

**Happy
New Year!**

Contact Us

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Congregational Church of Hooksett

January 2024 Newsletter



Kerry's Corner:

Greetings,

So as we turn the page over to start a new month we also start a New Year. To say the last three years have been different would be an understatement. I for one am looking forward to the upcoming year, I envision opportunities that perhaps we haven't had either for some time or never thought possible. I am excited to work with you to increase your spiritual growth as well as your presence within the community. If I haven't said it yet, let me do it now, "If you like what is going on, tell everyone you come in contact with, "If you don't like what you hear or see, then tell me."

Remember there is no such thing as a bad idea, so please let me know what you would like to see happen for and with your Church.

We will talk about those New Year Resolutions later.....

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Kerry

Lectionary Readings for

January

January 7

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 14

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE

EPIPHANY

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 21

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE

EPIPHANY

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 28

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE

EPIPHANY

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

From the Diaconate:

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

GREETINGS FROM THE DIACONATE

The Diaconate Board hopes you enjoyed the beauty of the Christmas season, and time with family and friends. For some this was a more somber time, and we hope you could find comfort in your faith that the Holy Spirit was at your side. For all of us, January ushers in the promise of a New Year.

The Annual Meeting on January 7 will mark changes in the membership of all our church committees. While not a farewell, these changes can be bittersweet. Deacons will be sending warm wishes to a few long-term members who will be moving on to serve other committees and duties in support of our church. We also are happy to be welcoming new members to the Diaconate Board.

We have much to look forward to as we set our goals and make plans to carry out in the new year whether it be welcoming new members to our church family, greeting visitors to our Sunday Services, hosting Coffee Hours for Fellowship or preparing the sanctuary for services.

If you have questions or would like information about opportunities to serve your church, please seek out any member of the Diaconate Board.

Yours in Faith,

Norm Boucher

Bonnie Boucher

Walker Brown

Lynn Chevette

Kathleen Dube

Mary Ellen Kresel

Paula Vaughn

Nancy Vaughan

Mary Ann Wells

From The Hooksett Community Kitchen:

Our January meal will be on Monday, January 15th from 5-6 pm. The menu includes beef stew, sides, dessert, and beverages. Please invite a friend or neighbor to join you for a delicious meal and fellowship.





From the Trustees:

I sure hope that Santa found you and brought you something nice, and that your Christmas stocking wasn't filled with coal!

The Trustees have been busy this month working on the 2024 budget. Our Annual Meeting, where we will vote on it, will be on 1/7/24, after church. Come join us!

We held a very successful Bake Sale at Light Up the Night at the church. Thanks to everyone that donated goodies for the sale. We asked for \$ donations for the items, and everyone was very generous.

At our last meeting we discussed a few possible projects for 2024. Pastor Kerry suggested new lights for the kitchen, security cameras for outdoors (possible grant for this), new toilets with low water flush usage, fixing Vestry sound system, and painting lines in the parking lot.

This will be my last newsletter submission because I am leaving the Trustees. Thank you to all my fellow committee members. You have been great this past year and I certainly have appreciated all your help!

Happy New Year!
Sally Gehris

From The Community Outreach Committee:

Happy New Year from your Community Outreach Committee! We met on December 12th and discussed what we did in November and what we have been doing so far in December, and what we expect to complete in December. These have been two very busy months for the church.

We have completed our 5 for 5 goal, a standing given to churches who participate in 5 organized ways for giving to the wider community. We collected our last milestone in December called the Christmas Fund, and that was done on Christmas Eve, amount to be determined.

On December 31st we will collect once again for our '5 th 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.

During November, we collected for Thanksgiving or 'Cornucopious Giving', and our total this year came to \$458. These donations became Walmart gift cards and were distributed by Pastor Kerry to those in need.

The 'Angel Tree' was put up in the Vestry for giving in December and these donations have been converted into Walmart cards and also distributed by Pastor Kerry. Our next effort will be the 'Mitten Drive', which we will be collecting for in January. More info to be announced.





We discussed some ideas for additional activities for the church to do for fun beyond the gingerbread decorating contest. These included: a talent show, candy bar bingo, church dance, flashlight easter egg hunt, legos night, and movie night.

The food collection for November was canned fruit, and December was small canned meats. 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, January 9 th at 6 pm.

