

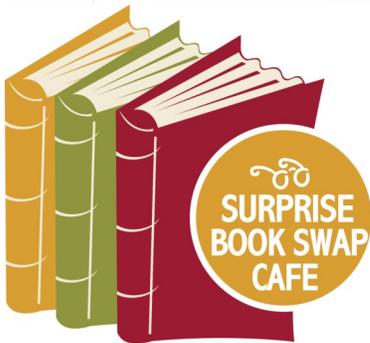
Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

# Church Matters

February  
2026



I love my church family!



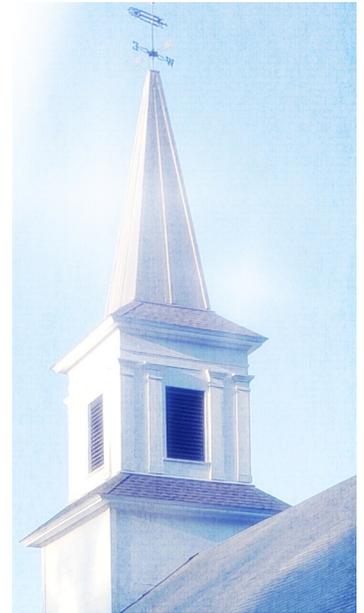
## Surprise Book Swap Cafe

Sunday, February 8, at noon, we will hold a Surprise Book Swap Cafe. Each person brings one book, wrapped in brown paper or what-have-you. On the wrapping, note general features of the book without revealing title or author. Everyone gets to choose a packaged book to take home.

Refreshments and games will be included. There is no charge to participate, just bring your wrapped book!



Sample!



Second Congregational  
Church UCC  
Wilton NH



### ABOUT SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

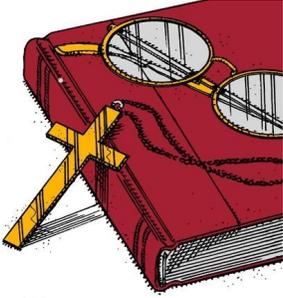
## Rummage Sale on February 21

## Ash Wednesday Service: February 18

Please join us for an Ash Wednesday Service on February 18, at 7pm



## Open Letter: Volunteer Crisis



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

“How can I help?”

### 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](mailto:2ccwilton@gmail.com) or phone 603-654-9045. Provide name and email address and we'll add you to the list. Thank you!

The following was received for publication in the next newsletter. Very well spoken by someone not on the Planning Committee!!

At one time or another we have all Our Congregation is facing a volunteer crisis. In just the last few months we have sponsored dinner plays, a Christmas fair (set up and break down), and a book/rummage sale. There are times when only a small group of our members show up to help out. For some activities, there are barely enough people working.

Maybe you are thinking "but how can I help?" There are so many ways to help, without lifting boxes or other heavy items. For rummage or book sales, there is sorting, folding or hanging clothes. Oftentimes there are leftover items that can go to Goodwill or another donation center following the sales. Before church on Sunday, tables and chairs need to be set up. And, after church the chairs and tables need to be put back in order. If you see activity like that, feel free to pitch in, then we can all sit and enjoy a cup of coffee. Someone could work on promoting events – submitting to local newspapers and state websites, which can be done from home, also putting up posters. Many of us wear multiple hats, which

is one of the joys of being part of our congregation. But, let's be honest; we are an aging congregation. If we all make a point of volunteering at fundraisers, even for an hour or two, that will help to lessen the workload for those who always show up. Please, consider offering to help at one or more of the activities. Don't wait for a phone call - just sign up!

The Planning Committee consists of three members who come up with new ideas for social and fundraising events and set the calendar for the year. They do a great job! But we cannot, as a congregation, expect them to raise all the money for the church alone. We all share a responsibility to keep our congregation active in our community and to ensure there are sufficient funds for us to remain open.

Please consider signing up to help with the scheduled activities for 2026. With everyone participating we can all enjoy smooth running activities and continued presence in our community.

Thank you and blessings to all,

A concerned volunteer

### Editor's Note:

The Planning Committee is supposed to coordinate events for socials and fundraising. Instead of helping others with their ideas, we have shouldered the actual running of event and begging for help for them. Our budget deficit is over \$20,000. Fundraising needs to exceed the

expectations of the budget. There are other fundraisers that could be done, with someone to run them, such as selling ads for placemats or running the One-Ten Raffle. Come up with your own idea, and we will help you!

Thank you to our concerned citizen for speaking up. It is much appreciated. LA

# Planning Committee News



February brings us two events: the book swap (see page 1) and another Rummage Sale on February 21. Sign up sheets will be out soon for the Rummage Sale. We are looking forward to a great year!

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

## Why We Should Observe Lent

We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent. NN 02.26

## Prepared To Serve: February 28

The New Hampshire Conference UCC has posted the courses/workshops for this year's Prepared to Serve (PTS) event. Held at Pembroke Academy in Pembroke NH, on February 28, this year's theme is "Nurturing Your Relationship with God in Another Way".

