

# Congregational Church of Hooksett

## May 2023 Newsletter



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Hooksett

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## Kerry's Corner

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ,

I would like to start with how pleased I was with the participation during the Lenten season and through Holy Week. I hope that you found it as interesting and at times challenging as I did.

While we are still in the Easter season, I am reminded that for the next few weeks through scripture we will be receiving the instructions for how to go out into the world in the name of Jesus, just as his disciples did so long ago. I am looking forward to the journey with you.

May is a busy month for a lot of us, some will be following the migration route from warm weather to the north, others are coming to the end of their work time and entering a season of R&R for a few months. Oh, and let us not forget Mother's Day, I did that once, HUGE mistake...never did that again!

May is also an opportunity for you and me to share how things are going with me as your Pastor, and for me to share my thoughts as well. I do hope that you will take some time and fill out the survey that will be coming out. I urge you to use this time to express your thoughts and ideas on what and how I (we) might expand our faith as well as our faith community. I look forward to hearing from you.

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Kerry

Jan Bordeleau,  
Accompanist

## Lectionary Readings for May

### May 7

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

### May 14

#### Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

### May 21

#### Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

### May 28

#### Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers

11:24-30

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts

2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

## From the Diaconate:

Acts 2:33

Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit he has poured out this that you yourselves are hearing and seeing:

### GREETINGS FROM THE DIACONATE

Closing out the Lenten season, Palm Sunday began a special and solemn week of services and prayer bringing us to Easter Sunday, when a Sunrise Service and Easter Service enabled us to be together commemorating the resurrection of Christ. We want to take a moment to show appreciation for the efforts of those who put on a terrific Palm Sunday Brunch for our congregation. The team of men, led by Norm Boucher, took time to plan, prepare and serve a delicious and soul nourishing meal which was enjoyed by many. We also want to thank Jeff Hamilton for setting up the cross prior to Easter morning. Thank you all for your service to the church community.

Coming up this month on May 14th, Mother's Day, we continue our tradition of honoring and remembering the mothers in our lives by providing the congregation with red, white and pink carnations. Carnations were the favorite flower of the Mom who inspired the establishment of Mother's Day. The month concludes with Pentecost Sunday on May 28th which falls on Memorial Day weekend. The color red symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit that dwells in us all, and the wearing of red is encouraged as we will decorate our church in red.

The Diaconate invites all to participate in opportunities to serve our church and community. Beginning in May, we will pass through the congregation a 'calendar' of openings for Sunday services. Each month we seek Worship Leaders to assist our Pastor during the services, and Ushers to greet congregants, distribute service bulletins, and collect the Sunday Offering. You may volunteer by placing your name in the role you'd prefer, on a date of your choosing. If you would like more information about these tasks, please seek out a member of the Diaconate.

Peace and Blessings,

The Deacons

Bill Andrade

Joan Cote

Bonnie Boucher

Kathleen Dube

Andrea Brown

Mary Ellen Kresel

Walker Brown

Nancy Vaughan

Kim Fischer

Paula Vaughn

TRUSTEES WANTED!!! We are looking for a few good men, or women, to join the Trustees. If you have any questions about our committee, please don't hesitate to ask.

## May's Hooksett Food Bank Collection is Tuna



We will be having a Trifle Sunday on 5/21 after church. We look forward to having a variety of flavors for you all to taste. If you would like to make a special trifle to share with everyone, feel free! We will be asking for donations towards the purchase of the new keys for the buildings.

### From The Community Outreach Committee:

Hello and Happy May!

What a blessing to see buds blooming on the trees, plump robins hopping around and tulips starting to emerge. We have a lot to be thankful for as Spring blooms around us. The Community Outreach committee is equally thankful for a church community that is so giving. Since January of this year our church has provided for many people near and far as we have given our time or money to those in need. Our efforts have helped toward providing relief for Turkey and Syria earthquake victims, sending flowers to church members in need, providing supplies to David's House, participating in One great Hour of Sharing and giving socks to those who need a little warmth. This most recent Outreach project, Socks for Sox has been a big hit. John Vaughn spearheaded this collection and really knocked it out of the park. We wrapped this sock drive up on April 30th with some old fashion Red Sox style, songs and Cracker Jack.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to April's fifth Sunday collection. The Community Outreach committee will ask for donations every time there is a fifth Sunday in a month. These donations will provide financial help to those in need.

Now that May is here, Community Outreach is excited to bring back Blanket Sunday. Our blanket collection is put on by Church World Services (CWS) and your donations help provide blankets to "our most vulnerable neighbors around the world" (CWS). We will be collecting donations throughout the month of May. Please visit <https://cwsblankets.org> for more information.

As always if you have any questions or want to know more about what was mentioned in this section please reach out to a member or Community Outreach.

