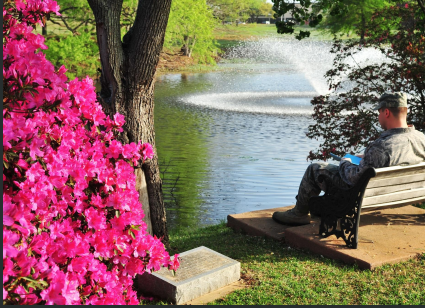


# Congregational Church of Hooksett

## April 2023 Newsletter



## Contact Us

Congregational Church of  
Hooksett

5 Veterans Drive

Hooksett, NH 03106

(603) 485 - 9009

[office@hooksettucc.org](mailto:office@hooksettucc.org)

[www.hooksettucc.org](http://www.hooksettucc.org)

Rev. Kerry Richardson,

Interim Pastor

[pastor@hooksettucc.org](mailto:pastor@hooksettucc.org)

Jacki Mead, Admin. Asst.

[office@hooksettucc.org](mailto:office@hooksettucc.org)

Donna Marshall, Interim

Choir Director

[hooksettdmarshall@gmail.c](mailto:hooksettdmarshall@gmail.com)

[om](mailto:om)

## Kerry's Corner

Greetings friends, I have been enjoying gathering every Wednesday at noon and 6pm to discuss "The Sanctuary for Lent 2023". It has been at least for me a wonderful way to look at the 40 days of fasting and repentance. But fear not if you were unable to attend any of these gatherings, you have an opportunity to join me on Palm Sunday as we begin the journey to the cross. We will gather on Maundy Thursday at 7pm, I will have the Sanctuary open on Good Friday from 10-2 pm and then we will gather at 6am on Easter morning, or at 10 if 6 is just too early!

As spring approaches and we begin to uncover the dead of winter from our gardens and yards, I would like to offer this, what if we were to look at that process as a metaphor for our own lives? As we remove those things that can not be seen, we can respond with awe, fear, excitement, surprise for beneath it all is signs of new life. How we respond to that discovery will make all the difference in our lives.

Just as the journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter has gone from darkness to hope and new life, so have we. May we share with all, the blessing of being a resurrected people.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Kerry

Jan Bordeleau, Guest  
Accompanist

## Lectionary Readings for

### April

#### April 2

##### Liturgy of Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66 or

Matthew 27:11-54

#### April 9

##### Easter Vigil

Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm

136:1-9, 23-26

Genesis 7:1-5,

11-18;8:6-18;9:8-13 and Psalm

46

Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16

Exodus 14:10-31;15:20-21 and

15:1b-13, 17-18

Isaiah 55:1-11 and 12:2-6

Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32-4:4 or

Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21;9:4b-6

and Psalm 19

Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Psalm 42,

43

Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143

Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Psalm

98

#### NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 6:3-11 and Psalm 114

#### GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

#### April 16

##### Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

## From the Diaconate:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Greetings from the Diaconate,

We got off to a slow start with the canceling of our Ash Wednesday Service due to bad weather. However, the Lenten Booklet and study groups are going quite well. Between the two groups, we have 17 people enjoying thoughtful discussions either in the afternoon or evening studies. We give thanks to God for sending us Pastor Kerry, a strong leader, to walk with us during our season of Lent.

Please mark your calendars as we begin Holy Week and join us for the following services:

April 2nd Palm Sunday Service and Palm Sunday Brunch immediately following service.

April 6th Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

April 7th Good Friday The church will be open from 10:00am to 2:00pm for reflection.

April 9th Easter Sunrise 6:14 am, in the parking lot of our church followed by coffee and breakfast goodies.

April 9th Easter Service 10:00 am

If you choose, please feel free to bring flowers to place on the altar and take them home after service.

Lenten Blessings to all of us!

The Deacons

Bill Andrade

Joan Cote

Bonnie Boucher

Kathleen Dube

Andrea Brown

Mary Ellen Kresel

Walker Brown

Nancy Vaughan

Kim Fischer

Paula Vaughn

## From The Hooksett Community Kitchen:

The next Hooksett Community Kitchen meal will be on Monday, April 17th from 5-6 pm. The "Breakfast for Supper" menu features French toast casserole, sausage, fruit salad, dessert, and beverages. We hope you will join us and bring a friend or neighbor with you!

Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

April 23

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35

April 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-0



## From the Trustees:

Welcome to Spring everyone!!

Along with the warmer weather and lower heating bills, comes Clean-up Day. We will be cleaning the grounds and inside the building. There will be something for everyone to do. We haven't set a day or time yet, but we will be looking for help from all of you when the time comes. Please try to join in the fun!

We recently voted to use Oxford Documents to do our background checks. This is the same company that the Conference uses.

We also voted to allow the Hooksett Lions Club to use our Dining Hall for their monthly meeting on 4/5 at 6:30 pm. They will be having a speaker from NH Homeland Security and Emergency Mgt. The speaker's name is Vanessa Palange. You all are welcome to attend, so please join them.

**FUNDRAISING:** We have been discussing ideas for our fundraising this year. We hope to have a Trifle Sunday in April or May, a Pound Auction, a Bake Sale, and of course our big one....the Yard Sale/Flea Market/Raffle/Bake Sale/Hot Dog Stand/etc, etc!!! We only have 6 Trustees presently, so we will be looking for a lot of help from all of you! Remember, many hands make light work!!! If anyone would like to be the Chair of any of these projects, please don't hesitate to stand up and raise your hand. Also, if you have any other ideas for us to try, please let us know! We are all in this together!

By the way, if anyone out there would like to be a Trustee, please let anyone on the Nominating Committee know, and they will make it happen! (You can tell me, as I am on that committee too.)

Our next meeting is April 5 th at 7pm. You all are welcome to attend.

Sally Gehris, Chairman

## From The Community Outreach Committee:

Our committee (formerly known as Missions Committee) continues to work on ways to reach out and assist people in need in our community. This community consists of our church, town, state, nation, and the world.

The food collection for April is small canned meat. This goes directly to the Hooksett Food Pantry. Donations can be brought to the church.

The Prayer Team, Outreach Committee, and the generosity of church members have made it possible to send some Easter flowers to those members of our church who could use a little extra cheer during this season.

There have also been 2 large donations of supplies to David's House in Lebanon, NH. We continue to collect items and a list can be found near the contribution box at church. Thanks to Pastor Kerry and Mary Ellen Kresel for delivering them to Lebanon!

The "Sox for Socks" campaign was kicked off by John Vaughn and we will be collecting new, white socks (sizes 9 -12 are most needed) to be distributed to shelters and other places of need. This collection will take place throughout the month of April. John has let us know that he will attempt to make "Sox cookies" to be sampled on Sunday, April 30th! Sounds interesting...thanks John!

As noted last month, our church collected over \$500.00 for the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey. This is just another example of the ways we can make a difference in our world!

As you can see, this is a generous and loving congregation.

Luke 6:38 says "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Faithfully submitted,  
Bonnie Boucher, Kathleen Dube,  
Kristin Hamilton ,and Kathleen Murphy



## April's Hooksett Food Bank Collection is Canned Meat



### From The Music Committee:

As with all of our church's special days, music is such a vital part of our Easter Celebration! It helps to set the tone from exciting to somber to joyous as we walk through Holy Week together.

Did you know these interesting facts about Handel and his "Messiah"? This from The Tabernacle Choir Blog...

*In 1741, Handel was heavily in debt following a string of musical failures. It seemed that his career was over and he may even be forced to go to debtors' prison. On April 8, 1741, Handel gave what he believed to be his final concert.*

*Later that year, two key events changed the course of Handel's life and the landscape of music forever—his friend Charles Jennens wrote a libretto taken from the Bible, based on the life of Jesus Christ, and gave it to Handel. Then, Handel was given funding by a group of charities from Dublin, Ireland, to compose a new work for a benefit performance that would help free men from debtors' prison. Handel would also receive his own commission for composing the work, which in turn helped him on his path to reversing his own misfortune.*

*The composition of Messiah, the complete 260-page oratorio, began on August 22, 1741, and was composed in just 24 days, when Handel finished the final orchestration on September 14, 1741.*

*Handel composed "Messiah" without getting much sleep or even eating much food. When his assistants brought him his meals, they were often left uneaten. His servants would often find him in tears as he composed. When he completed "Hallelujah," he reportedly told his servant, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself seated on His throne, with His company of Angels."*

We hope you enjoy the musical choices for April. If there is a favorite of yours that you haven't heard for awhile, please let someone on the committee know!

