Second Congregational Church UCC, Wilton NH

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2026

Church Matters

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/or to receive *Church Matters* via email

Follow on Facebook: Second Congregational Church Wilton NH

Established in 1823

We are an Open & Affirming Church

Craft Workshop
November 14 2-4pm
Make a Succulent Dish Garden

On November 14, from 2 to 4pm, we are offering a workshop to make succulent dish gardens. This will be held in the Parish Hall at 25 Gregg Street, Wilton.

The cost of the Workshop is $35.00 per person, and includes all the supplies needed to make your own garden: dish, soil, and a few embellishments. There will be light refreshments as well.

Bring a friend or two (or more) with you. Consider making one for a special holiday gift.

There are a limited number of seats, so please make your reservation today. There is a sign up sheet in the Link. Or call 603-654-9045 and leave a message for Loretta and she will get back to you promptly.

Payment options are cash, checks made out to Second Congregational Church, or Zelle (ask Loretta about that).

Second Congregational Church UCC Wilton NH
All are Welcome!
Be you. Be here. Belong!
Established 1823

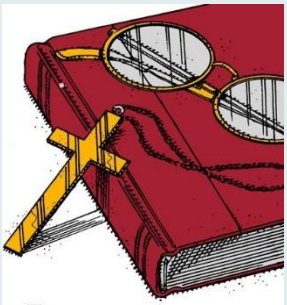
Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair is around the corner! Saturday, December 5 from 9am to 2pm, our fair includes a lunchbar, baked goods, pictures with Santa (he arrives at 10am), and lots of handmade items available for decorating or gifting. We have a Children's Store for kids to shop. Great items are already coming in for the Silent Auction.

Veterans Day Reflection in Song

The Union Congregational Church at 33 Concord Street, Peterborough NH, is holding a Veterans Reflection Service on Saturday, November 7, from 3-4pm. Antendees are welcome to join. If you would like to sing in the choir, rehearsal is at 1pm that day. There are other songs that will be sung by all, with a program provided to you.

Some of our choir members will be attending, so come celebrate our Veterans on November 7.



"..my father.. appears in the doorway, holding a tiny pine tree.. tied all over with small red bows."

Housekeeping Notes

Turn off the 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.

Zoom: Del our adminstrative assistant emails the bulletins and the Zoom link every Friday. If you are no getting this, please contact the church via email: 2ccwilton@gmail.com or by phone 603-651-9045. Please provide your name and email address and we'll add you to the list.

Thank you!

Dear Friends: Memories

As we move into the holidays in November and December we all have special memories of years past. As we look back we remember times of joy and celebration with family and friends during the Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas seasons. Along with the memories of joy and celebration we may also have some memories of times and moments when it was difficult to experience the holiday spirit.

Author Sue Monk Kidd* tells the story of her own family's experience when she was a young college student coming home to visit her family for the holidays.[1] Kidd writes:

"I am home from college for the Christmas holidays, eager to see my grandfather, who has become ill and weak while I was away. Recently he has been confined to a wheelchair. I turn and wave to my father as he drives away, headed for the farm he and my grandfather have tended for a lifetime.

The five hundred acres of land have been in the Monk family since the early 1800s, passed down from generation to generation…. My grandfather does not just love the land, he reverences it. He knows every row of corn, every spindle-leg calf, every seedling pine. The farm is the crucible of his childhood, the place his soul understands as home.

"Merry Christmas, Granddaddy," I say, walking into the house. He looks up from his wheelchair and smiles, his eyes faded and watery. "How's my girl?" It is the way he says it that pierces me, the same way he said it when I was six and ten and fourteen. I am his girl. I have always been his girl.

I try to strike up a cheery conversation, first about my college courses, and then the weather. He listens…. But then we end up sitting in the silence, listening to the rain.

"The rain will do the farm good," Granddaddy says suddenly. I sit straight up and know that it's the farm that fills his eyes with such longing. For weeks now he has been too weak to go out to the farm. He pulls out his pocket watch. "I imagine the cows are feeding now. They'll be in the front pasture now, bunched under the pines like they do on wet days."

"You miss the farm," I say. "I miss it," he responds and looks away so I cannot see how much he misses it. The afternoon darkens. I put on the lamp and settle back in the chair while Granddaddy nods with sleep. He wakes as my father stomps across the porch and opens the front door.