Blessings,

Bonnie Boucher, Kathleen Dube, Kathleen Murphy, John Vaughn and Kristen Hamilton



### From The Music Committee:

"Music plays a prominent role throughout scripture. The Israelites sang and danced to celebrate their exodus from Egyptian bondage and the miracle of crossing the Red Sea. David, who early in his life, played music to drive evil spirits away from King Saul, was known as the sweet Psalmist of Israel. God used trumpets and shouting to bring down the walls of Jericho for Joshua. Skilled musicians were appointed for Temple duties and Hebrew celebrations. Prison gates could not keep Paul and Silas from singing and praising God at midnight. Jesus even shared a hymn with his closest disciples shortly before his crucifixion." (<https://wopburlington.org/music/>) Of the 185 songs in the Bible, 150 of them are Psalms. The longest song is 1,732 words. It is Psalm 119. It is an acrostic song whose verses correspond to the Hebrew alphabet from beginning to end. The shortest song is 7 words in 2 Chronicles 5:13.

**The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang:**

**"He is good; his love endures forever."**

If you'd like to learn more about the music of the Bible, check out this interesting graphic website: <https://overviewbible.com/bible-songs/> .  
Interesting stuff! 🎵

Below are the hymns chosen for May.

May 7

33 Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise

592 Jesus Calls Us

460 Let Us Break Bread Together

435 God of Grace and God of Glory

May 14

572 Blessed Assurance

638 I Need Thee Every Hour

793 For the Beauty of the Earth



May 21

630 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

393 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

399 We are God's People

May 28 Pentecost

790 We Gather Together

390 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

809 God of Our Fathers

### From the Prayer Team:

#### *In Honor of Mothers*

***Lord, thank you for my mother. Thank you for placing her in my life, and for the blessing she is to me and my family. Thank you for the godly wisdom that she has instilled in me. Words cannot express the gratefulness I have in my heart for her beauty and spiritual influence in my life. Please continue to bless her and surround her with your grace and favor.***

*We pray for expectant mothers. We ask that you will keep their children safe in their wombs as they patiently await their arrival. Thank you for the joy that they will experience as they prepare for their children's birth. Calm their minds, and strengthen their bodies as they seek to raise their children in your wisdom and truth.*

*Bless all new mothers everywhere. You have given them the blessing of a new life to care for. Please equip them with the grace and wisdom they need to be the best mothers they can be. Surround them with seasoned and experienced mothers who can help them grow in their walk with you, and to grow as new mothers. Give them the strength and encouragement they need each day.*

*We pray for adoptive mothers and/or foster mothers. Thank you for how they faithfully serve you and their children. Thank you that you are the ultimate example of adopting us into your loving family. Thank you for choosing us as your children. I pray that adoptive mothers will hold firmly to the promises in your word, and will continue to look to you for help, hope, and strength as they raise the wonderful children in their care.*



*Bless mothers who are grieving. Whether they are mourning the loss of a baby from the womb, a precious child, or a prodigal son or daughter, comfort them with the strength and comfort that can only come from you. Be ever-present with them during this time of difficulty, and remind them of your never-ending love for them each day.*

*We pray for women who desire to become mothers, but are struggling with infertility. Hold them close in your arms, and give them the comfort and strength they need each day. Let them know that you have not forgotten them, and that you know the desires of their hearts. Restore their mind, body, soul, and spirit. Remind them of your goodness and love for them.*

*Strengthen the faith of all mothers through the power of your word. Help them to put their hope and trust in you, and to call upon your name in prayer each day. Help them to grow in their faith as they spend time studying your word. Illuminate the truth of your scriptures as they read the Bible and gain wisdom and knowledge. In the name of Jesus we pray.  
AMEN*

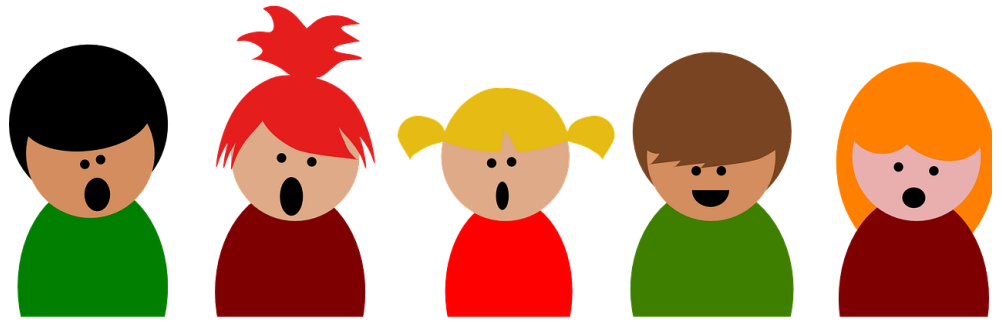
\*These prayers come from "15 Powerful Prayers for Mothers"  
[garmentsofsplendor.com](http://garmentsofsplendor.com)

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:**

April was a very exciting month! Between Easter and April vacation, the kids had a lot to look forward to. During Sunday school this past month they learned how to weave palms and used the story, The Ugly Duckling to talk about kindness and loving themselves. If you would like to help the children be better christians consider teaching Sunday School. We are always looking for creative people and ideas to spread God's Word to our youth. Please reach out to a member of the Christian Education committee.

Blessings,  
Lynn Baker, Jeff Hamilton and Kristen Hamilton



### 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>



