday from 9 to 1pm.

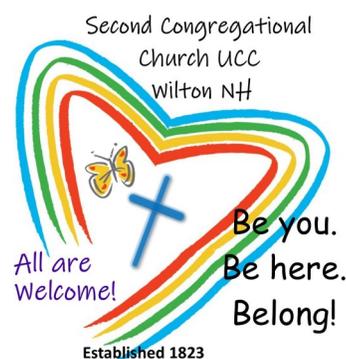
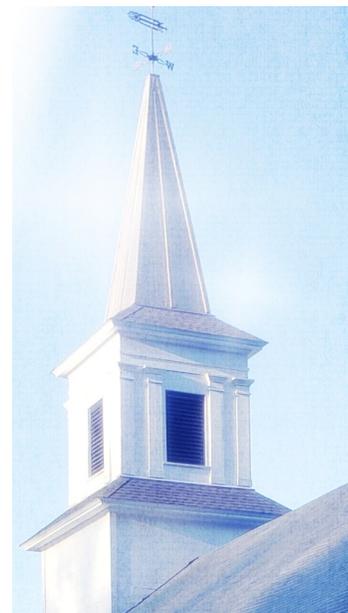
Summer Fair is July 18. More details pending!!!

Christmas Fair is December 5 from 9am to 2pm.

Dinner Plays are scheduled for April 10 and 11, and November 6 and 7. We may need a director, so let us know if you might be interested .

Prepared to Serve, the New Hampshire Conference UCC day of workshops is **February 28** at Pembroke Academy. This is always an opportunity to bring some great ideas back to our church. Visit their website for details on registration and workshops. <https://www.nhcucc.org/events/pts-2026>
Register early for best selection of workshops.

REMINDER: Sunday, January 4, Worship Services will be in the Parish Hall until Easter!

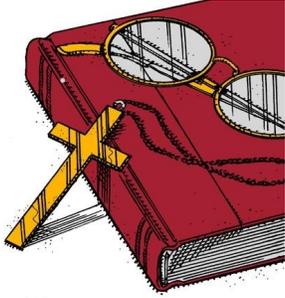


ABOUT SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- 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



What's your New Year's Resolution?



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

“.. Big changes can be overwhelming..”

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!

In January, everyone asks, “What’s your New Year’s resolutions?” To answer that, I found a couple of articles in our newsletter feed that address this question from two different angles.

Resolve to go micro

Most New Year’s resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that’s why “micro-resolution” is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.

Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church’s missions committee isn’t possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year! NN 01.24

Ponderings at the end of a day — or year

Dutch Catholic priest and theologian Henri Nouwen found it useful to reflect on several questions at the end of the day: “Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone’s face? Did I say words of healing?” Pondering such questions may prove valuable at the end of a year as well: “How did I

contribute to peace in the world this past year? Did I bring smiles to others’ faces? Did I offer words of healing?” Nouwen continued, and we can too: “Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?”

Many of us set New Year’s resolutions for self-improvement, asking, “What are my goals? How can I better myself, my weight, my work-life balance, my habits?” But Nouwen said of his self-inquiry: “These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and [in] the life to come.” His resolution was to share God’s love with others. With God’s help, it can be ours as well, for each new day and each new year. NN 12.23

~*~*~*~

I know that big changes can be overwhelming. To be honest, I don’t usually make resolutions. I do consider the many things I could have done better last year though. I guess that is a small step in the right direction.

However you make your resolutions, perhaps the suggestions above will help!

Blessings and Best Wishes for the New Year,

Loretta



Planning Committee News



Our Christmas Fair was a fun day. Traffic seemed a little light, but apparently the shoppers were generous. We had an average year, with the fair earning about \$2400.

We had fewer helpers this year, but managed to get by without too much hardship. We tried a couple of new things, which went well.

The 2026 Rummage Sale dates are on page one. January 17 will feature books, media and regular rummage items. Sign up sheets in the parish hall for workers; set up on Friday and work on Saturday 9 to 1pm. In January, our featured items are books and media, but we will have the usual rummage goods as well.

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

For God So Loved

One of the hallmarks of John's short sermons is that they almost always contain the plan of salvation in a single verse. Here it is verse 16: "This is how God showed his love to the world. He gave his one and only son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have life eternal." In perhaps the most beautiful words ever written, this verse presents the why as well as the how of God's redeeming love. Later, in his letters, John will betray a preoccupation with the question "What is the meaning of love?" Here he gives himself and all of the answer.

~Michael Card in The Parable of Joy NN 01.26

The Beauty of Learning

There is divine beauty in learning. ... To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their footsteps.

The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you.

~Elie Wiesel NN 09.22

Book Nook: Looking for Reviewers

Looking for readers to write reviews on books of interest and those in the library. If you are unsure of your writing skills, don't let that be a deterrent. You are better than you think! See Loretta if this interests you.

Planning Committee

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

FEBRUARY 21: Rummage Sale

MARCH 21: Rummage Sale

Some specific things we are looking for:

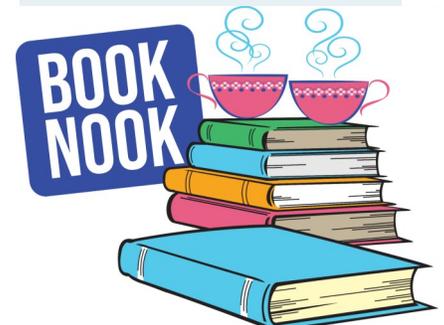
Dinner Play Director?

