

THE FLYER



Newsletter of the Community Church of Sandwich, New Hampshire

This Issue...

From the Pastor.....	1
Thank You Notes.....	2
Happy Birthday/Anniversary.....	2
Easter Egg Event.....	2
From the Pastor cont.....	3
Adult Teen Challenge.....	3
Sabbatical Plans.....	4
Annual Meeting Review.....	5
Strove Tuesday.....	5
Upcoming Meetings.....	5
Leadership 2024.....	6
Upcoming Worship.....	7
Dress A Girl Around the World..	8
Ladies Aid.....	9
March Calendar.....	10
April Calendar.....	11



Office Hours and Contact Information

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Pastor Deb Hoffman

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From the Pastor...Bread From Heaven

During Lent, many of us decide to give up a certain food or a certain activity to symbolize our devotion to God during this holiest time of the year. The focus is usually the "giving up" of something. But I want to challenge us to also "give" our gratitude in our devotion to God during this season of Lent.

For those of you who were able to be at worship on February 18, this next part is going to sound familiar to you, but I feel it's worth repeating. Plus, many who will receive this newsletter were not in worship, so it's new to them.

Many of us are familiar with the story of when Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and they ended up in the wilderness. They would travel a bit and set up camp. Then they'd move on. It wasn't too long before they started complaining about food, stating that they should have stayed slaves in Egypt because at least they had food. God provided manna...a substance that would be on the ground each morning and each family would collect just what they needed for the day.

It's such a familiar story that we might not hear the extraordinariness of it. Can you imagine that first morning? Waking up, getting out of your tent to start the fire to make some coffee (they must have had coffee!) and there's this white stuff on the ground (it's not snow)—and it's EVERYWHERE! And they find out that it's edible! The word manna translates, "what is it?" WOAHH! A miracle! How grateful they must have been that first day...that first week...maybe even that first month. Praising God for God's provision...bread from heaven...literally. But then, at some point it became "normal". It became "expected". It became ordinary. This miraculous provision became so ordinary that they not only forgot to be grateful, but they started complaining about having the same thing day in and day out.

Continued on page 3

CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Thank-you Note

☺ Our thanks to Van & Betsy Adriance for their cleaning of the Methodist Meetinghouse for the month of January. Our thanks also to Jennifer Rowan & Jeanne Burden for the cleaning of the Methodist Meetinghouse for the month of February.

Please contribute your notes of praise and gratitude by contacting the church office (284-6151 or sandwichchurch@gmail.com) with your request and it will be



Happy Anniversary to the following couples !!!

April 7 Adam & Nancy Heard

April 12 Jim & Laurie Norman

April 14 Kevin & Cheryl Boswell

April 21 John and Fran Howe

April 29 Martin and Lucy Glenday

On Saturday, April 8th, the Christian Education Committee will be supporting the Annual Easter Egg Hunt held by the Sandwich Fire Department. We will be decorating eggs and frosting cookies beginning at 9:00am, while the Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10:00am. We hope to see you there!



Welcome to Birthday Corner
If you see one of these people
please wish them a very Happy
Birthday !!!

March 1 Jackson Bryant

March 1 Louisa Bryant

March 2 Deb Kumpf

March 5 Walter Johnson

March 5 Peter Gifford

March 13 Bert Hansen

March 15 Rich Kumpf

March 15 Tracy Ripkey

March 31 Paula Kuehn

April 1 Al Handford

April 6 John Davies

April 6 Nancy Heard

April 7 Paula Lauricella

April 8 Mary Hillsgrove

April 9 Deb Hoffman

April 9 Nan Russell

April 12 Nancy Read

April 18 Peter Pohl

April 22 Kevin Boswell

April 23 Mary Fleischmann

April 30 Richard Frentress

Continued from page 1

Now we might judge thinking, Gee, they were really ungrateful. God provided for them every day and yet, grumble, grumble, grumble. They had been slaves in Egypt...mistreated, overworked, but here they are...free... but longing for the food they use to have when they were enslaved. It seems unbelievable until we take a closer look at ourselves.