April 2

What Wondrous Love is This #314

The Old Rugged Cross #327

Ride on, Ride on in Majesty SH #215





April 9

Christ the Lord is Risen Today #367

In the Garden #635

Christ Arose #357

Hallelujah Chorus

April 16

When Morning Gilds the Skies #215

Because He Lives #358

In My Heart There Rings a Melody #502

April 23

God Will Take Care of You #692

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult #592

I Love to Tell the Story #444

April 30

The Servant Song #424

The Lord's My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want #694

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds #426

To learn more about Handel's Messiah, check out [The Tabernacle Choir Blog](#).

### [From the Prayer Team:](#)

Lord, we look around at your creation and marvel at your workmanship. Each delicate, intricate design reminds us of your incredible love for us and your infinite wisdom. As the buds begin to appear on the trees, we are reminded that you can bring life from what appears to be lifeless. You can bring hope to what appears to be hopeless. You can see forever with a perspective that is beyond our comprehension. We look around at your people and recognize the marvel of creation in all its diversity and beauty. We thank you for the work of your hands. But, we also look around and see the ways that this world has fallen. In the ways that we have fallen short in the stewardship of your earth and in the ways that we have fallen short in tolerance, acceptance, and love for one another. We recognize that we need your presence in our lives in order to make it through. We need your strength, your healing, your protection, and the guidance of your Holy Spirit



if we are to navigate this life at all. Give us the wisdom to trust in you today. Give us the patience to trust in your tomorrow—knowing that you are at work although at times we do not have the eyes to see. Help us to remain steadfast in our faith in the face of a world full of turmoil and tribulation—knowing deep in our spirits that you are God and you are good. In the name of Jesus we pray. AMEN

The prayer group meets in the vestry on the fourth Sunday of each month. Everyone is invited. If you or someone you know is in need of prayers you can contact us at [prayer@hooksettucc.org](mailto:prayer@hooksettucc.org) or fill out a prayer card found on the welcome table in the vestry or in each pew in the sanctuary. Spring blessings!!

### [From the Christian Education Team:](#)

Hello!

This past month our church's youth have practiced becoming stronger believers in God's Word. Lessons in March focused on different topics such as what is missing in our lives, miracles, what it means to see clearly, and lifting others up. Most lessons parallel the week's sermon topic with high interest activities. If you would like to know more about christian youth education in our church or would like to be a part of the teaching team please contact us at [ce@hooksettucc.org](mailto:ce@hooksettucc.org).

Jeff Hamilton, Lynn Baker, Kristen Hamilton

### [Other News:](#)

#### Main Street Connections BNI Meetings

Tony LaCasse leads this local group of business professionals at the church every Wednesday morning from 7:15-9am. This is a business networking and business growth group open to entrepreneurs, small businesses, sales people, professional services, construction, trades, etc. The group follows the BNI model for their business meetings which focuses on providing referral opportunities for one profession in separate industries and professions who choose to be a member in the business group. For example, our church member Tony LaCasse is a residential real estate professional and holds the residential real estate seat in this professional business group. This group is exclusive to each profession which allows each profession the opportunity to build strong foundational business relationships with the other business professionals in the group. Business Visitors are always welcome to attend meetings! This is

a great way for businesses to build great referrals through relationships and individuals who come into contact with your future clients! The premise of this group is to have 20+ other professionals hearing for business opportunities for you! The best way to hear about these opportunities is to get to know your business, target audience, services provided and your "Why". There is a portion of the meeting where members present their 60 second elevator pitch to the group as well as provide an "ask" for that week to the group. This "ask" might be to get connected with a specific builder or landscaper etc. The group will then support that member and provide a connection to that professional and so on. A business education piece happens as well during the meeting. There is open networking before and afterwards.

If you are in need of a handyman, electrician, plumber, landscaper, financial advisor, insurance, roofer, etc. reach out to Tony LaCasse and he would be glad to provide you trusted and verified professionals for your needs! If you think you might know someone who might benefit from visiting and or joining this business group, have them get in contact with Tony LaCasse!

Tony LaCasse  
Realtor  
Keller Williams Metropolitan  
603.716.5769  
[themainstreetman@kw.com](mailto:themainstreetman@kw.com)

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/y9kct9zi>