"I'm back," my father calls, and appears in the doorway holding a tiny pine tree. It is three feet tall, shimmering with crystals of rain and tied all over with small red velvet bows. My father stands the radiant little tree at the window.

"You know that stand of pines in the front pasture?" my dad says. "I was there feeding the cows. They were huddled there under the trees. I looked down by the fence and saw this pine growing, and I thought it would make a nice Christmas tree."

I wheel my grandfather over so he can touch the needles. I watch how his eyes fill up – the only tears I've ever seen him cry. How he smiles through them. How Christmas shines around us."

In Sue Monk Kidd's story a small pine tree with red bows changed a time of sadness into a time of love and quiet joy. It made all the difference. What times of great joy and celebration do you remember during the holidays in years past? What, if any, were the difficult times you remember when small acts of love and kindness have made all the difference in your life during the holidays?

Happy and Blessed holidays to all of you,

Pastor Gary

Sermons On-Line

Weekly Sermons can be found on our website www.2ccwilton.org. If you miss a Sunday, or just want to hear the message again, these are at your fingertips!

Let us know what you think!

[1]Sue Monk Kidd, *Firstlight: The Early Inspirational Writings of Sue Monk Kidd,* pp. 156-59. (GuidepostsBooks, New York, NY, 2006). Story has been slightly edited to shorten

Planning Committee News



"Thank you!" to everyone that helped with the Fall Rummage Sales. They went very well and you are appreciated. There is a lot of work to set up the sales each month, and you all make them happen! The next Rummage Sale is on January 16, 2027.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Fall Dinner Plays have been cancelled. The Players will perform the two plays in April. Watch for further announcements in 2027.

In it's place, we are holding a Craft Workshop to make Succulent Dish Gardens. See Page 1 for details. This will be fun and creative!

Next up is the Christmas Fair! Get your crafts finished up, plan your baking, and (of course) sign up to help on the day of the fair. Please also consider putting up posters at your favorite places, near and far. "Tell your family, tell your friends… oh, just tell everybody!!" AND… please come and help the day of the fair. Many hands make it so much easier for everyone.

We usually have an evening to decorate wreaths right before the fair. Listen for announcements on the specifics. Thank you in advance!

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Christmas Fair crafters and bakers. Work on those projects now! We need quite a few workers the day of the Fair. Listen for meeting announcements if you have some good ideas.

Sunday Service: we need **readers**, **snacks** and **flowers**. See Lori Dick to sign up for the first two. The flower list is hanging in the parish hall to pick your special dates.

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 flowers, and cost $13.00 each. Plants will be in church on the 13th . 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. Many thanks to House By the Side of the Road for their continued generosity.



The church Christmas card box will be out shortly for exchanging greetings with each other. Bring your cards by Sunday December 20. 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.

Newsletter changes:

As we approach 2027, Microsoft software changes require we use a different program. We are testing it out for the November/December issue.

We hope you like the new look.

~ The Editor



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Mission Possible News

In September, Missions sponsored another Lunch with the Pastor. We had a wonderful turnout. Twenty people came to enjoy a chicken lemon or pea soup with grilled cheese, and homemade desserts. It was wonderful to see members who often cannot attend regular service, as well as our regulars. We will plan another one in the spring of 2027.

Missions will be sponsoring two or three families through Bridges again this year for Christmas. Bridges was so impressed with the generosity of our congregation for all the gifts shared in 2025. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins. Once we have the names and wishes, we will make those available in late November or early December.

Missions is collecting hand-knit hats through December. The hats will be included with other snacks and essentials to provide to the Homeless Project in early January. If you love to knit or crochet but do not have yarn or patterns, please see Stephanie. We will be working with Christopher and Alexandra Gerry in Manchester, as we have in the past. There will be a more complete list of snacks, etc. in upcoming emails and bulletins.

Missions continues to support the Linus Project by providing fleece and yarn for our blankets. Through September we have donated over 287 blankets, knit and crocheted toys, scarves and hats. The blankets are washed and tagged with the Linus label and distributed to various agencies. In September, blankets were given to Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls' Club, Elliot Health, Monadnock Community Hospital and Elliot Hospital.

We want to thank our Congregation for your continued support of our missions. Your donations to our "Mission Possible" monthly collections help us to reach out to our community and beyond, hopefully making life a little easier for all.

