

Congregational Church of Hooksett

July 2023 Newsletter



Happy 4th of July!

Contact Us

Congregational Church of
Hooksett

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Kerry's Corner:

Greetings

I would like to share some of my thoughts with you. First, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the evaluation process of the Pastor (me). I wasn't sure what to expect, but neither was I surprised by the results.

I was hired a year ago as your Interim Pastor, this role is to lead, guide and advise you into your next "settled Pastor". The work involves looking into your past, your present and into the future, who do you want to be? It is about finding out who your neighbor is. Not just the person next door but beyond your own neighborhood or community. A lot of this involves really looking at yourselves, what do you see?

To the point of the evaluation that I would like to make is this, a great deal of the responses had to do with what we have called growing edges for me, what can I change either in me or in the way in which I deliver a particular portion of the worship service. I believe that I have taken a lot of what was written and am trying to incorporate it into my ministry. I would like to point out it is highly unusual for an Interim to be evaluated, but I did request this. I felt it was the only way for me to see what direction we should be headed.

So, to summarize the process, what areas are you willing to change? As with any relationship it is a two-way process. It must be a give and take, but one area that I feel is extremely important in this is conflict resolution. We will not be able to move forward if we do not learn how to agree to disagree and move on for the good of the entire congregation.

Jan Bordeleau,
Accompanist

Lectionary Readings for July

July 2

PROPER 8 (13)

Genesis 22:1-14 and Psalm 13
Jeremiah 28:5-9 and
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

July 9

PROPER 9 (14)

Genesis 24:34-38,
42-49, 58-67
and Psalm 45:10-17
or Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Zechariah 9:9-12 and
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16

PROPER 10 (15)

Genesis 25:19-34 and
Psalm 119:105-112
Isaiah 55:10-13
and Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

I value your input and look forward to hearing from you. Have a great summer!

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Kerry

From the Diaconate:

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path

GREETINGS FROM THE DIACONATE

Finally, Summer is here! We want to thank the congregation for your willingness to go to “summer hours” for Sunday services at 9:00am and 10:00am as Coffee Hour, from June 25th to September 3rd . We will resume our normal 10am service after Labor Day, on September 10th.

In the month of July, Pastor Kerry will be taking some much-deserved time off on the 16th and 23rd. Deacon Kim Fischer will lead our service on the 16th and a guest pastor will be confirmed soon to join us on the 23rd . We will let you know who will be covering for pastoral care needs during Pastor Kerry’s absence. Please reach out to either Joan (603-300-2740) or Nancy (603-566-5658) should you need immediate pastoral care these two weeks in July so arrangements can be made. On the fifth Sunday, July 30th, we will again hold a special collection for Outreach. As a reminder, we are continuing congregant “sponsorship” of the Altar Flowers through the summer months. A sign-up form is posted on the bulletin board.

After thoughtful discussion, the Diaconate has decided it is time for us to retire our current hymnals. As an Open and Affirming church we need a hymnal which reflects more inclusive language, and we feel the New Century Hymnal meets this need. This hymnal is arranged in a more user-friendly way for the Music Committee to easily select relevant music according to liturgical seasons or societal events- yet leaving space for time honored favorites! The Diaconate will accept donations from congregants towards purchase of hymnals which can be designated in Honor or Remembrance of loved ones or special events. The Diaconate is looking into ways to finance the remainder of the number of hymnals needed for our growing congregation. Stay tuned for more details!

Yours in Faith,
Bill Andrade
Bonnie Boucher
Andrea Brown
Walker Brown
Kim Carbonneau

Joan Cote
Kathleen Dube
Mary Ellen Kresel
Paula Vaughn
Nancy Vaughan

July 23

PROPER 11 (16)

Genesis 28:10-19a and
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19
or Isaiah 44:6-8 and
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30

PROPER 12 (17)

Genesis 29:15-28 and
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
or Psalm 128
1 Kings 3:5-12 and
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

From The Hooksett Community Kitchen:

Our July meal on Monday, 7/17 from 5-6 pm will feature pulled chicken, potato salad, macaroni salad, corn on the cob, dessert trifle, and beverages. Special thanks to Susan Cokkinos and her son, Bill and daughter in law, Kellie along with children Brianna and William for preparing the meal. Hope you can join us for this scrumptious summer meal!



From the Trustees:

The Trustees ran a very successful Flea Market/Yard Sale on June 3rd. After expenses, we made \$2,234.24. A few baby items are still being sold on FB Marketplace...every penny counts!

Weeding: Feel free to stop by and do some weeding at the church! 🏰



We are going to be ordering 6 yards of composted soil to be put down, so it would be great to have the weeding completed! We will also be looking for some help spreading and raking the soil. We are looking into installing railings on the front center of the sanctuary. This will help more people have safe access to the altar area.

The locks have all been changed in the church, vestry, dining room, and office area. The new keys have been registered and passed out to all committee members.

Security Lighting: We hope to install security lighting all around the buildings. We are writing an application for a grant to help offset the cost of this. We will keep you updated on this project.

Handicap Signs: We will be installing 2 more (back to back) signs on the island. We removed one from the left front of the garage. We will be installing a "No Parking" sign on the left side, so that there's room for fire trucks 🚒 to get through!

