

Second Congregational Church UCC - Wilton NH

Church Matters

March
2026



Hymn Sing - March 8, 2pm

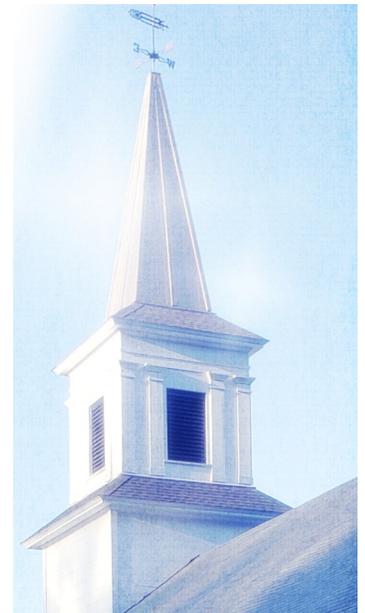
We are getting ready for a Hymn Sing on March 8. Fellowship begins at 2:00pm with light refreshments. At 2:30 the Hymn Sing will begin and end by 4:00.

In the month of February, ballots were submitted by parishioners and the most popular will be sung. Larry Smith will research the choices and share a little history on each. At the end of February. Thirty-seven hymns were suggested; ten were common to several voters and will be our starting point for the singing.

Please come on being at the parish hall on March 8, 2pm for a fun time whether you plan to sing or want to sit and listen or hum along. Feel free to bring a neighbor or friend.

Spring Dinner Plays - April 10 & 11

Mark your calendars for the Spring Dinner Plays. Turkey and "all the fixin's" is on the menu. Reserve your tickets early, we were sold out one night last fall, and nearly so on the other! Call Sue Jean for tickets 654-2255.



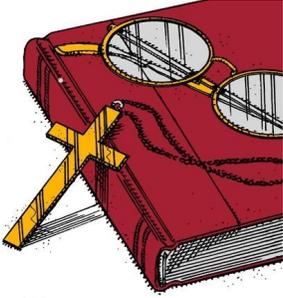
Second Congregational
Church UCC
Wilton NH



ABOUT SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- The Reverend Gary Klingsporn
Pastor
- Sunday Worship Service 10:00
- Sunday Services are on ZOOM
- Contact 2ccwilton@gmail.com
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

Surviving Winter



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

“A time of filling up and renewal
so we can take advantage of
the Joy of Resurrection.”

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!

It's been a winter like “the good old days” with lots of snow and cold weather. Nostalgic memories of sledding and making snowmen and snow forts give way, making us weary of it all at this point. We are eager for March 21 and praying the milder weather arrives along with the first day of Spring. And it can't come soon enough! We anticipate the longer days, the warmer sun, the spring flowers.

The season of Lent is a time of anticipation as well. We are biding our time, as we wait for Easter and the Resurrection. Perhaps you are working on a few Lenten goals yourself; either giving up bad habits, acquiring positive new habits, or performing random acts of kindness. I know one woman who wrote and mailed notes to friends and acquaintances saying thank you or offering an affirmation, mailing one each day. Reverend Greg Boyle once said, “I don't do guilt. I gave it up for Lent years ago.”

Lent is our time in the desert with Christ. Jesus fasted and fought temptations; we focus on self-reflection and improving ourselves. This is a time of renewal so we can take advantage of the joy of the Resurrection.

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose; it is the opportunity to fill us up rather than depleting us. “This is what Lent is meant to be,” writes theologian Ron Rolheiser who explains Lent as “Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other.”

*As we continue in the season of Lent, may we listen for Jesus' voice, rest in his care and share his love with others.

Loretta

*closing and quotes via NN

Faith That Blooms Anew

“Why are you anxious?” asked our Lord. Then He said, “*Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*” (Matthew 6:28-29, NIV)

Jesus' words remind us that just as God clothes the lilies of the field in beauty and splendor, he also provides faithfully for his people. The same Creator who tends to the flowers of spring cares for every detail of our lives.

People of faith come to see that truth unfold year after year — in the budding trees, the soft blossoms, and the steady return of color after winter's gray. God's reliability is woven into creation itself.

As poet Adeline Whitney once wrote:
*God does not send strange flowers every year,
When the Spring wind blows o'er the pleasant places,
The same dear things lift up the same fair faces,
The violet is here.*

Each spring, those familiar blooms whisper the same promise: God is faithful still.

Planning Committee News



We have had two rummage sales in 2026 which made approximately \$500 together. The next one is March 21. Watch for sign up sheets on the kitchen counter.

Spring Dinner Plays are April 10 and 11. Dinner is turkey, and we will need help to cook them, prepare a box of dressing and gravy. Sign up to work, cook a turkey or cake, and buy tickets to come see the plays! (See page one.)

Our first Summer Fair meeting is March 1 after worship service. The fair is July 18. If you know any crafters that would like a booth, have them reach out to the Planning Committee.

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

The King No One Expected

Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That’s exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday.

Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, *“Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”* They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king.

Was He a king? Jesus didn’t deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, *“I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”*

Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, *“Here is your king.”* The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, *“We have no king but Caesar!”*

When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared: *“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”*

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. *“What I have written, I have written,”* he said.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of “saying there is another king, Jesus.” And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth: *“The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.” — Revelation 17:14*

NN 3.26

Planning Committee

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY 21: Rummage Sale

MARCH 8: Hymn Sing 2pm.

Help needed for light refreshments.

