

# Congregational Church of Hooksett

## September 2023 Newsletter



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Hooksett

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### Kerry's Corner:

Greetings, as I sit in my "corner" office I have the privilege of looking out at the garden. It's not like the garden that I got to know as a child growing up, my father insisted that the rows be straight, far enough apart to walk down and weed free!! This is not meant to be a criticism of the church garden; it has been a lesson for me. If you haven't had or taken the time to visit the garden, I suggest you do.

Some of you have reaped the benefits of Jeff's labor in the garden. I know last year if I needed a snack I would sneak out and grab a pickling cucumber. (don't tell him, I told him the chipmunks took them). For me the question becomes what good can come from such chaos? Well, the answer comes from Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth." Many do not pay attention to the next verse, "the earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep". The statement can seem to be odd or out of place, it looks like God intentionally begins his creation by making a dark, empty mess, and then in part 2 does the Word go to work with the famous "Let there be" lines.

This is incredibly significant and perhaps intentional. By starting with chaos and darkness, God teaches us two truths about how he works.

First, when God created everything, he did it by starting with a formless void and then shaping it with his Word, he did this to show that, in the same way, our lives are a formless void until God's Word comes in to bring life and peace, beauty and order.

The opposite is true as well, when God's Word departs from our lives, they descend back to chaos. In some of the plagues that Moses warned Pharaoh about, but he rejected the warning, and the plagues began. They followed a pattern of creation unraveling, for sin tears creation apart at the seams.

## **Lectionary Readings for September**

### **September 3**

#### **PROPER 17 (22)**

Exodus 3:1-15 &  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Jeremiah 15:15-21 & Psalm  
26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

### **September 10**

#### **PROPER 18 (23)**

Exodus 12:1-14 & Psalm 149  
Ezekiel 33:7-11 & Psalm  
119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

### **September 17**

#### **PROPER 19 (24)**

Exodus 14:19-31 & Psalm 114  
or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
Genesis 50:15-21 & Psalm  
103 (1-7), 8-13  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

### **September 24**

#### **PROPER 20 (25)**

Exodus 16:2-15 & Psalm  
105:1-6, 37-45  
Jonah 3:10-4:11 & Psalm  
145:1-8  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

I will close with this, is your life destroyed by sin? Is your family unraveling? Your self-image mired in darkness? If you turn to Christ, he makes all things new. Your life may well be the picture of chaos, but if God could create everything out of nothing, he surely can create everything new in you! He does it every day, every hour, every single moment.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Kerry

### **From the Diaconate:**

*Proverbs 3:27*

*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it*

### **GREETINGS FROM THE DIACONATE**

Is it September already?! While many of us are not willing to let go of summer yet, soon we will be saying farewell to 'Summer Hours' for Sunday Worship Services. September 3rd is our final 9 am service, and we will resume our 10 am Sunday services beginning September 10th .

Coffee Hour will continue to follow our services at 11:00 am. We appreciate all of those who have graciously volunteered to pour coffee and juice for the rest of us to enjoy time together in fellowship. Please consider serving as a Coffee Hour volunteer – our sign-up board can be found just inside the Vestry. Any questions, please seek out a Deacon!

On August 20th we were so happy to welcome four individuals as new members to our Church! While not new faces to any of us, Maryann Wells, Dave Bibbins and Leroy (Lee) & Kathleen (Kitty) Simond, by joining as members, have chosen the Congregational Church of Hooksett as their faith home, and the Diaconate welcomes them into our community of faith and service.

Yours in Faith,

Bill Andrade  
Bonnie Boucher  
Andrea Brown  
Walker Brown  
Kim Carbonneau

Joan Cote  
Kathleen Dube  
Mary Ellen Kresel  
Paula Vaughn  
Nancy Vaughn

### **From The Hooksett Community Kitchen:**

The next Hooksett Community meal will be on Monday, September 18th from 5:00-6:00 pm. The menu features barbecued meatballs, macaroni salad, green salad, apple pie cake, and beverages. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a delicious meal and fellowship!



