

# Congregational Church of Hooksett

## November 2023 Newsletter



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Hooksett

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### Kerry's Corner:

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ,

I started this newsletter some days ago, long before the events of the past week's shootings and civil lawsuits, just to name a few. I will admit I was feeling a little discouraged and then came Sunday morning. During our prayers of the people it struck me, we all are dealing with something, but in that moment, I could feel the love in the room, true compassion, community and caring.

My request of you is that as we enter the month of November and Thanksgiving is to get up every morning and speak of the things you have to be thankful for, if they are people tell them how grateful and thankful you are for them being in your life whether family or friends. If it is for that beautiful sunrise or sunset, a walk in the woods or on the beach, give thanks to God.

Most of us will gather around a table with family and loved ones, please

## **Lectionary Readings for** **November**

### **November 5**

#### **PROPER 26 (31)**

Joshua 3:7-17 &  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Micah 3:5-12 & Psalm 43  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

### **November 12**

#### **PROPER 27 (32)**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 &  
Psalm 78:1-7  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or  
Amos 5:18-24 &  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or  
Psalm 70  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

### **November 19**

#### **PROPER 28 (33)**

Judges 4:1-7 & Psalm 123  
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 &  
Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

### **November 26**

#### **PROPER 29 (34)**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 &  
Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 &  
Psalm 95:1-7a  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

take the time to look around you and give thanks for that! As for me, I will be cooking and serving a meal for those who don't have that, but I hope that I can provide something for them to be thankful for. What would it look like if we all did something like that?

May you all have a Thanksgiving to be thankful for..

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Kerry

### **From the Diaconate:**

*Daniel 7:18*

*But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.*

### **GREETINGS FROM THE DIACONATE**

On my morning walks with the dog, each step I take my feet crunch through the fallen leaves reminding me that time passes quickly. While it seems just yesterday we were busy planting flowers and starting vegetable gardens, we are now preparing ourselves for Thanksgiving and the holidays ahead.

We are also preparing ourselves for the advent season, as we make our way through November. On Sunday November 5 th we will observe All Saints Day where all will be welcome to come forward and light a candle to express gratitude and acknowledge our saints' continued spiritual presence in our lives.

We are very thankful for our engaged Church members, eager to help with Sunday Worship whenever you can. For anyone wishing to serve as a Worship Leader or an Usher in November, we still have a few openings, mainly on Sunday Nov 26 th , Thanksgiving Weekend. Please see any Deacon listed below to be added to our November Team. We are also seeking congregants who would like to serve as an Acolyte, to carry the light of Christ into the church to start our Sunday services.

Yours in Faith,

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

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

Please join us on Monday, November 20th from 5-6 pm for our next Hooksett Community Kitchen meal. Our menu features a Chicken Stuffing Bake, Vegetable, Pumpkin Pie, and Beverage. The meal is free and all are welcome!



### **From the Trustees:**

I hope that you all have been enjoying the Fall and all the beautiful colors. Before we know it, the color will be white, so make the most of it now.

The Trustees have been busy again this month. We have done many projects, inside and out, some big and some small, and we are working on a few for the future. We will need your help on a few, so please step up when we need you.

The exterior security lighting is presently being installed. You should all feel a lot more secure when coming and going in the evening.

We just had two lightbulbs replaced on the tall lamps on the parking lot island. The electrician had to bring a lift to use to replace them. Thank you, Ron Chevrette, for arranging for this work to be done. Thanks to Wayne and Tristan for meeting the electrician. This should make a big difference when you come to meetings in the evening.

We are continuing our collection for Savers. Please bring your donations to church on Sunday, or call the church to make arrangements to drop off the items. We can also arrange a pickup if necessary. The items that we don't take to Savers we will use at our yard sale in the spring.

We will be having a group from Independent Service Network of New Hampshire (ISNNH) use our Fellowship Hall once a month. They will be having dances, art classes, and more. The clients and their support persons will be attending. They invite members of the church to join in. They also want to help with projects at our church. They hope to start with a leaf cleanup. They will probably hold their first activity in November....more details to follow.

We will be holding Budget Meetings in December. Please plan on attending!



## November's Hooksett Food Bank Collection is Canned Fruit



### From The Community Outreach Committee:

Fall greetings from your Community Outreach Committee!

We met on October 10<sup>th</sup> and discussed what we did in September and what we have coming up.

The Crop Walk took place on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. The church raised just under \$500 for this event. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy event and to Pastor Kerry, Kathleen Dube, Pam Hennessey, Susan Cokinos and Kristen Hamilton for walking! It was a beautiful day in Concord, and we got a chance to meet other walkers from other churches and share food and conversation afterwards.

David's House contributions continue to add up in the 'House' box located in Fellowship Hall, and Pastor Kerry plans on delivering these donations to them this Monday November 6<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to work towards being part 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, Strengthening the Church, and Neighbors in Need. We have one more event in December called the Christmas Fund, and that should complete our 5 for 5!

October 29<sup>th</sup> was our '5<sup>th</sup> Sunday' collection 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.

November is going to be busy as we get ready for Thanksgiving 'Baskets', which will again this year be gift cards given to those in need to shop at Hannaford, Market Basket or Shaw's. These gift cards will be distributed by Pastor Kerry in the same way as last year.

