

Congregational Church of Hooksett

March 2023 Newsletter



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Kerry's Corner

Greetings, as we turn yet another page of the calendar, we enter into March. For us the Month of March is the season of Lent but it is so much more. This is when we give to the One Great Hour of Sharing, what is the One Great Hour of Sharing you ask, well, it is how the United Church of Christ responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Our gifts to this offering carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. Through the work of local churches, conferences and international partners and organization, the OGHS provides sources of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit loans, advocacy, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, emergency relief and rehabilitation as well as disaster preparedness and response.

March is also Women's History Month, a time when we look at not just the struggles of women, but how much they have contributed to the world. And still do.

March is also about a new beginning, the snow starts to disappear, thoughts of planting and working the soil. It's time to start over.

Lent is about looking back as well as forward, we look back at our behavior and in some cases ask for forgiveness of our sins. This can be a very Graced filled moment, we are given God's grace, we are forgiven, and we are given an opportunity to extend that Grace to others not just the ones we have hurt, but to all mankind.

Jan Bordeleau, Guest
Accompanist

Lectionary Readings for March

March 5

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

March 12

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 19

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

March 25

Annunciation of the Lord

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 45 or Psalms 40:5-10

Hebrews 10:4-10

Luke 1:26-38

We will be meeting on Wednesdays at noon and 6 pm for the month of March to explore The Sanctuary for Lent 2023, a booklet by Josh Scott. I hope you will join us. Each meeting will be something new so don't worry if you miss one (ok or two) you are always welcome!! The 6pm gathering will include soup and bread!

I hope you will accompany me on the Lenten journey as we walk towards the Cross....

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Kerry

From the Diaconate:

John 16:20

Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy:

GREETINGS FROM THE DIACONATE

The Lenten season has begun, and there will be special weekly opportunities to prepare ourselves as we look forward to the remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection. Pastor Kerry will host one-hour discussion sessions each Wednesday from March 1 through Lent. Participants can choose between a daytime session offered at noon and an evening session at 6:00pm. Each session will feature a discussion on daily brief readings contained in the booklet "The Sanctuary for Lent 2023" by Josh Scott. Copies of the booklet can be found on the welcome table by the door to the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend these sessions.

In the new year, the Diaconate has changed the order of when the candles on the altar are lit. Previously, as congregants entered the church before the service, the altar candles were already lit. The Diaconate felt it important for all to experience the light of Christ brought into the church, and the lighting of the altar candles – for each of us to be aware we are the light of the world. At the conclusion of the service, the candles are extinguished, and the light is carried out of the church - signifying we are to carry the light with us as we go out, and do God's work in our community.

The Diaconate is planning for the following services in the month of April; Palm Sunday is April 2 followed by a special Brunch, April 6 is Maundy Thursday, Good Friday is April 7. Easter Sunday, April 9, we will hold a Sunrise Service at 6:14am followed by coffee & snacks, and the regular service held at 10:00am with no Fellowship Hour afterward.

The Diaconate appreciates all the volunteers who assist each Sunday by pouring coffee for congregants during our post service Fellowship Hours.

Many have shared that by doing so has been a great way to get to know others! We also are very thankful for all donations received each week to help defray the cost of refreshments. Please consider volunteering for an occasional Sunday Fellowship Hour; you can choose a Sunday and place your name on the Sign-Up Chart in Fellowship Hall.

Peace and Blessings,

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

From The Hooksett Community Kitchen:

The next Hooksett Community Kitchen meal will be prepared by the Hooksett Lions Club on Monday, March 20th from 5-6 pm. The menu will include Beef Stew, Concannon potatoes, Irish Soda Bread, Dessert, and Beverages. All are welcome - please come and bring a friend!



From the Trustees:

Hang in there.....the first day of Spring is right around the corner!!! I, for one, can't wait to see the tulips popping out of the ground!

Lots of things going on:

*The Annual Audit is being completed by our Auditor, Nancy Vaughn.

*Tai Chi is being held every week.

*603 Pest Control conducted their quarterly pest inspection.....all was well!

*We are looking into changing the locks on all the doors. We will then be issuing new keys to the members that are presently on boards and committees.



*We had the kitchen stove professionally cleaned. It looks great! In the future we will be charging a cleaning fee to any organization that uses it and does not clean it properly.

*Kiwanis will be holding an All You Can Eat Breakfast on 4/22 from 8am-10am in our Dining Room.

*We are looking into installing security cameras and additional lighting on the exterior of the church, vestry, dining room, the office area, parking lot, and grounds.

*Fundraising: We are still waiting to hear from you with ideas for fundraising. Please "Step up" and pass on your ideas. We are presently planning on a church-wide yard sale in late spring. So, do your "Spring Cleaning" and put everything aside. If you have things that you want to part with now, feel free to bring them to church and put them in the basement under the church. Just let a Trustee know that you have stuff to store here. We will be needing help with the sale when the time comes. 7 Trustees can't do it all, as we hope to make this a big event.

*Church Directory: Jacki will be creating a form for everyone to fill out. so that she can put together a new Directory for us. The one that we have is very out-of-date! Please complete a form and leave it at church or email it to Jacki. The sooner that everyone returns their form, the sooner that she can complete this for us. We will need your address, home phone number, cell phone number, and email address.

March's Hooksett Food Bank Collection is Canned Fruit



From The Community Outreach Committee:

Greetings!