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

Faithfully submitted,

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

From The Music Committee:

Welcome 2024! How many of us heard or even sang "Auld Lang Syne" as the new year was ushered in? Most of us have lived through a good number of new year's eves. We've seen the ball drop time after time. What is the story behind that "Auld Lang Syne"? The meaning of the title translates to something like the good old times or times gone by. It is a Scottish song written as a poem way back in the 1700's originally attributed to the Scottish poet Robert Burns and then put to music. No one really knows who composed the original music but it has been arranged by many...even Beethoven. It didn't become popular in the United States as a New Year's song until Guy Lombardo and his band played the song each new year on radio and then television beginning in 1929 and continuing for 30 years. The poem actually has 5 verses and it is about remembering the good old days, but also about two people...friends... whose lives are brought together after an absence. It's about connections and kindness and reminiscence.

Verses 4 & 5

We two have paddled in the stream,
From morning sun till dine;
But seas between us broad have roared
Since auld lang syne.

And there's a hand my trusty friend!
And give me a hand o' thine!
And we'll take a right good-will draught,
For auld lang syne.

May 2024 be a year of connections and kindness for all of us. Not only for "auld lang syne" but for the hope of the future. Happy New Year!



From the Prayer Team:

As we all are busy making resolutions for "being better" in the year to come, we can consider these few suggestions from the apostle Paul in the book of Galatians.

Galatians 5:22, 25-26 & 6: 1-5, 7-10 (The Message)

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived. Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life.

Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.

So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.

God of creation and beginnings, as we move into a new year, help us by the guidance of your Holy Spirit to face the challenges, embrace the joys, and move through the struggles of 2024 as your children—confident in your love for us regardless of the circumstances. Create in us clean hearts and renew right spirits within us as we think about the year ahead and create our plans and make our resolutions. Holy spirit, we invite you into our lives. Help us to feel your presence as we care for and support each other. Help us to

January's Hooksett Food Bank Collection is Cereal



recognize and nurture the fruits of the spirit in ourselves and recognize and encourage them in all those that we meet. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.

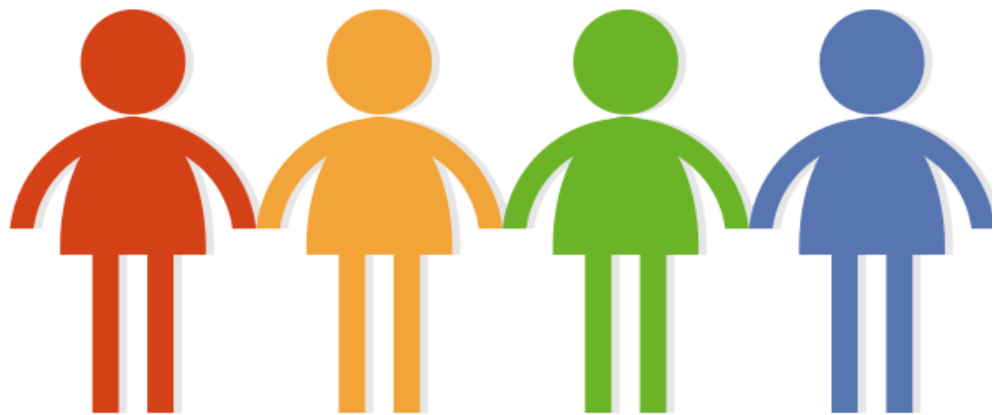
The prayer team meets on the third Sunday of each month after the service at approximately 11:30 in the vestry. Grab a cup of coffee and join us anytime! Prayers can be requested by contacting the prayer team at prayer@hooksettucc.org. Prayer cards to request prayers are located in the pews and can be filled out and placed in the prayer box on the welcome table in the vestry. May God's blessing surround you in 2024.

From the Christian Education Team:

Greetings! 2024 is upon us and we are looking forward to what the year will bring. January's theme in Sunday School is community. What does community mean in and out of church? This month we will focus on what brings us together such as cooperative games and team building activities.

As always if you would like to learn more about our Sunday School or you are interested in sharing your skills and talents with our youth please reach out to Kristen or Jeff Hamilton.

Blessings,
Kristen and Jeff Hamilton
Kduvs@yahoo.com
Hamiltonj_50014@yahoo.com



Other News:

Now that the cold months of winter are in full swing, what better way to stay warm than spending time with friends. Our church is planning to revive Candy Bar Bingo and also plan a dance. Anyone interested in helping plan either of these events please chat with Kristen Hamilton at kduvs@yahoo.com.

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.

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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Winter is the best time to get cozy, 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>