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

Messiah Sing!

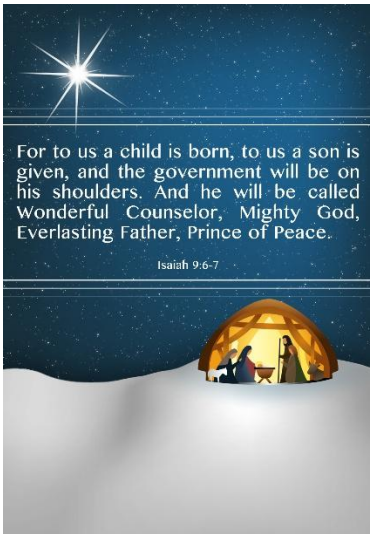
Start the holidays with a stirring performance of Frederick Handl's *Messiah*, performed on December 5 at 7pm at the Mont Vernon Congregational Church. A second performance is held on Sunday, December 6 at 4pm at the Milford United Methodist Church on North River Road, Milford.

Musical Notes: What it Means

"What means this glory round our feet,"
The Magi mused, "more bright than morn!"
And voices chanted clear and sweet,
"Today the Prince of Peace is born!"

"What means this star," the shepherds said,
"That brightens through the rocky glen?"
And angels answering overhead,
Sang "Peace on Earth, good will to men!"
—James Russell Lowell,
Christmas Carol

NN12.06



Grace for the Year Ahead



As this year draws to a close, we remember its joys, its challenges, and the prayers still waiting for answers. Through every season, God has been faithful.

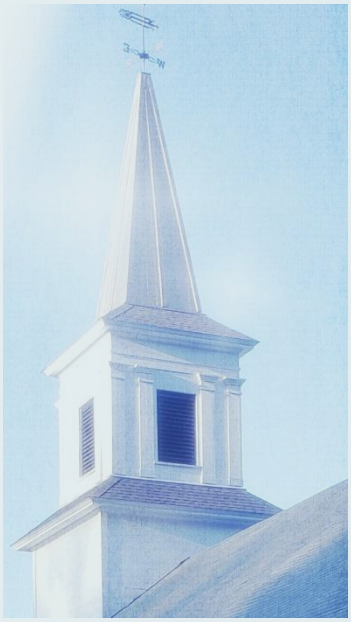
Tonight we place our regrets in His mercy, our sorrows in His care, and our hopes in His hands. We do not need to know all that tomorrow holds to take the next step in faith.

May the coming year find us loving more freely, forgiving more readily, and sharing kindness wherever we go. With grateful hearts, we welcome a new beginning, trusting that God will walk beside us each day. NN 12.26

I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new. Shall I not call God the Beautiful, who daily showeth himself to me in his gifts? Ralph Waldo Emerson

Common Lectionary Readings from Vanderbilt

23rd Sunday after Pentecost 11/1/2026	Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12
24th Sunday after Pentacost 11/8/2026	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
25th Sunday after Pentacost 11/15/2026	Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
26th Sunday after Pentacost 11/22/2026	Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
First Sunday of Advent 11/29/2026	Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Second Sunday of Advent 12/6/2026	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2,8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Third Sunday of Advent 12/13/2026	Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11 Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8,19-28
Fourth Sunday of Advent 12/20/2026	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Christmas 12/25/2026	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
First Sunday after Christmas 12/27/2026	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148	Galatians 5:4-7	Luke 2:22-40
Second Sunday after Christmas 1/3/2027	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:1-18



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Tech Times Issue 00

Upcoming Events

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

November 1 All Saints Day / Daylight Savings ends "Fall Back!"

November 7 Veterans Day Reflection in Song 3pm at Union Congregational Church, Peterborough (see page 1 for details)

November 11 Veterans Day

November 13 & 14 Fall Dinner Plays 7pm

November 25 Thanksgiving

December 5 Christmas Craft Fair 9 to 2pm

December 5 & 6 Mont Vernon Messiah Sign (see page 4 for details)

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm

December 25 Christmas Day!

January 1 New Year's Day

January 16 Rummage Sale 9 to 1pm

January 24 (TBA) Annual Meeting



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Temp Return Service Requested

Take Christ out of Christmas, and December becomes the bleakest and most colorless month og the year. A.F. Wells

The spirit of Christmas is annual, the Spirit of Christ is eternal. Stuart Briscoe