

# Congregational Church of Hooksett

## February 2023 Newsletter



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Hooksett

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## Kerry's Corner

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Do you ever wonder why we do what we do and when we do it in a worship service? Or for that matter why the time of year?

In the coming months I will begin highlighting a point in the worship service or a particular relevance of the week or month as it pertains to the Biblical calendar.

One of the things you might have noticed is that the Order of Worship has taken on a new look. I have removed some things and added others. One of the reasons is that the service should flow with a purpose. For example, the candles. The candles represent the light of God, or the presence of God. Each Sunday we will be bringing the light into the Sanctuary after the welcome and announcements. At the end of the service (at least within the Sanctuary) we will take the light out into the world, only to return it the following Sunday. Why? You ask. God calls us to be the light of the world, that we are to "shine" for his service, we are called to be that light in ALL of those we meet during our time out in the world. I believe that we come back into worship to be reenergized, renewed with God's spirit so that we may go out again. Let's admit it, we all need to be "recharged". That's why we have vacations or retreats, so that we may clear our minds and hearts of the everyday pressures and doubts that can plague us.

So the next time you see that light enter the Sanctuary, know that God has entered the building and is ready to help you in any way you can imagine.

## Lectionary Readings for February

### February 5

#### 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:19a (9b-12)

Psalms 112:1-9 (10)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

### February 12

#### 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15

or

Sirach 15:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

### February 19

#### Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2 or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

### February 22

#### Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:2-1, 12-17

or

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### February 26

#### First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

The other thing that I want to mention is that we will be doing a Lenten gathering. I am being cautious not to call it a study, but if that's what it becomes than it shall be that. I have purchased some booklets entitled "The Sanctuary for Lent 2023" by Josh Scott. There is a Scripture reading and a reflection, as well as a little suggestion for working with or on the scripture.

My intent is to offer a time to gather to discuss the readings on Wednesdays starting on Wednesday March 1st as Ash Wednesday February 22 will be our start of our Lenten journey. I will offer a time both during the day and evening of each Wednesday, the daytime will be at noon with a bring your own lunch, at 6pm we will have a simple meal of soup and bread. I expect that time will be about an hour or so, it will all depend on you!

I look forward to seeing you at either time, you servant in Christ.  
Pastor Kerry

### From the Diaconate:

#### 1 Peter 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

#### GREETINGS FROM THE DIACONATE

We began this new year with our first meeting in January. As their terms have come to an end, we want to thank Lynn Chevrette and Norm Boucher for the gift of their time on the board. We thank Carole St. Jean, Kathy Carswell and Bonnie Boucher for all their help last year as honorary deacons, who stayed with us after their terms were over. We will miss you and it was an honor to serve with each of you. This year we are grateful to welcome Bonnie Boucher, Kathleen Dube and Mary Ellen Kresel to our team. Looking forward to the year ahead.

Please consider helping us out by signing the sign up board and volunteering to pour coffee and juice during coffee hour, to be ushers and/or worship leaders. If you have questions, speak to a deacon. If you don't find us, we will find you!

This month, we welcomed two new members, Kathy Cruson and Kerrin Gullison to our church family. It was a blessing to baptize Theodore (Teddy) Frank Dailey, son of Hannah and TJ Dailey.

On January 19, 2023, a funeral service was held for Christine L. "Crystal" Francey Gosselin.

On February 12th , we will commission the new boards as we begin another year of serving God's Church in Hooksett.

Prepared to Service, an annual event for Lay Leaders and Clergy will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at Pembroke Academy. The New Hampshire Conference Prepared to Serve, is a daylong event including worship and workshops educating clergy and lay persons on a wide variety of topics. This year will include an installation of our new Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Sara E. Marean. There is a booklet on the bulletin board you can look at, if interested.

Before you know it, the Lenten season will be here and Pastor Kerry has planned an Ash Wednesday service on February 22, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Peace and Blessings,

Bill Andrade	Joan Cote
Bonnie Boucher	Kathleen Dube
Andrea Brown	Mary Ellen Kresel
Walker Brown	Nancy Vaughan
Kim Carbonneau	Paula Vaughn



Help us every time  
you shop Amazon.