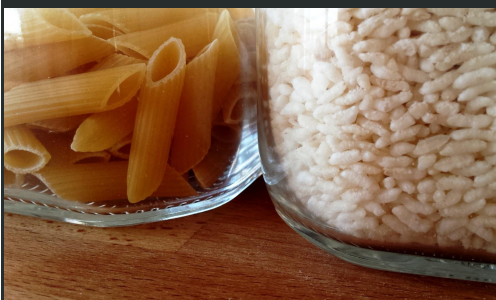
We are implementing a new fundraiser at Savers in Manchester. Please bring in clothes, belts, shoes, hats, jackets, and soft goods that you use in your home, such as blankets, sheets, and curtains, to donate. If you have any questions, contact Susan Cokkinos. 🧢🧤👗👕🧣

If you have any questions or comments about any of these projects, feel free to contact any Trustee.

Sally Gehris



July's Hooksett Food
Bank Collection is
Rice/Pasta



From The Community Outreach Committee:

As we wind down for the summer months, the Community Outreach Committee met on June 13 th and discussed ways in which we could encourage people to contact us about other outreach opportunities within the community like the American Cancer Association and the American Heart Association, who sponsor various events and fundraisers locally throughout the year. There is a possibility that Hooksett Congregational Church could become a part of these efforts and participate at some level. We talked about reaching out to the congregation via this newsletter, emails and announcements during worship service. If anyone does have something that they are passionate about, please let us know. Our next meeting will be August 8 at 6 pm.

Here are some highlights of happenings in June:

The food collection for June was Pancake Mix. July's food will be Rice/Pasta, and August will be Hamburger Helper. Donations go directly to the Hooksett Food Pantry and can be dropped off in the large yellow container located in the church vestry.

Socks for Sox headed up by John and Paula Vaughn was a tremendous success and the 242 pairs of socks were distributed to the New Horizons organization in Manchester, The Upper Room in Derry and The Kids Closet in Hooksett.

We collected \$576 in our Blanket Sunday fundraiser and this money goes towards blankets purchased and distributed by Church World Services for the needy locally and worldwide. This could be as many as 57 blankets for those in need.

Another box of donations (items they requested) was delivered by Mary Ellen Kresel to David's House in Lebanon, NH.

We are in the process of organizing a bake sale to support Ukraine, and more news about this fundraiser will be announced on upcoming Sundays in July.

July's "5 th Sunday" collection will be on 7/30, and the money collected from this effort stays within the church to help those within our own church community.

Again, we want to thank the congregation for being so generous in your giving. We are making an impact both locally, nationally and internationally.

"...he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Corinthians 9.6-8.

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



From The Music Committee:

You may have noticed that we have been singing "The Trees of the Field" every Communion Sunday as a benediction. The decision was made to start singing this hand-clapping, toe-tapper because it is a great way to bring our joy out into the world.

Both text and tune were written for the Liberated Wailing Wall, the touring singing group of Jews for Jesus that was directed by the composer Stuart Dauermann. It was first performed in 1975 and is based on Isaiah 55:12. Did you ever wonder what the Bible means by trees clapping their hands? There are many interesting ideas about this because the Bible never really explains it. Is it God's special relationship with nature and it's ability to worship God? Is it a metaphor for human praise? Is it that the world itself celebrates when the exiles return? It's interesting reading. Google the song title while you are sitting by the pool or relaxing in the AC and there are lots of ideas about this fun but surprisingly deep hymn.

Hymns for the Month of July

July 2 5th Sunday after Pentecost

733 Once to Every Man and Nation
730 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
522 I'm so Glad Jesus Lifted Me
764 The Trees of the Field

July 9 6th Sunday after Pentecost

688 Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us
680 All the Way My Savior Leads Me
690 He Leadeth Me

July 16 7th Sunday after Pentecost

184 Thy Word
33 Immortal Invisible God Only Wise
424 The Servant Song

July 23 8th Sunday After Pentecost

403 Christ Has Made a Sure Foundation
563 Open My Eyes That I May See
479 Softly and Tenderly

July 30 9th Sunday after Pentecost

11 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
401 Church's One Foundation
235 Take the Name of Jesus With You



From the Prayer Team:

The prayer team is here to pray with you and for you. We can be reached at prayer@hooksettucc.org. We meet in person on the third Sunday of each month after fellowship time in the vestry of our church. Please join us! There is always room for more prayer.

The hymn below is written to the tune of Finland's national anthem, entitled "Finlandia" written by Jean Sebelius during their countries struggle to be free of Soviet Russia. In the month when we celebrate our independence, may we also recognize ourselves as citizens of the world and hold all those in prayer who do not share in the freedoms that we live with each day.

"This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.

This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;

But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

"My countries skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine;

But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.

O hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine."

https://www.ucc.org/into_the_mystic_independence_day/

From the Christian Education Team:

Greetings!

The Sunday school class wrapped up on June 18 with a wonderful year! The following Sunday the children led the children's sermon by introducing 8 life lessons from an elephant. This summer the CE committee hopes to do a Children's Workshop in July and one in August. Dates for these workshops are coming soon. Thank you to all for your support during this past year!

The Christian Education Committee
Kristen Hamilton, Jeff Hamilton and Lynn Baker



Pastoral Relations Committee:

Pastor Kerry's 2023 annual evaluation has been completed. 29 responses were submitted by our members and Pastor Kerry reviewed each one with the committee. The results were then summarized and shared during fellowship time on June 25. Printed copies are available and can be requested by calling the church office (603-485-9009). Copies will be mailed to whoever requests one. You can also pick one up from any member of the PRC on Sundays. The PRC would like to thank everyone who took the time to submit an evaluation questionnaire. As always, we are available and encourage you to speak to us if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions!

God bless,
Kim Fischer, John Vaughn & Kathy Willis

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/y9kct9zi>