We will be starting up the 'Angel Tree' for giving in December, so we continue to plan for that, as well as our 'Mitten Drive', which we will be collecting for in December for distribution in January, when folks really need warm mittens and gloves!

The food collection for October was cereal, and November is Canned Fruit. Donations go directly to the Hooksett Food Pantry and can be dropped off in the large yellow container located in the church vestry.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. If you would like to bring an idea to the meeting or perhaps have an event you think the church might want to support, please see one of the Community Outreach Committee members to put it on the agenda.

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



*'He who has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.' Proverbs 22.9.*

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

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

It is said, where focus goes, energy flows. As we journey toward Thanksgiving, let music fill our hearts with a hope and reminder of the beauty of this world. Jesus says we are in the world but we are not of this world. Music reminds us of who we are and there is a song for every emotion. While we can't bury our heads in the sand regarding the tragedies and pain of this life, let's remember the good and be part of the love that will eventually heal the world.

### **[What a Wonderful World](#)**

Here are the hymns coming up in November.

November 5

#539 Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

#299 For All the Saints

#330 Let Us Break Bread Together

#377 Formed Through the Ages

November 12

#616 I Want to Be Ready

#369 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

#599 Steal Away

November 19

#22 Sing Praise to God Who Has Shaped

#423 Great is Your Faithfulness

#419 Now Thank We All Our God

November 26

#421 We Gather Together

#422 Come You Thankful People Come

#425 For the Fruit of All Creation

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

***Ephesians 4: 1-16, 25-27 & 29-32***

***As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.***



*But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:*

*“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”*

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

*Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.*

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

All-Seeing God, it is with this command that we move into this coming month of thanksgiving--even as we mourn the tragedies of our world--speaking loving words, hoping with the Christian hope, the expectation of good. Fill our hearts, minds, and spirit with your presence, most loving God. And for ourselves, our families, our friends and neighbors, and all of the people who live on this earth, we declare that through the power and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus, we are saved, we are safe, we are forgiven, and we are loved. Let us live out that hope together in Jesus' name. Amen

Please remember, the Prayer Team is here to pray with you and for you. Fill out a prayer card found in each pew in the sanctuary or contact us through [prayer@hooksettucc.org](mailto:prayer@hooksettucc.org). May God bless you as we enter the holiday season.

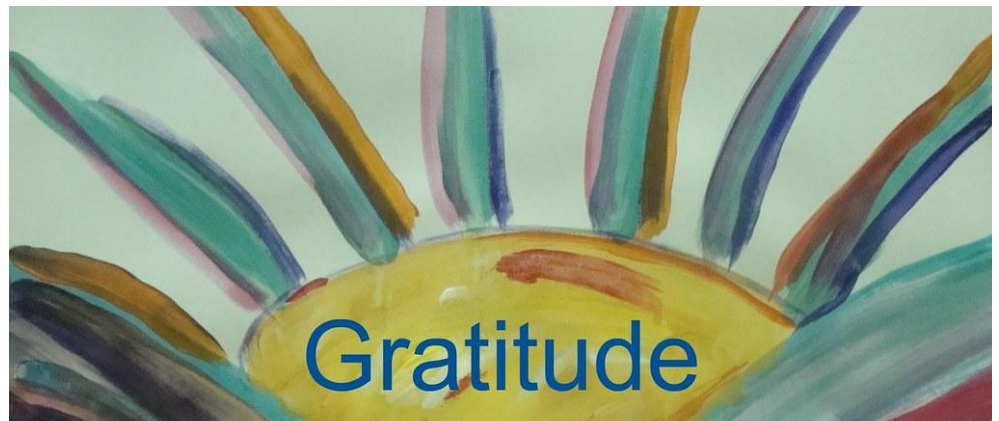


### **From the Christian Education Team:**

Hello to the young and young at heart. We have entered a time of the year where children across the country grow in excitement for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas- the holiday trifecta! We hope this past month's theme of Responsibility helped ground the children. Since the beginning of October we have had 10 different children attend Sunday School. In those weeks we demonstrated responsibility though making "Welcome Bags" and we made cards for our Church's Thanksgiving gifts. We also read and explored stories where responsibility was imperative.

This month's theme will be Gratitude. According to Google, gratitude is defined as the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. As a society it is important to review and practice this quality. Even in the toughest times we all have something to be thankful for.

Peace,  
Jeff and Kristen Hamilton



### **Other News:**

We have started digital announcements again. Before church, announcements will be displayed in a slideshow format on the TV in the Vestry and after church on the TV in Fellowship Hall. If you have an announcement that you would like to add to the slides please let Kristen Hamilton know via email: [kduvs@yahoo.com](mailto:kduvs@yahoo.com).

Last, our Church TVs are equipped with Google Chromecast. This allows us to "cast", or send something to the TV without hooking a computer up to it. With this said, the Church is looking for 2 tablets or unused smartphones that we can sync Chromecast to. Think of these as remote controls. If you have a smartphone or tablet that does not get much use anymore, please consider the Church as it's next home. Please contact Kristen with any information on a device.

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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>



