



## Contact Us

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Congregational Church of  
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# Congregational Church of Hooksett

## May 2024 Newsletter

### Kerry's Corner:

Because we are about to turn the page of yet another month, I found myself thinking about spring. I love spring but as the time has passed she does not love me! It can cause one's eyes to tear up, the nose to run a little, and it's here for what seems like such a short time. So, I am trying to embrace it as much as time and space will allow.

As part of my vacation the week of the 22nd, I attended a Buddhist retreat center for the second time this year. It is meant to be a time of meditation both led and silent. My most recent time was Sunday the 28th. The day starts at 10 am and runs until 4 pm with 1 hour for lunch. This particular day was a meditation walking in a circle at various paces, one of which was so slow that you did not pick up your back foot until you had placed your lead foot heel, arch, ball of foot. It caused me to think about the seasons and how much we don't pay much attention to them. Sometimes we can't wait for one to be over so as to start the next one.

I came upon this poem from *Meditations of Henry David Thoreau* "Springs of Life" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. I do hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

But the walking of which I speak has nothing in it akin to taking exercise, as it is called, as the sick take medicine at stated hours-as the swinging of dumbbells or chairs: but is itself the enterprise and adventure of the day. If you would get exercise, go in search of the springs of life. Think of man's swinging dumbbells for his health, when those springs are bubbling up in far-off pastures unsought by them!

Moreover, you must walk like a camel, which is said to be the only beast which ruminates when walking. When a traveler asked Wordsworth's servant to show him her master's study, she answered. "Here is his library, but his study is out of doors."

Living much out of doors, in the sun and wind, will no doubt produce a certain roughness of character-will cause a thicker cuticle to grow over some of the finer qualities of our nature, as on the face and hands, or as severe manual labor robs the hands of some of their delicacy of touch...There will be so much the more air and sunshine in our thoughts.

May you look at each day as a gift from God.

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Kerry

## **Lectionary Readings for**

### **May**

#### **May 5**

#### **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

#### **May 12**

#### **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

#### **May 19**

#### **PENTECOST**

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

#### **May 26**

#### **TRINITY SUNDAY**

Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

## **From the Diaconate:**

*1 Corinthians 6:14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.*

### **GREETINGS FROM THE DIACONATE**

March was a very busy month in the life of the church. The Lenten season continued into Holy Week. We celebrated Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Sunrise Service, and Easter Sunday. We hope you were able to attend some or all of the services.

We are continuing our work to create a directory of members and friends of the Hooksett Congregational Church. If you would like to share your contact information, please see a Diaconate member.

We are thankful to all those who have served as worship leader, usher, acolyte, church bell ringer, or served coffee during Fellowship Hour. If you would like to be a server, please let us know.

The Diaconate Board meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in learning more about our activities is welcome to attend our meetings.

Yours in Faith,

Bonnie Boucher

Mary Ellen Kresel

Norm Boucher

Paula Vaughn

Walker Brown

Nancy Vaughan

Lynn Chevrette

Mary Ann Wells

Kathleen Dube

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

Our committee continues to seek ways to help others in our church and the community at large.

Greetings from your Community Outreach Committee! We met on April 7th and discussed what we did in March and what we have coming up in May and June. Spring is here and Summer is coming with all kinds of events and activities, so if you would like to attend, learn more or volunteer, please let us know.

## May's Hooksett Food Bank Collection is White Rice



We have completed one of our **5 for 5 goals**, a standing given to churches who participate in 5 organized ways for giving to the wider community. Our next collection for this will be 'Strengthen the Church' on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

In March, we held a Candy Bar Bingo Night at the church, and had over 75 people attend! This was a fun night for families and friends to gather and play bingo and eat candy and snacks! Movie Night was held on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 'Calendar Girls' and 'Encanto' were shown, along with popcorn provided by Rodney and his amazing popcorn machine!

May is when we do our Blanket Sunday mission fundraiser. Please look for our little quilt squares that you can donate a blanket in memory of someone and this money goes to the CWS (Church World Services) to support those in need.

Upcoming Events: On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7, we will be hosting the 'Be Our Guest' dinner with Beauty and the Beast in the Fellowship hall. This is a kid-friendly fundraiser event to support the Relay for Life, the annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Belle, the Beast, Lumiere and Cogsworth will be there --- please join us for some fun! For more info, please see Kerrin Gullison.