Maybe God isn't raining down literal bread from heaven today, but aren't there things in our life that we know without a doubt are from God, metaphorical bread from heaven, and at first, we were so thankful, but then, after time, we begin complaining. Maybe it was a job offer...and we took it and were so thankful and we knew God's hand was in it, but then after time we find out it's not perfect. The people we work with aren't perfect...shocker! The work itself challenges us and we begin to grumble. Or maybe it's our home...we know it was a provision from God for us to live where we live (bread from heaven), but then, after a while we find fault. Not enough closet or counter space, not enough cabinets, or the color is all wrong...or it's too much house...too big...can't keep up with cleaning it. Too much yard work. We start grumbling about our bread from heaven. Provision from God.

What is something in your life that you know was provided by God and you were once so grateful but now you take it for granted and maybe even have moments of grumbling? Sometimes it's a person. Sometimes it's an object. Sometimes it's skill. Whatever it is in your life, I challenge you this Lent to start thinking of it again as a gift from God...provision in your life...bread from heaven...and be grateful.

May your Lenten Journey be meaningful.

Blessed and Grateful...and wishing you the same...Pastor Deb



Adult Teen Challenge visited in January. This is a Christian-based residency program located in Manchester, NH, which helps men to get freed from addiction. The men that shared in our worship service provided information about the program along with sharing very personal and moving testimonies from their own life.

To find out more about this program, visit <https://tnewengland.org/new-hampshire-mens-center/>

For the women's center, visit <https://teenchallengeusa.org/centers/tcvt102/> Please keep this ministry in prayer as the Lord is doing tremendous work through this structured environment that offers hope and healing for many.

Sabbatical Plans

Last year there was a special church meeting held to discuss and vote on my taking a five-month sabbatical this year, from April through August. Although it was approved (of which I am deeply grateful), I decided to shorten the time from April 15 through June 30.

This thought of taking a sabbatical originated when I started thinking about retirement (yes, I'm that age) and realizing that I'll continue serving the church as long as I feel called to do so. I'm hoping that this call continues well into my 70's, but only the Lord knows. However, there were a couple things I didn't want to wait until my 70's to do: One of them is writing a daily devotional and another is traveling out west to see some of the National Parks. I want everyone to know that by the grace of God, everything is falling into place, and I just wanted to share a few details in this newsletter.

Retired Pastor Bob Schneider is coordinating the Clergy Supply and working with the Deacons for the 11 Sunday's I'll be gone. He has all Sundays covered and each week, a pastor will be preaching on a different parable.

Pastoral Care will be divided up as I'm asking certain people to check in with those I visit regularly. Pastoral Emergencies will be handled by Bob Schneider and Murray Nickerson. Phone numbers will be made available in the bulletins, church phone messages and website. If there is a death or someone actively dying during these 11 weeks, and if I am in Tilton, I will be there for that person and family.

I will be out of town April 21 – May 11 at a retreat house in Maine for the first 2 of those weeks, starting the writing process, and then traveling to NJ to spend time with family. I'll also be out of town June 6 – 23 as that will be when Warren and I take our trip out west.

Please know I am working with Leadership, with Joisse, and with the small groups (Book Group, Bible Study, Prayer Shawl, etc.) to make sure there's a plan in place to continue seamlessly.

I would like to offer a "Coffee with the Pastor" time after church on April 7th following worship.

We can sit in a circle fashion downstairs, and you can voice any questions or concerns you may have regarding this period of time.

Gratefully, Deb

The Community Church of Sandwich, NH is on Facebook and YouTube.

Our Facebook page www.facebook.com/sandwichfederatedchurch has our latest information and links to our Virtual Services. If you "like" and "follow" the page you will get information when it is posted there.