The workshops were created to discover "Another Way" in four ways:

- **Cultivate Personal Faith:** practices, tools and materials to support spiritual exploration for all ages.
- **Be the Church:** enhance worship, best practices, training for leadership roles, and more
- **Act as the hands and feet of Jesus:** ministry in the local community, including peace, justice, and environmental stewardship
- **Support our Wider Church Mission:** engage in the needs and opportunities of the world

Have a content expert share their gifts with you. Whether you are looking for a new way to manage your church finances or you're looking for ways to better your spiritual connection, there is sure to be something for you! This year's registration fee is \$52 for adults, \$25 for youths.

Visit the NHCUCC.org website to sign up and make course selections.

## Planning Committee

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### FEBRUARY 8—BOOK SWAP

12 TO 3. See page 1.

#### FEBRUARY 21: Rummage Sale

#### MARCH 21: Rummage Sale

#### SUMMER FAIR: JULY 18

#### CHRISTMAS FAIR DECEMBER 5

9 TO 2PM

#### PROMOTION WORK FOR ANY

EVENTS: We need someone who can contact all the local papers and state websites. Also to put up posters.

See anyone on the Planning Committee.



### Mission Possible Collection

On the last Sunday of each month, Missions takes a collection which helps support outreach projects. Sometimes the collection goes to a specific family in need, sometimes it supports the Open Cupboard Pantry or the Linus Project.

Thanks to all who help support our Mission works.

Publication Information
Church Matters Volume # 299
February 1, 2026
Published Monthly
Second Congregational Church UCC 25 Gregg Street, PO Box 246 Wilton NH 03086
Issue # 2026.02
Subscription Price - Free



## Missions

Church missions is gearing up for another year of outreach in our community and beyond.

We plan to partner again with Christopher and Alexandra to put together more comfort bags for the homeless. There will be more details coming.

The monthly Meals on Wheels, held on the first Thursday of the month, has become so popular that a second lunch has been added each month on the third Tuesday of the month. In March, we are sponsoring the second Meals on Wheels luncheon. Mark your calendars for March 17th! Reservations are needed through the Community Center. Please speak to someone on Missions for more information.

We are also considering another lunch with the Pastor, probably in April. We have enjoyed sponsoring these lunches as it gives us a chance to connect with members we don't see often. More details will follow in upcoming newsletters.

If there is a project you would like us to look into, let us know! We welcome your suggestions.

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

## Musical Notes: Love and Music

After Silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music. Aldous Huxley

The earth has music for those who listen. Unknown

I play the notes as they are written, but it is God who makes the music, JS Bach

Music comes from an icicle as it melts, to live again is spring water. Henry Williamson

Love is a friendship set to music. Various sources

Beautiful music... is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us. Martin Luther

In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together and the music that brings harmony. Eva Burrows

Music acts like a magic key, to which the most tightly closed heart opens. Maria Augusta Von Trapp

# The Love God Desires

God’s love is never meant to stop with us; it’s meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, “If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God’s love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love? NN 02.26



*“Love is the river of life in the world.” Henry Ward Beecher*

## A Vision Rooted in Faith & Freedom

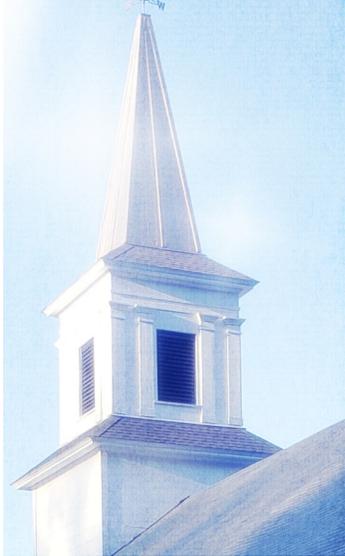
Washington's wisdom has been an inspiration for large numbers of our leading men and women in every decade since his time. He had the uncanny foresight of seeking to build a nation upon the bedrock of strong patriotism, unquestioned integrity, opportunities for all, high ideals and love of God.

May our great land, conceived in prayer for peace, bring new concepts of living to all the peoples of the world.  
— James Francis Cook, in The Etude

## Common Lectionary Readings from Vanderbilt University

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 01, 2026	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 08, 2026	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Psalm 112:1-9 (10)	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20
Transfiguration Sunday Feb 15, 2026 (Last Sunday before Lent)	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2 or Psalm 99	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
Ash Wednesday Feb 18, 2026	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
First Sunday in Lent Feb 22, 2026	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11

# Second Congregational Church UCC Wilton NH



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

February is Black History Month, February 1-28, 2026

February 2 Groundhog Day

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 16 Presidents Day

February 18 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm (TBA)

February 21 Rummage Sale 9am to 1pm

March 21 Rummage Sale 9am to 1pm

April 10 & 11 Spring Dinner Plays

May 16 Rummage Sale 9am to 1pm

July 18 Summer Fair

December 5 Christmas Fair



*On the web at [2ccwilton.com](http://2ccwilton.com)*

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

## Second Congregational Church

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PLACE  
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*"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." Hal Borland*