## Attention Amazon Shoppers

Amazon Smile Charity Giving  
Program Ends Soon

Thank you to everyone who selected the Congregational Church of Hooksett as your charity for the Amazon Smile giving program. We joined in November of 2021 and your participation has given the church \$214.71 through the end of 2022.

Unfortunately Amazon has chosen to end the program on February 20. Through that date, the Church will still receive donations from your purchases. Thank you for helping to make this gift possible.

Judy Duval

Amazon Smile Coordinator

### From The Hooksett Community Kitchen:

Please join us for the next Hooksett Community Kitchen meal on Monday, February 20th from 5:00-6:00 pm. Our local scout troupe, Troop 603, will be preparing and serving our meal this month. Many thanks for all of their efforts in supporting our monthly meals!



### From the Trustees:

Happy snowy February everyone!

It is with great trepidation that I am writing this Newsletter entry as the new Chairman of the Trustees! You will all have to bear with me during this transition time, but I have a great group of people supporting me on this adventure!



We all want to thank our departing members, Ron Chevrette and Jeff Hamilton. They were both great Trustees during their term(s), but I have to give a special shoutout to Jeff! He was the Chairman for a few years, and he did a terrific job during his tenure. I will have to work hard to even come close to the job that he did!

I also want to welcome our new members, Vicky Karels, Susan Cokkinos, and Cynthia Ross. Also, welcome back Judy Duval, Steve Karels, and Kathy Willis. With this group onboard, we should have a great year!

Great news...the budget passed at the Annual Meeting! Thank you all for your support.

Tai Chi classes are being held at the church every week. There are a few people from church attending the classes. Get out and join them!

We are trying to “gather up” all the elusive keys out there! If you no longer are on a committee, or aren’t doing any work at the church, could you please return your key to the church/me. We need them to pass on to the new committee members. Thanks so much!

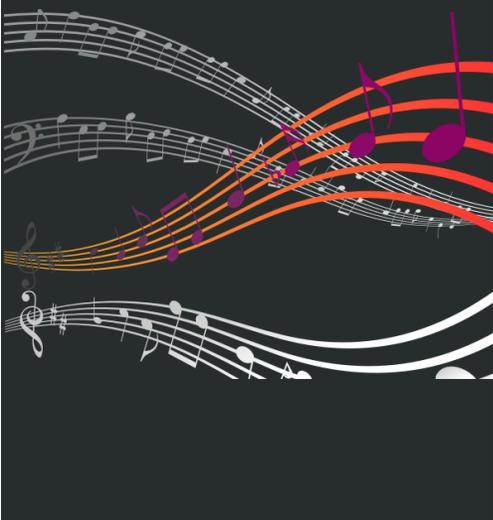
NEEDS: If you have any suggestions for something that is needed at the church, please let any Trustee know. This could be a thing, a group, an event, etc. We look forward to hearing from you!

We hope to have the garage roof replaced this spring. Jeff Hamilton and Todd Rainier have agreed to work on this project. They will be looking for some helpers!

We are toying with the idea of having a church-wide yard sale in late spring/early summer. Please start cleaning out your cellars, sheds, closets, cars, pockets, etc. We will need lots of help when the time comes. Hopefully, we can get every committee/group in the church thinking of things to supplement the yard sale. Please raise your arm high when the time comes....get involved, as it’s how you get to know people! We are also looking for other fundraising ideas from the church members. If you have any ideas, please let us know about them. We need everyone’s ideas, support, and help!

Thanks for reading my “ramblings”!  
 God willing, you will hear from me again in March!  
 Sally Gehris

## January's Hooksett Food Bank Collection is Cereal



### From The Community Outreach Committee:

We would like to introduce you to our newly named Community Outreach Committee! This committee was formerly known as the Missions and Peace and Justice committees. Our beliefs lie in the ability to help both local and global communities thrive. As we begin our first full month of committee work, we will set up a plan to offset a variety of needs such as supplies for David's House and the Hooksett Food Pantry. We will also begin to plan our year and hope to share our ideas with you soon. We will meet in the vestry at 11:30 on Sunday, February 5th. If you have thoughts that you would like to contribute or you just want to be a part of the conversation please attend!