The Church videos are on YouTube www.youtube.com/channel/UCI4HVM9Sx98-ZeeFofvB5Cg and have several years of videos for your enjoyment.

Please feel free to share these links with your friends anywhere in the world who would be enriched by our services and like to help spread His Light.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 in the church sanctuary following the worship service with thirty-three (33) attending in person and two (2) attending via Zoom; coffee and light refreshments were served. Our United Methodist District Superintendent, Rev. Taesung Kang, attended the worship service and opened the annual meeting with a prayer and remarks. We have had a blessed relationship with Taesung and wish him the best in his next ministry, which begins in July. Moderator Jennifer Rowan began the meeting with recognizing and thanking our wonderful staff, leadership, and taking a moment of silence to honor and remember Charlotte Paddleford. Following a review of the board and committee reports, the slate of nominations for the new term was introduced as well as the position of moderator. A motion was made to create the position of co-moderator to assist the new moderator, Tony Gasbarro, during his term; the motion passed unanimously. Jennifer Rowan ended her two terms as moderator with a standing ovation in appreciation for her years of dedicated service to the church. She accepted the position of co-moderator. The proposed budget was reviewed, discussed, and approved. Special thanks was given to the budget team – Peter Pohl, Deb Kumpf, Kirke Read, Tony Gasbarro and Jennifer Rowan. Treasurer Deb Kumpf was recognized for her many hours preparing the budget. Pastor Deb closed the meeting with a prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Shrove Pancake Supper

The deacons were blessed to once again serve the Shrove Pancake Supper at the start of Lent. We would like to thank the volunteers who helped us: Paula, Michelle, Tony, Warren, Deb, Nan, and Pastor Deb. With so much support from everyone we all were able to enjoy the evening of fellowship with a couple dozen of hungry eaters.

The pancakes were delicious with loads of butter, syrup, and blueberries on top. Fluffy scrambled eggs, sausage rounds, donuts and fruit filled our plates. Milk, orange juice, and plenty of hot coffee kept us visiting as we snacked on assorted chocolate candies in our indulgence before a possible fasting for Lent.

Thank you church community!
The deacons: Dennis, Dotty, Kathryn, Dick, and Nancy



Trustees' Meeting

Thursday March 14th

Thursday April 11th

Both are at 4:00 P.M. (MMH)

Zoom Link Available

Board of Outreach

Thursday March 7th

Thursday April 4th

Both are at 11:30 A.M.
(Jackie Berry's home.)

Deacons' Meeting

Monday March 11th

Tuesday April 9th

Both are at 6:30 P.M. (Zoom)

Council Meeting

Tuesday April 16th

6:30 P.M. (Zoom)

LEADERSHIP 2024

**On Sunday, February 4 we celebrated Leadership Sunday.
We once again want to thank those who have served in various roles:**

John Davies – Deacon
Tony Gasbarro – Pastor/Staff Relations
Jennifer Rowan - Moderator
Karen Wright – Memorial Gifts and Historical Records

We also want to thank all those who signed up for another term:

Jackie Berry – Outreach
Pastor/Staff Relations
Ray Elliott – Trustee
Al Handford – Trustee
Paula Lauricella - Outreach
Nancy Read – Deacon

and also welcome the people entering into new roles:

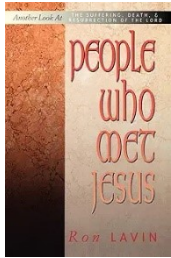
Dotty Burrows – Deacon
Tony Gasbarro - Moderator
Deb Kissell – Outreach
Jennifer Rowan – Co-Moderator
Trustee
Pastor/Staff Relations

Lastly, we thank those who are continuing their term:

Treasurer - Deb Kumpf
Assistant Treasurers – Van Adriance and Lucy Glenday
Financial Secretary - Kathryn Birch
Assistant Financial Secretary -Nancy Read and Sue Bowden
Clerk - Michelle Gasbarro
Auditors – Sue Bowden/Tony Gasbarro/Al Handford
American Baptist Rep – Marshall Davis
Deacons – Kathryn Birch, Dennis Lauricella, Dick Devens
Board of Trustees – Peter Pohl, Bob Michael, Kirke Read
Board of Education – Louisa Bryant & Kimberly Bryant
Board of Outreach – Michelle Gasbarro, Mary Hillsgrove, Samantha Tuttle
Pastor/Staff Relations – Sue Bowden
Board of Historical Records and Memorial Gifts – Pete Gifford, Jane Quimby, Lois Merrithew
Nominating Committee – Michelle Gasbarro and Paula Lauricella

**WE APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU USING YOUR TALENTS
FOR THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH!!**

Lenten Worship and Study

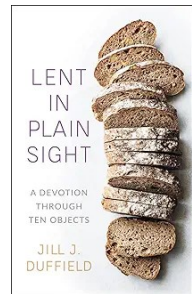


The Bible Study is using the book, "People Who Met Jesus"

by Ron Lavin each Wednesday evening at 6:30 on Zoom.

We'll be using this book through mid-April as it also covers resurrection stories.

Our Lenten Worship Series this year will be based on the book *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield. Each week we will look at ordinary objects we encounter in our daily life just as Jesus encountered them in his. It is my hope that these ordinary items will then become reminders of our faith. Some of the objects are Bread, Coins, Shoes, Oil Towels and Thorns.



Sunday, March 24 is Palm Sunday and we will begin the worship in a celebratory fashion, waving palms, and end on a more somber note as we enter into the holiest week of the year.

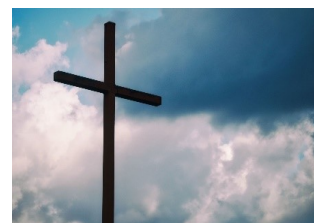


Good Friday Service

On March 29 at 6 PM we will begin our time together with a simple meal of soup and bread downstairs at the Methodist Meeting House. We will share in Holy Communion at the end of the meal and go upstairs to the sanctuary to remember the Garden of Gethsemane, the capture, torture and hanging of Jesus on the cross.



Sunrise Easter Service will be held on March 31 at 6:30 AM. Place to be announced. Breakfast will follow at the Methodist Meeting House.

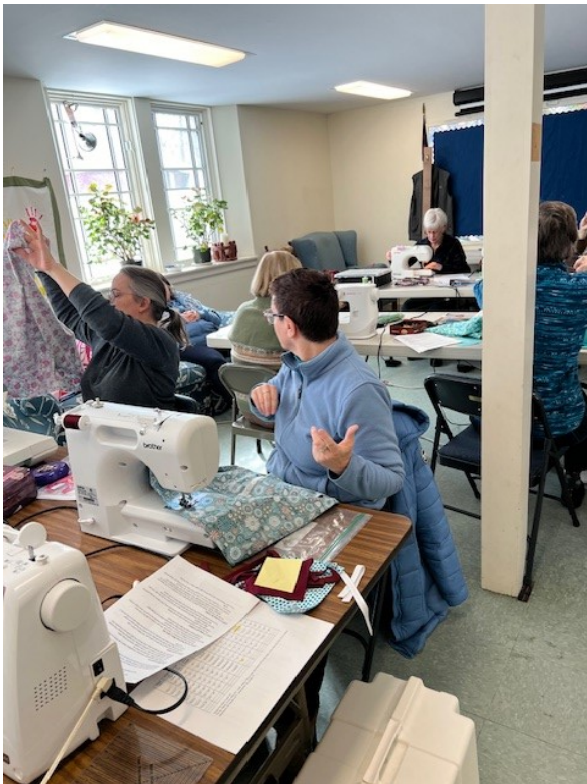


Easter Worship will be held at the Methodist Meeting House on March 31 10 AM.