Summer Fair Lead Person - Planning early paid off! Let's Go!

Craft Workshop Leaders for Summer Fair and Christmas, but to be honest, it's just a good time!

Would you like to host a Tea with a Mystery Book Swap? Sounds like fun!!

Have a Good Idea? Please share it!



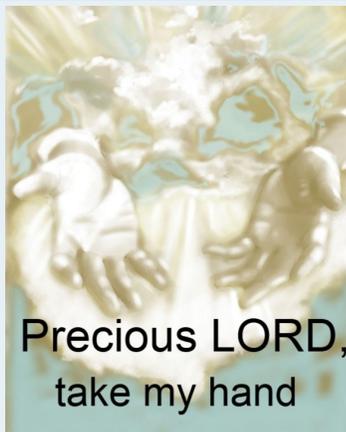


OPEN CUPBOARD PANTRY

Below is a list of the most needed items, although all non-perishable donations are appreciated:

Laundry Detergent, Shampoo & Conditioner, Crackers, Fruit Juice, Canned Fruit, Spaghetti Sauce and Tuna

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Missions

Church Missions would like to thank everyone for their incredible generosity this holiday season. We dropped off the gifts for the three families we sponsored through Bridges. The staff was overwhelmed with all the presents!

The Open Cupboard pantry also was grateful for all the donations we made in November, as well as through the year. We will continue to keep a basket in the link for donations to the Pantry. [See sidebar for suggestions]

The Linus Blanket group was very productive in 2025. We donated over 350 blankets! We also donated hats, baby sweaters (thank you to Sue Putnam for her late aunt's donations) and scarves. The blankets are processed by the regional director and then distributed throughout our

region. Your donations to the "Mission Possible" collection each month help to fund the purchase of fleece for Linus, among other things.

We sent a donation to Chris and Alexandra Gerry (Jane Herlihy's grandson and his wife) to help fund their mission trip to Costa Rica. We hope to work with them again in 2026 to support their mission to help the homeless in the Manchester area.

We cannot do all these wonderful things without your help. We sincerely thank you and look forward to another year of projects and outreach.

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

Musical Notes: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

"What means this glory round our feet," Thomas Dorsey, a jazz musician from Atlanta, made a bold decision in 1926 to leave behind secular music and devote his talent to writing songs for the Lord. But following that call wasn't easy. During the Great Depression, many church leaders criticized his soulful gospel style, calling it "the devil's music." Dorsey later joked, "I got kicked out of some of the best churches in the land."

Then, in 1932, tragedy struck. While in St. Louis for a revival, he received a telegram that his wife had died suddenly during childbirth. His faith was shaken to the core, and grief nearly silenced him. Yet in his deepest sorrow, Dorsey turned back to what he knew best — music. Out of that heartbreak came one of the most beloved hymns of all time:

*"Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn..."*

Dorsey's song reminds us that even in our valleys, God is near — guiding us, strengthening us, and using our pain to comfort others who walk the same road.

Scripture Keys to a Joyful New Year

- H**old fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
- A**ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
- P**ray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)
- P**ray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
- Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

- N**eglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)
- E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- Y**ield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11,16)
- E**xercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
- A**im at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
- R**edeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)
- Gus Nichols

O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
 be to
follow you
more closely
 and to
trust in your
loving guidance.

NN 01..26

*“If you live right each day, you will be neither afraid of tomorrow
 nor ashamed of yesterday.” ~ E.C. McKenzie*

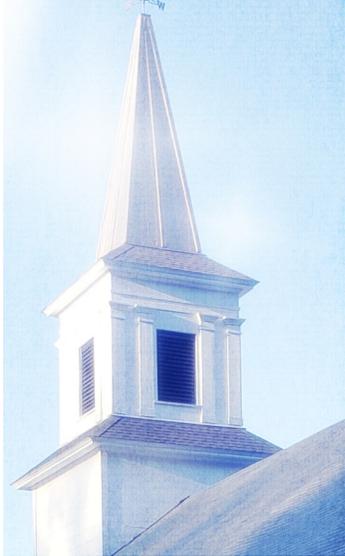


“Worry is interest paid on trouble before it falls due.” ~ Dean Inge

Common Lectionary Readings from Vanderbilt University

Second Sunday after Christmas Day Jan 04, 2026	Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12	Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Epiphany of the Lord Jan 06, 2026	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
First Sunday after Epiphany Jan 11, 2026 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Second Sunday after the Epiphany Jan 18, 2026	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Third Sunday after the Epiphany Jan 25, 2026	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23

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

- January 1 Happy New Year!
- January 6 Epiphany
- January 11 Baptism of the Lord
- January 17 Rummage Sale 9am to 1pm
- January 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 25 Annual Meeting after service ~11:30
- February 21 Rummage Sale 9am to 1pm
- March 21 Rummage Sale 9am to 1pm



On the web at 2ccwilton.com

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

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"You can accomplish more in one hour with God than in a lifetime without him." Unknown