

# Congregational Church of Hooksett

## October 2023 Newsletter



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Hooksett

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### Kerry's Corner:

Greetings,

I have decided that for the next 5 months I am going to highlight one of the five areas of work that the congregation should be doing during the interim period.

In order to successfully navigate the transition period, a congregation pays attention to these Five Focus Points developed by the Center for Congregational Health.

The first one is named Heritage.

In the old term “developmental task” the first area was called “Coming to terms with history”. The new term is called “Focus point” it is labeled “Heritage”

Heritage is defined as “reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed. The congregation’s heritage, both corporate and individual, is the foundation upon which the present rests. Paying attention to heritage means encouraging and hearing all of the stories about the congregation’s past, and embracing the rich variety that makes up this particular congregation.

So, as you read this, what story or stories come to mind for you? Have they all been positive? I bet not, but it is part of what has shaped you, it had an impact of some kind. What did or have you learned from it?

As with any family there are some stories that we can’t wait to tell, and some we hope are never spoken about. The good news is, we get to choose

## **Lectionary Readings for** **October**

### **October 1**

#### **PROPER 21 (26)**

Exodus 17:1-7 and  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 and  
Psalm 25:1-9  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

### **October 8**

#### **PROPER 22 (27)**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and  
Psalm 19  
Isaiah 5:1-7 and  
Psalm 80:7-15  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

### **October 15**

#### **PROPER 23 (28)**

Exodus 32:1-14 and  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Isaiah 25:1-9 and  
Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

### **October 22**

#### **PROPER 24 (29)**

Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99  
Isaiah 45:1-7 and  
Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

how we are going to let them shape us. We must acknowledge them, but we don't have to let them define us.

### **From the Diaconate:**

Isaiah 43:18-19

18 "Forget the former things do not dwell on the past.

19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

### **GREETINGS FROM THE DIACONATE**

Welcome fall! It's good to see so many of us back at church! The board will soon be decorating God's church in Hooksett to reflect the magnificent colors of fall.

We began our month having the honor of celebrating the life of our dear friend, Shirley Girard, a faithful servant. We thank Pastor Kerry, for bringing peace and comfort to Shirley's family during this difficult time.

Our coffee hours are delicious, thanks to this congregation having the best bakers! There is a sign-up sheet in the vestry if you'd like to help pour and serve coffee, juice, or tea and help us with clean up. You DO NOT have to bring food. Our deacon of the month will make the coffee and have it ready for you. We all love our coffee hour, please consider extending a helping hand.

Fresh flowers are a beautiful addition to our altar. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board. Kathy Carswell does a great job at flower arrangement! If you're interested, please speak to Pastor Kerry.

Thank you to all who have signed up as worship leaders and ushers for our worship services. If you didn't get the chance to see the sign-up sheet, contact any one of the deacons and let them know you're interested. There is always something we all can do to serve and help in the life of the church.

The weather was quite interesting this summer and interfered with the growth of flower and vegetable gardens. When you see Jeff Hamilton, give him a big Thank You for growing a terrific garden and providing us fresh vegetables despite the weather.

### **Fall Blessings,**

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

October 29  
**PROPER 25 (30)**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and  
 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
 Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and  
 Psalm 1  
 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
 Matthew 22:34-46

**From The Hooksett Community Kitchen:**

Please join us in October for our monthly Hooksett Community Kitchen meal on Monday, October 16th from 5-6 pm. The menu features Italian Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables, Assorted Cakes, and Beverage.



**From the Trustees:**

Well, I guess that it is officially Fall....the leaves are changing, the Leaf Peepers are tying up traffic on Route 3, and I've had the heat on a couple of mornings.

It has been a busy month of September:

\*The Hooksett Fire Department conducted an inspection of the church and came up with a few issues for us to rectify. We (actually Wayne) fixed all of them and we will be getting our new certificate soon.

\*We have purchased a new dehumidifier for the room off the stage in the basement.

\*We had the last 12 very old smoke detectors replaced.

\*The alarm system has been inspected and all the repairs have been completed.

\*The loam spreading is almost complete, and a lot of weeding and trimming was done.

Thank you to everyone that helped with these tasks. There is always weeding to do, so feel free to stop by and do some!

\*We purchased a heavy portable post for the other handicap signs. It can be moved seasonally.

We are still collecting items for Savers, so please bring your items to church, or we will make arrangements for you to drop them off. We need clothes, coats, shoes, books, and small appliances.

We had Duncan Black from Measured Wealth, the investment management company, meet with us at our last meeting. He assured us that all our investments are doing well. Our money is now with Charles Schwab.



## October's Hooksett Food Bank Collection is Cereal



We just received a \$1,250 Small Church Grant from the NH Conference. It is to help pay for the exterior lighting, which will help provide us with more security.

We will be having a couple of fire drills in the next few weeks. Be prepared!

The Veteran's Breakfast will be held on November 11 th .

There will be a Craft Fair in the Fellowship Hall as a part of Light Up the Village on 12/1. Other details to follow.

Enjoy the beautiful foliage,  
Sally Gehris

### From The Community Outreach Committee:

Greetings from The Community Outreach Committee!

It feels as if we were just getting ready for summer to begin and we are now settling into the idea of Autumn in NH!