MARCH 21: Rummage Sale

APRIL 10 & 11: Dinner Plays, Sign up as kitchen help, wait staff and/or cooking a turkey or sheet cake for dessert.

MAY 23: Rummage/Yard Sale in conjunction with the Town Wide: Yard Sale the same day.

JULY 18: Summer Fair! Help with the planning to make this a solid summer fundraiser.

First meeting is March 1 after worship service.





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

Publication Information
Church Matters Volume # 300
March 1, 2026
Published Monthly
Second Congregational Church UCC 25 Gregg Street, PO Box 246 Wilton NH 03086
Issue # 2026.03
Subscription Price - Free



Missions

Back by popular demand! Missions will sponsor another "Lunch with the Pastor" on Thursday, April 23, at noon. Come join us for a meal and fellowship. Look for a sign up sheet in April. We would love to see you.

The first Thursday of the month, the Wilton Community Center (WCC) offers a luncheon, put on by "Meals on Wheels" (MOW). Lunch is in the church hall. This has become so popular that a second luncheon date has been added. On Tuesday, March 17, Missions will be sponsoring the second monthly "Meals on Wheels" luncheon through the Wilton Community Center. Reservations are required. For more information, please see a Missions member.

The Linus blanket program continues to produce fleece blankets at an amazing rate. In February, we

completed 41 blankets! Church Missions supports Linus by purchasing fleece. Your donations for the "Mission Possible" monthly collection is so appreciated. It enables us to continue this worthwhile program.

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



Musical Notes: All Encompassing Savior

Christ be with me, Christ within me.
 Christ behind me, Christ before me.
 Christ beside me, Christ to win me.
 Christ to comfort and restore me.
 Christ beneath me, Christ above me.
 Christ in quiet, Christ in danger.
 Christ in hearts of all that love me.
 Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

—Hymn attributed to St. Patrick



Shamrock

St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity. NN 03.12

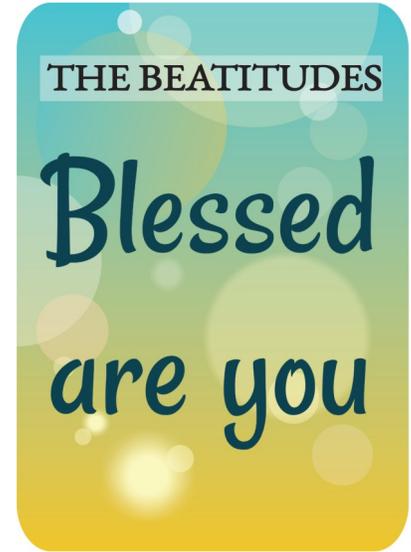
The Upside-Down Blessing

The Beatitudes are more than poetic lines from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. They’re a radical redefinition of what it means to be blessed. The Greek word *makarios* doesn’t just mean “happy.” It describes a deep, untouchable joy that pain, loss or hardship cannot erase. As scholar William Barclay wrote, it is “the joy which shines through tears.”

Jesus flips the world’s idea of success upside down. The “blessed” aren’t the powerful or prosperous, but the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek and the merciful. Imagine reading them as “Congratulations, you who feel broken, God’s kingdom belongs to you!” His words assure us that, even in suffering, we stand in God’s favor.

Real blessing isn’t about shiny possessions or smooth sailing. It’s the steady, saving presence of God — a life preserver tossed to us when we’re struggling to stay afloat. And it’s not just an individual promise. Jesus spoke these blessings to a community, a we more than a me. Together, as the body of Christ, we find comfort, strength and the courage to live with joy that nothing in life or death can take away.

— *Adapted from HomileticsOnline.com*

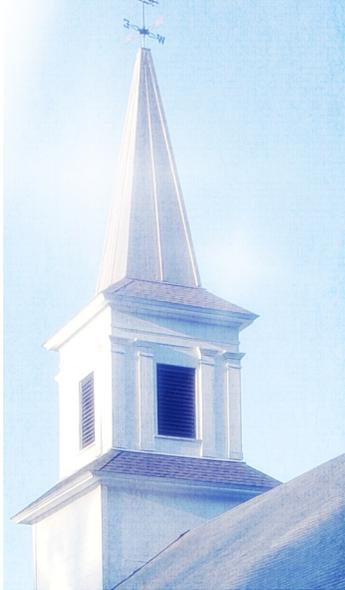


“Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.” St. Augustine

Common Lectionary Readings from Vanderbilt University

Second Sunday in Lent Mar 01, 2026	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17 or <i>Matthew 17:1-9</i>
Third Sunday in Lent Mar 08, 2026	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Fourth Sunday in Lent Mar 15, 2026	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Fifth Sunday in Lent Mar 22, 2026	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
Sixth Sunday of Lent Mar 29, 2026	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66 or <i>Matthew 27:11-54</i>

Second Congregational Church UCC Wilton NH



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

- March 1 Meeting for Summer Fair 11:30am
- March 6 World Day of Prayer
- March 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 8 Hymn Sing 2pm
- March 17 St Patrick's Day
- March 20 First Day of Spring Yippee!!
- March 21 Rummage Sale 9am to 1pm
- March 29 Palm Sunday
- March 29 to April 5 Holy Week
- April 3 Good Friday service at 5pm
- April 10 & 11 Spring Dinner Plays
- July 18 Summer Fair
- December 5 Christmas 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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Address Label Here



Temp Return Service Requested

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the word on fire." St. Catherine of Siena