Socks for Sox: We continue to collect socks for those in need. This mission will continue into May, and we will distribute these items to local shelters and the Concord Coalition for the Homeless, which is in need of both men's and women's socks.

June: We will be hosting a painting class with artist, Steve Pascucci. This will be a 2-hour class on a Saturday, all materials supplied, in Fellowship hall. More info to come.

If you have an idea for additional activities for the church to do for fun beyond what you've seen, heard or attended, please let someone on Outrea know and we'll try to make it happen!

The food collection for May is white rice. 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 — we really appreciate all that you do!

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 1st at 6 pm, at the church.

Faithfully submitted,  
The Community Outreach Committee



## From The Music Committee:

During this month, we will celebrate Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and marked the beginning of the church's mission to spread the good news of Jesus throughout the world. People in the crowd, speaking different languages from each other, were astonished when they could understand the disciples speaking. For that brief moment in history, everyone who gathered understood.

Now, music has become a universal language, a term first used by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. But it seems that research has proven him right. A study conducted at Harvard in 2019 concluded that music exists in every culture and is associated with certain behavior cross-culturally. Songs for similar purposes such as lullabies or healing songs share traits with each other in separate areas around the world.

It's no wonder that music is such an important part of our history as a church, our worship each week, and as a unifying force in the human race!

Here are the hymns we will enjoy in May:

May 5	#473 Blessed Assurance #330 Let Us Break Bread Together #597 Shall We Gather at the River #253 Yours is the Glory, Resurrected One!
May 12	#522 I Love to Tell the Story #505 Sweet Hour of Prayer #43 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
May 19	#277 Holy, Holy, Holy #448 Take My Life, God, Let It Be #282 Every Time I Feel the Spirit
May 26	#275 Come Now, Almighty God #1 Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise #4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You



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

Lord, we thank you that you fill our open hearts with your peace and strength as we face the challenges and opportunities of the coming days, that you hold us in your warm embrace (like the mild spring breezes) and help us to feel the love you have for each one of us. Remind us through the whisper of your Holy Spirit to know that there are those around who care for us and will hold us close in prayer. Help others to feel our presence with them in their struggles. Help us to let go of whatever feelings hold us back. Help us to recognize opportunities that you put before us for healing and wholeness and to embrace the love that is you. Give us the strength to find peace and happiness in the midst of these uncertain times and in our uncertain lives. Help us to make an open space in our hearts and then let go and trust that you will do the rest. Be with us in our waking and our sleeping in the coming month. We praise your name and recognize that all of the great blessings we enjoy are given freely out of love for us – paid for in advance by the sacrifice of your beautiful, powerful son, our savior Jesus. Amen.

The prayer team meets after service on the third Sunday of every month and welcomes all who would like to sit in with us as we lift our voices to God and share readings and meditations. We meet in the vestry around 11:30. If you need prayers, please contact [prayer@hooksettucc.org](mailto:prayer@hooksettucc.org). May the peace of Christ surround you as we enjoy this season of new awakenings. Happy Spring!

### **From The Buildings and Grounds Committee:**

April showers bring May flowers! The Buildings and Grounds crew is working on a variety of projects as we gear up for some nicer weather. Aside from parking lot renovations, we are also looking into mowing the lawn and maintaining our beautiful gardens. Regarding the inside of the building, Buildings and Grounds is looking into replacing toilets, updating the sound system for church services, maintaining kitchen appliances, and gearing up for the upcoming church yard sale! We are continuing to look for volunteers for set up on May 17<sup>th</sup> and cleanup after the event on May 18<sup>th</sup>. We are also looking for more help with serving hot dogs and chips and more raffle baskets! Sign up sheets are available every Sunday, but if you are looking for ways to get involved, please reach out to the Buildings and Grounds team. We still have a few open spots for the public to purchase (\$20 for a space and \$5 extra for a table).

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

Please join us for the next Hooksett Community Kitchen meal on Monday, May 20th from 5 -6 pm. This month's meal is sponsored by the Hooksett Area Rotary Club and features Italian Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, and Ice Cream Sundaes.

### **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**

**The FUNDrive® Team**

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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>