Blessings,

Bonnie Boucher, Kathleen Murphy, Kathleen Dube, and Kristen Hamilton  
Community Outreach

### From The Music Committee:

The Music Committee would like to welcome Candy Murphy as the Choir Representative to the committee. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude for the contributions and dedication of Robin Boyd to our music program as she channels her talents to serve our church in other ways.

February is Black History Month. The importance of the contributions of African Americans to music is undeniable in many genres and the same is true in the music that is such an important part of our worship. This month we will be singing selections that originated from the African American community, or are composed, arranged, or written by African Americans.

Following are the upcoming hymns for February. The ones with an asterisk are attributed to African Americans in addition to the Doxology. We hope you enjoy singing them and appreciate their origin as much as the Music Committee enjoyed choosing them. "Lift Every Voice and Sing!!"\*

February 5

#522 I'm So Glad\*

Choir Anthem: God of Grace and God of Glory

#684 Precious Lord\*

#460 Let Us Break Bread Together\*

#This Little Light of Mine (Insert)\*

February 12

#624 His Eye is on the Sparrow\*

Choir Anthem: I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go

#389 Spirit of the Living God\*

## #428 In Christ There is No East and West\*

February 19

#656 Take Time to Be Holy

Choir Anthem: Soon and Very Soon\*

#682 Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

#788 Now Thank we All Our God

February 26

#143 This is My Father's World \*

Choir Anthem: Come Now is the Time to Worship

#282 Every Time I Feel the Spirit (supplemental)

#139 Great is Thy Faithfulness\*

[From the Prayer Team:](#)

The Prayer Team is excited about returning to in person prayer time! We invite any and all who would like to share in prayer with us on the fourth Sunday of each month. We gather in the vestry after fellowship time in a relaxed and open time of reflection and prayer. Personal prayer is powerful and important but there is something about sharing that time and space with others that is so special. "When you pray, He listens. Then He answers your prayers in the form of thoughts, spiritual feelings, scripture, or even the actions of other people." (anonymous) Let us all be a part of that wonderful mystery.

## A Prayer for Black History Month

Spirit of Abundance, God of Grace, Mother of Hope,  
We pause now to remember those stories that are all around us,  
But so often passed over,

Those stories that when told are shared because  
Of what someone is, not who they are.

This month in our nation's character  
Is Black History month.

Help us to realize that Black history is  
All our histories.

May the day come when these stories  
Are so wildly taught that no month need  
Be separately divided.

We know this day will not come until we as a people  
Make different choices.

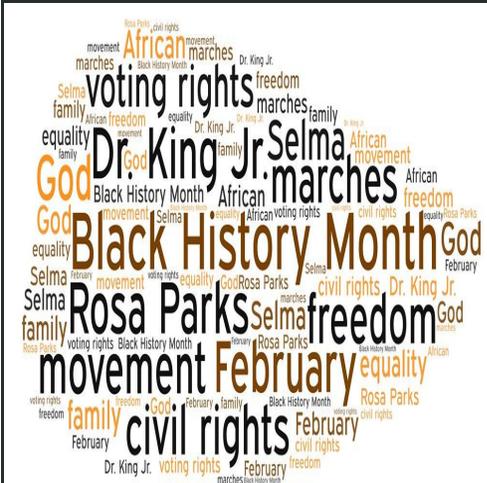
We pray now for those new choices.

May we come to see a day where the prison system  
Becomes redemptive, not punitive.

A day where the legal system learns to focus more squarely on the facts,  
And the not colors of our skin.

A day where our schools are as well funded, as the needs demand.

May our role models be allowed to excel when they thrive,  
And not be taken down for their rich heritage.



We know this will require a shift in power.  
And this can be scary for some.  
Give those full of fear - hope.  
May we come to know grace,  
So that our hearts will not be hardened to the pain around us.  
There are so many beautiful stories needing to be told.  
And we need to get the chance to hear them.  
Widen our vision so that the history that is shared this month,  
And every month,  
Come to be known as our history too.  
We are most human when we see the humanity in others.  
- Author Unknown  
*(From Jesuitresource.org, a development of The Center for Mission and Identity at Xavier University)*

### Other News:

Want to know what is going on throughout the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ? Click this link to sign up for their weekly digital newsletter:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9kct9zj>