The food pantry item of the month is cereal. Look for the large yellow bin in the vestry to place your items in.

The Crop Walk is fast approaching. Please consider walking or donating. Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible in our lifetime. CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

We are also looking for volunteers who would be willing to drive donations to David's House in Lebanon, NH. If you are interested in taking a scenic drive up Interstate 89, please let us know!

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. We will be taking an offering on Oct 1 for this mission.

There is yet another chance to give generously during the month of October. Our 5th Sunday collection will take place on Sunday, Oct. 29. This does not take the place of our weekly offering, but gives us the opportunity to, perhaps, help a fellow church goer in need. Pastor Kerry can use his discretion to help people in the congregation that may be experiencing a financial hardship or challenge.

As a committee, we recognize that we are asking big things of you! We simply want to make you aware of the many opportunities you have to



give and hope that you will prayerfully consider a donation to one or all!

With much appreciation,  
Kathleen Murphy, Kathleen Dube, Kristin Hamilton, John Vaughn, and  
Bonnie Boucher

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

We know you have all been wondering...how does the music committee make their musical choices?? Well, wonder no more! On the first Monday of each month, the music committee meets at 6:30 in the vestry. After the business of the day is done, we take out the hymnals and start our search. We begin with the lectionary readings and think about what songs would complement each week's message. There's some singing and checking out songs on youtube and all sorts of discussion until the songs are chosen. The New Century Hymnal that we are now using has a jumping off point for each lectionary week. A lot of thought goes into our choices. We realize that there are some new songs and even new words for some old favorites that may take a little getting used to. We try to mix the new with the old so it is not overwhelming and Jan is committed to helping us learn the new tunes by playing them in the preludes and postludes so they start to sound familiar. We know before long, we'll have some new favorites and maybe hit some clinkers along the way but praise is praise! Thank you for being patient in expanding the songs that we sing during worship.

Hymns for the upcoming month...

10/1

#42 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

#223 What Wondrous Love is This

#52 There is a Name I Long to Hear

Communion Hymn #337 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether (This is the place this hymn truly belongs. We sang it all month in September so we could learn it!)

10/8

#491 Awake My Soul

#400 Christ in Made the Sure Foundation

#1 Immortal, Invisible God only Wise

10/15

#332 As We Gather at Your Table

#492 I Would Be True

#303 Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

10/22

#562 Take My Gifts

#62 Come Share the Spirit

#448 Take My Life, God, Let It Be



10/29

#454 Lord, I Want to be a Christian

#290 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

#452 More Love to You

### From the Prayer Team:

Although All Saints Sunday is celebrated on November 1, it is linked in history and thought to Halloween celebrated the night before. According to Dictionary.com "The first records of the word Halloween come from around the 1550s. Halloween is sometimes spelled Hallowe'en, reflecting the fact that its name comes from a shortening of Allhallows Even. Allhallows is another name for the Christian holiday known as All Saints' Day." We are all saints as people who have a relationship with God and are devoted to Jesus. Saints are not the perfect ones, but the ones who are separated by that relationship from the rest of the world. As saints we are called to live to the best of our ability as Christ lived knowing that it is a standard we can never truly attain. On All Saints Day we remember those who have helped us on our own journeys and at the same time remember that we are called to be saints ourselves. In that spirit comes this prayer.

Ever-present God. There are many who need your special care, comfort, and strength. There are those facing uncertain and scary health situations, relationship problems, financial stress, and emotional turmoil. There are people who are homeless and helpless and people whose lives have been ravaged by weather events that used to be "hundred year storms, fires, or floods" but are becoming yearly events. There are those who are insecure—not knowing where the next meal will come from, not knowing if they will have a home at the end of the month, not knowing if they will be safe at the hands of people who have claimed to love them. There are those who are invisible, marginalized, forgotten, and suffering in silence. There are those who are hanging by a thread, mourning the loss of someone they love to violence, suicide, illness, accident or even the natural passing of time. We ask that you comfort them in their anxiety, their shock, and their grief. We pray for those living as slaves to addiction and mental illness. We pray for those living incarcerated. These are problems that transcend geography and sociology, gender and identity but often take their biggest toll on people who have the least reserves of resistance. Lead us, Lord, to become part of your divine solution. We thank you for those saints who have come before us, who have impacted our lives and shown us examples of your love. Create in our hearts tolerance and acceptance of your children of all races, colors, genders and identities. Be with those who are standing up for change. Guide our church family as we look to remain a relevant and worthy reflection of your love. Help us to recognize ways that we can be there for others and do the work that you would have us do to be the saints that you would have us be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

We meet in the vestry on the third Sunday after church if you would like to join us. You can request prayers at [prayer@hooksettucc.org](mailto:prayer@hooksettucc.org) or by putting a prayer card in the prayer box in the vestry. Prayer cards are located in the pews. All prayers are kept confidential. Fall blessings!!



### Other News:



FUNDrive® fundraising is eco-friendly and friend-friendly! Just share your organization's referral link [AAW-FN8](#) to spread the word about FUNDrive fundraising. By using your link, you will get credit for the referral and they will get the opportunity to earn a bonus too!\* It's win-win.

*\*Terms and conditions apply.*

Happy fundraising,

Kristi Sisay

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Fall is a great time to relax and read! Read any great books? 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>

