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News from Your Church Committees

Congregational Church of Hooksett

April 2022 Newsletter



From the Trustees:

The Trustees remain hard at work to continue to make our church space better and better. Many thanks go out to the group of congregants who got together a few Saturdays ago to do a clean-up of the basement on the Fellowship side. Much work was done to spruce up and discard items to make that area more user friendly. In doing so, some items were saved to be added to a church flea market effort on May 7th. Be on the lookout for more information on that.

That same day, a huge undertaking took place to clear the hill behind the sanctuary of lots of overgrown vegetation. That vegetation was then burned as a part of a brush pile the following week. The difference on that hill is clear as you can now see the stained glass window when driving past. Work will also be done to remove the stand of trees in that same location as there are many dead standing trees in there. This task will be completed in the coming weeks by Eversource, at no charge.

Finally, the Trustees will be working on a spring clean-up of the church, inside and out, on April 16th starting at 9:00. There are lots of tasks for all who are willing to participate including wiping down pews, washing windows, yard work and cleaning the kitchen. We will be getting help from members of the Kiwanis Club in the kitchen, as the Trustees have given permission to the Kiwanis Club to hold a pancake breakfast on April 23rd.

Thanks again to all who have helped in the past few months to create a space that is well-loved for our church community. If you have any interest in helping, or ideas for improvements please email the Trustees at trustees@hooksettucc.org.

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From the Diaconate:

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2

We are in the Season of Lent. We entered the season with an Ash Wednesday Service of prayer and quiet reflection. Rev Linda Fraser led us in prayer and thoughtful reflection, reminding us that "We are dust and we are loved".

Are you enjoying a time of fellowship at Coffee Hour? We have resumed Coffee Hour after the Sunday Morning Service. We hope you will join us as you are able.

Please keep in mind the following dates:

April 3rd Communion Sunday – Rev Linda Fraser

April 10th Palm Sunday – Rev Jim Howard

April 14th Maundy Thursday – Rev Gordon Rankin

April 15th Good Friday – Sanctuary open for quiet reflection

April 17th Easter Sunday – Rev Gordon Rankin

There will not be a Sunrise Service this year.

We are grateful to the supply pastors who are helping us during our time of transition. We are searching for an Interim Pastor; a notice has been posted on the UCC Website. As resumes come in, we will review and discuss.

If you have any questions or concerns, please ask a Deacon.

Kindly submitted by Your Board of Deacons: Bill Andrade, Norm Boucher, Andrea Brown, Walker Brown, Kim Carbonneau, Lynn Chevette, Joan Cote, Nancy Vaughan, Paula Vaughn

From the Missions Committee:

Greetings from the Mission Committee! We are happy to be getting some of our regular Mission Projects back up and going.

We are reactivating the Food of the Month collection for the Hooksett Community Food Pantry. The food item for April will be boxed mashed potatoes.

The Snacks for Schools project is still being utilized in the Hooksett school system. Kathy Tilton has been our contact with the schools these many years; as things continue to open up we anticipate this need may increase again.

On April 3rd, we will be doing a collection for One Great Hour of Sharing. This supports people in need nationally and worldwide, those who are suffering

from things like the wildfires out West, and the tornados that have ravaged the South.

Missions has also joined the National UCC in its efforts to raise money for the Ukraine Relief Fund. The UCC/Church World Services, is part of the ACT Alliance. ACT stands for Action by Churches Together – it has 145 church and church affiliate members from over 120 countries. Through ACT, CWS will partner with Hungarian Interchurch Aid, assisting refugees at the Ukrainian-Hungarian border. CWS has also deployed a small team of experts to Moldova and Romania to assess the situation and growing needs of Ukrainians fleeing the violence. They anticipate that their expertise in child protection may be needed, 89% of the Ukrainian refugees crossing into Moldova, for example, are women and children. In addition to child protection, CWS is identifying other opportunities to aid Ukrainians and the local communities who receive them, such as, health care, food, shelter, livelihoods, water, sanitation and cash assistance.

So far we have received \$625 for the Ukraine Relief Fund, Thank you so much!! Anyone wishing to make a donation can make a check payable to our church with the Ukraine Relief Fund written in the memo section. There are blue and yellow ribbons available at church for anyone who wishes to take one.

Also included in our planning for this year is the Crop Walk, Thanksgiving Baskets, and of course, the Angel Tree.

Thank you for all the support you give us,
Bonnie Boucher, Kristen Hamilton, Pam Hennessey, Vicky Karels, Kathleen Murphy and Kathy Tilton

From the Peace and Justice Committee:

Thank you to Joanne Varga for her wonderful speech on March 20th about Selma. We hope to have more guest speakers like Joanne in the future. If you have ideas for guest speakers, please let one of us (John, Heather, Vicky) know!

From the Music Committee:

The music on our Sunday services has been great with Jon playing the piano and Heather singing. Members of the Choir will be singing on Easter - Hallelujah! Anyone is welcome to join us. We practice before church on Sundays from 9:25-9:45 in the Sanctuary. Masks are optional. We will sing one anthem on Easter Sunday. Regular choir will resume in the fall.

From the Prayer Team:

Heavenly Father, we raise our church to You. We are facing uncertain times, but we have confidence that You will guide us as we try to find our way forward together. We ask that You infuse Your Holy Spirit into our relationships, our worship and our fellowship at the Congregational Church of Hooksett and in Your church everywhere. Help us to draw the strength we need from Your Holy Spirit to do the work that has been laid out for us in

response to Your ever faithful love and mercy. We pray that You bring into our midst a pastor who will help us to live out our calling to be Your people—Your hands and feet in this world and especially in our community. Lead us to the person who can shepherd this congregation. Give us the fortitude and courage to persevere through the financial hardships and through the challenges of worship during Covid, trusting that You will make a way for us. Open our eyes and our hearts to Your guidance. We know that You are watching, caring, and guiding us as we enter with optimism and faith into this new time in our church. Help us to extend welcoming hands to our neighbors. Help us to be a place where people feel Your love and acceptance. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Other News

FLEA MARKET

The Trustees will be holding a Flea Market on Saturday, May 7th, from 9am to 1pm. Set-up will start at 8am. It costs \$20 for a spot, plus \$5 to rent a table. You may bring your own table.

We are still planning the event, but we wanted to make you all aware of it, so that you can start your spring cleaning! It is the same weekend that the Vietnam Wall is going to be at Donati Field, so we hope to draw “shoppers” from that display.

We are also planning on having a Bake Sale that day. We would appreciate donations of baked goods from our church family, so that we have plenty of goodies to sell. We plan to have a Hotdog & Beverage Stand at lunchtime, as well as a Coffee Stand all day. If we can get donations of new items or gift cards, we could also have a raffle. If you have any other suggestions for the day, please pass them on to any Trustee.

There are only 7 members of the Trustees, so if you would like to be an “honorary” Trustee for the day, we could use your help...doing set-up, working at a stand, or doing clean-up. All proceeds for the day will go into the general fund.

GLASSWARE

The church is in possession of a set of vintage Thumbprint Ruby glassware. There are a total of 61 pieces of glasses, dishes and other serving pieces. This set will be on sale online for \$375. However, church members who are interested can purchase it for \$325. Proceeds will go into the general fund.