Dress A Girl Around the World Sewing Workshop

We are off and running with sewing dresses for Dress A Girl Around the World. Thirteen women gathered at the Baptist Meeting House on Friday, February 16 to start or continue sewing sundresses for this caring organization. From new sewers to professionals, experience is not required to learn to create these colorful dresses. Everyone helps others. Contact Deb Kumpf 603-630-4423 or Mary Hillsgrove 603-707-7997 to get on the list for the email with the next sewing workshop date or if you need a dress kit.



The Newsletter submissions
for the May / June edition
will be due. April 23rd.



LADIES AID – PAST and FUTURE

Thank
You

First, a **HUGE** thanks to ALL who helped with the Ladies Aid Chowder Luncheon & Crafts Sale in December.

It was a great **SUCCESS** again this year and SO many people were happily fed! The Luncheon served over 80 hungry souls and with the crafts, we raised over \$1700! All to help the charities we support. A new addition this year, a bucket for donations to the Tamworth Food Pantry collected \$105!

It takes **SO MUCH WORK** to pull this together – the more hands, the better. Thanks to all our **Customers** who enjoyed the delicious soup, bread & of course the traditional gingerbread! And thanks to ALL the Ladies Aid members and honorary members who contributed – too many to list here. Just know that you ALL are appreciated.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS to Paula Lauricella for running the kitchen, Karen & Jennifer Wright for managing the workers and Jackie Berry for leading the crafts.

One more thanks to all who baked or brought candy for the **37 Christmas Plates** we put together at our December Ladies Aid meeting. A special thanks to Jackie Berry & other crafters for making the candy-sleigh ornaments included in each plate. A big thanks to Jude Davis, Jackie Berry, Lucy Glenday and all the ladies who made & wrote the cards for the plates and for the many more people we wanted to remember.

Thank you to Janet Paddleford for a donation in memory of our beloved Charlotte Paddleford, who so loved making the special additions for the plates.

November: Going back in time a bit, thanks to Katie Haddock of the Belknap Mill Quilters Guild for her presentation at our November meeting with many beautiful quilts.

March & April: Please come to our March meeting to help us plan the upcoming year – all ladies are welcome!

† Ladies Aid Meetings †

Next meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2024 MMH 11:15AM

Program: *Planning Programs & Events*

Thursday, April 11, 2024 MMH 11:15AM

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available 3rd Sunday of Lent	4 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)	5 9-1 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	6 9-1 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	7 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 11:30 A.M. Outreach 1 P.M. Prayer Shawl	8	9
10 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available 4th Sunday of Lent	11 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid) 6:30 P.M. Deacons (Zoom)	12 9-1 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 11:15 A.M. Ladies Aid. (M)	13 9-1 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	14 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 11:15 A.M. Ladies Aid 4 P.M. Trustees Meeting (M)	15	16
17 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available 5th Sunday of Lent	18 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)	19 9-1 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	20 9-1 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	21 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	22	23
24 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available Palm Sunday	25 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)	26 9-1 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	27 9-1 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Bible	28 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	29 Good Friday	30
31 6:30 Sunrise Service 10 A.M. Worship Easter Breakfast. Online Worship Available						

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	2 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	3 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	4 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 11:30 A.M. Outreach 1 P.M. Prayer Shawl	5	6
7 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available	8 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	9 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6: 30 P.M. Deacons (Zoom)	10 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	11 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 11:15 A.M. Ladies Aid 4 P.M. Trustees Meeting (M)	12	13
14 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available	15 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)	16 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Church Council (Zoom)	17 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	18	19	20
21 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available	22 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)	23 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)	24 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	25	26	27
28 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available	29 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)	30 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)				

Community Church of Sandwich
P.O. Box 267
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Newsletter

If you would like to receive your church newsletter via email send a message to:

sandwichchurch@gmail.com
requesting that you be placed on
The Flyer email list.

~ Joisse Rumary



Church Office Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday
9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