This past month the Community Outreach Committee met and began to plan out the year for different mission work. One of our first collections this year was for earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria. In the early hours of February 6th, 2023, two large earthquakes completely shook up parts of these two countries. The death toll is beyond 50,000 with many people still unaccounted for and millions that are still homeless. With our church's three week collection we are able to send \$515 through the UCC to help those in need. If you would still like to contribute, you can click [here](#) to be

directed to the UCC Earthquake donation page or text UCCDISASTER to 41444 using your smartphone.

In March, the committee plans to do two collections. The first is in tandem with the Prayer Team. This collection will be for members of our church family that can't make it to church. We will be sending cards and Easter flowers in hopes to lift prayers, and spirits. Our second collection is for One Great Hour of Sharing. This collection, through the UCC provides assistance for refugee, disaster and development ministries. More information about what day we will do this is on its way!

In addition, we are still sending supplies to David's House in Lebanon, NH. David's House helps families with children who are receiving treatments through the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. David's House provides a "home-away-from-home" feel and offers support during a tumultuous time for these families. If you are wondering how you can help, here is a [list of items](#) they need.

Last, our food collection for March is **CANNED FRUIT** for the Hooksett Food Pantry.

As a committee we thank you all for your contributions whether they are monetary, time or prayers for those who need it.

Kathleen Dube, Kathleen Murphy, Bonnie Boucher, Kristen Hamilton

From The Music Committee:

The music committee would like to extend a warm welcome to Jan Bordeleau who has been hired as our organist/accompanist through Easter. We would also like to extend loving gratitude to Donna Marshall who has agreed to direct the choir through Easter as well. March is Women's History Month commemorating and honoring the important role of women in American history. The inclusion of "I am a Woman" and "What Child is This?" in our March 5 hymn selection is in celebration of women in our history and our present. We hope you enjoy our musical selections for March. Please let us know if there is something you would like to hear!

March 5
730 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
452 I Am a Woman
413 Break Thou the Bread of Life
281 What Child is This?

March 12



429 They'll Know We are Christians
 750 Peace Like a River
 493 Oh Jesus I Have Promised

March 19
 391 Down to the River
 488 Just as I Am
 343 Amazing Grace

March 26
 450 Lift High the Cross
 320 Beneath the Cross of Jesus
 733 Once to Every Man and Nation

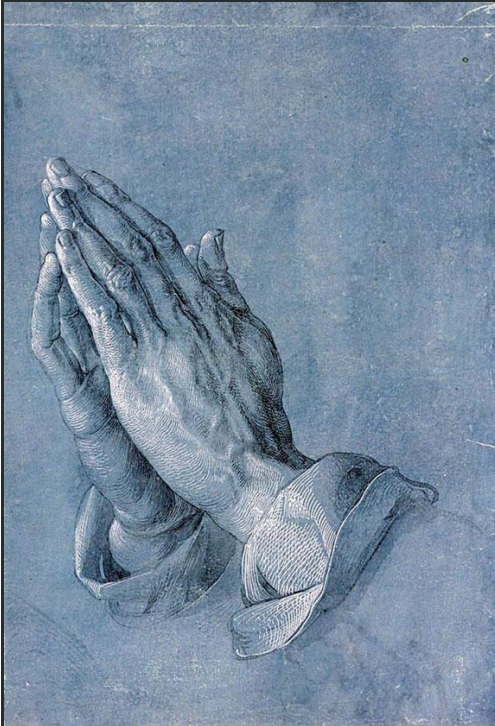
From the Prayer Team:

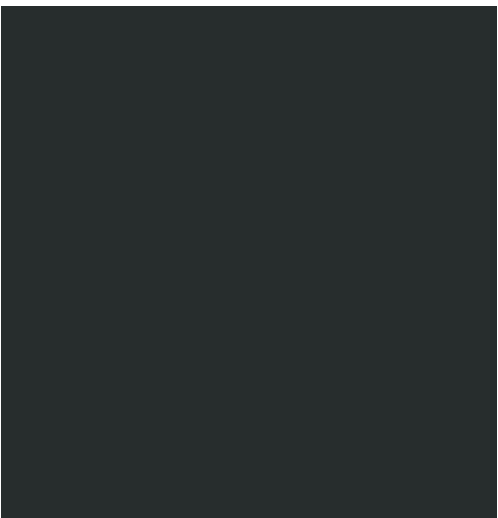
Lord, open our hearts as we journey through this season of lent, so that we may embrace the challenges and opportunities of the coming days to turn our thoughts back to You. Hold us in your warm embrace and help us to feel the love and blessings that You have for each one of us, knowing that because of your love there are those around who care for us and will hold us close in prayer. Help us to let go of whatever feelings hold us back and apart from You and to recognize each chance that You put before us for healing and wholeness. Give us the strength to find peace and happiness in the midst of our uncertain lives, making open spaces in our hearts and then letting go and trusting that you will do the rest. Be with us in our waking and our sleeping and help us to be blessings to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

The prayer team meets the fourth Sunday of each month in the vestry at about 11:30 after the Sunday service. Anyone is welcome to come and be with us as we pray together. As always, we are here for anyone who would like us to pray with them or for them. There are prayer cards in the pews and a box to collect them on the welcome table in the vestry. We can also be reached at prayer@hooksettucc.org

It is an honor and privilege to pray for our friends, loved ones and those we will never meet. God bless.

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>