### **From the Trustees:**

Welcome to September! Hopefully, yesterday Wayne and I returned from a 12 day vacation! If not, we are sitting in traffic somewhere between DC and Hartford! Regardless, I'm sure that we had a great time!

Fundraiser: We will be having another fundraiser like the last one. We will be collecting items and storing them in a room in the basement until we have enough to turn in. It will be an ongoing event, so you can turn in items anytime. We will be collecting clothes, shoes, hats, belts, coats, household linens/towels/blankets, small appliances, books, and magazines. If anyone has any large plastic storage bins/tubs for us to store the clothes in, let us know. We would be glad to pick them up. Thank you in advance.

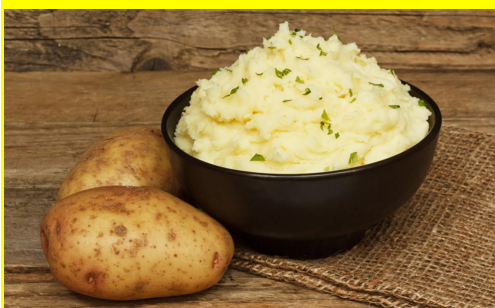
Weeding: Weeding constantly needs to be done between May and October, so feel free to stop by the churchyard whenever you'd like, to do a little or a lot. We appreciate any help that you can give us.

Handicap Signs: One of the signs on the island was moved to the left to give a little more room for exiting your car from the 2 spots. A third post and sign could not be completed beside the original 2, because of the large tree roots. An alternative solution is being worked on. Stay tuned!

Next meeting is on 9/6 at 6 pm. Feel free to join us.



## September's Hooksett Food Bank Collection is Boxed Potatoes



### **From The Community Outreach Committee:**

The Community Outreach Committee met on August 8th to catch up on where we are at. Due to everyone taking a breather in July, we were unable to organize a bake sale to support Ukraine. We will reschedule this on a future date, when the calendar allows us. And, although we are a busy committee, please contact us about other outreach opportunities within the community –whatever you may be interested in, we are interested in supporting and bringing to the church to support.

July's "5th Sunday" collection on 7/30 came to \$434, and this money stays within the church to help those in need within our own church community. Please reach out to Pastor Kerry if you are in need of assistance. This is completely confidential.

As part of the United Church of Christ, we are moving towards a goal of 5 for 5, a standing given to churches who participate in 5 organized ways for giving to the wider community. So far, we have supported One Great Hour of Sharing, Our Church's Wider Mission, and Blanket Sunday. Neighbors in Need and the Christmas Fund are the remaining 2 of our 5 for 5.

We have a lot of activities coming up this fall if you want to get involved:

**Old Home Day – September 16th - We have 2 booths this year – volunteers needed!**

**Crop Walk – October 14th - Fundraiser & Walk to support NH Food Bank**

**Thanksgiving Baskets - November**

The food collection for August was Hamburger Helper, and for September, it is Boxed Potatoes . Donations go directly to the Hooksett Food Pantry and can be dropped off in the large yellow container located in the church vestry.

Thank you to everyone who supports our church's outreach efforts, and we appreciate all that you do!

*... 'Happy is he who is kind to the poor.' Proverbs 14.20*

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





### **From The Music Committee:**

We have new hymnals in our pews. The New Century Hymnal has been chosen for a number of reasons. The first is its organization and ease in finding hymns that correlate to the lectionary and special Sundays. But maybe more importantly, the development of this hymnal was done with the intention of making sure that the hymns have inclusive language so that every one of God's people can share in the praise and worship that comes from raising voices together. In the Introduction section of the hymnal is an interesting history of its development which we highly recommend if you are wondering how this hymnal came to be and why some of the language of our familiar hymns may be a bit different. As we grow into our new hymnal we may be challenged with some unfamiliar hymns which may become our new favorites. In order to help us learn the new music, occasionally, hymns may be repeated for several weeks so we can become familiar and really belt them out!! Let's open our hearts and our mouths wide and enjoy this new opportunity to praise God together.

The following passage is an excerpt from the foreword. The full text is found in the front of the Hymnal itself for anyone who would like to know more.

*"God is always more than our human words are able to express. Our reverence for the mystery of God's being invites humility as we seek language that opens human hearts to the good news of God's love for all creation. We acknowledge the limitations of our words while we confess that in Jesus Christ the Word of God became flesh and lived within history. Where language fails us, we live with confidence that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. Our hymns are a testimony to this ministry of the Holy Spirit. Hymns are more than the sum of their parts. They become for us a language that transcends human speech. They are the poetry of eternity within time. They are signs of grace that comes from beyond ourselves. The New Century Hymnal does not claim to reach the heights of this vision of hymnody. It is, at best, the contribution of the United Church of Christ to the larger quest of the universal church to praise God faithfully in each generation. It is, however, a hymnal boldly committed to a spirit of inclusiveness. It welcomes and celebrates the diversity of all the people of God as surely as it confesses the mystery of diversity within God the Holy Trinity."*

-Thomas E. Dipko Executive Vice President United Church Board for Homeland Ministries

#### Hymn Selections for September

September 3

#492 I Would Be True

#553 There is a Balm in Gilead

#332 As We Gather At the Table

#347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

September 10

#337 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

#312 We Love Your Realm Oh God

#522 Love to Tell the Story

September 17

#337 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

#18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

#77 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

September 24

#337 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

#503 O Savior Let Me Walk with You

#597 Shall We Gather at the River

### **From the Prayer Team:**

CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES

(an excerpt- full text can be found with the link below)

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,  
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honour, and all blessing.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong,  
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.

Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;  
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,  
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,  
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom You light the night,  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,  
who sustains and governs us,  
and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.



Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace  
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks  
and serve Him with great humility.

-Sir Francis of Assisi ~1224

*"St Francis of Assisi felt and understood that our life is intimately connected with Creation, with God's Creation. God's artistry is in everything, everywhere and we as humanity are part of His creativity. It is within Creation where divinity and humanity became one, when Jesus was amongst us and it is within Creation that God's Holy Spirit dwells with us today.*

*If we view Creation only in terms of ecology, nature, botany and biology we see ourselves apart from God's Creation, instead of being a part of His Creation – exclusive rather than inclusive." In this time of changing climate, it is important to remember that, as Sir Francis thought, "creation is fullness, life and community." May that be so for us.*

[-http://franciscanseculars.com/the-canticle-of-the-creatures/](http://franciscanseculars.com/the-canticle-of-the-creatures/)

The prayer team meets after fellowship time the third Sunday of the month. All are welcome to join us. If you would like prayers, please contact the prayer team at [prayer@hooksettucc.org](mailto:prayer@hooksettucc.org). All prayers are held in confidence. God's blessings this September.

### **From the Christian Education Team:**

Greetings,

The Christian Ed committee is excited to begin Sunday School on September 10th. This year, each month will be given a theme such as Respect, Trust, Gratefulness and many others. September's theme will be Kindness and our lessons will be built around this theme. This year we would also like to devote one Sunday a month to community service. Our students will brainstorm some ideas of how they would like to give back to our church and wider community. It will be exciting to see what interests they bring to the table!

On September 17th, our church will have a blessing of the backpacks. This is not limited to children's backpacks but open to anyone who owns a "stuff holder". Please bring your backpack, briefcase or bag to church on the 17th. We can all use an extra prayer as we enter into fall.

Last, CE would like to bring back Trunk or Treat! The exact day, time and place are still being worked out but expect it to be toward the end of October. More information to follow...

Have a terrific month,  
Kristen Hamilton, Jeff Hamilton, Lynn Baker  
Christian Education



### Other News:

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**[\\*Terms and conditions apply.](#)**

**Happy fundraising,**

**Kristi Sisay**

**The FUNDrive® Team**

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**[Website](#) | [Blog](#) | [Facebook](#)**

Read any good books this summer? Ready for another? Bring in your books to share and take one. We have set up an area inside the ramp door for this purpose. There are several puzzles as well. Please help yourself!

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>