

# THE FLYER



Newsletter of the Community Church of Sandwich, New Hampshire

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### From the Pastor...

#### What Are the Chances?...

Well, by the time you're reading this, I'll be on my sabbatical. It seems rather surreal to me to have this time to write, reflect, travel and just be. I am so grateful!

I wasn't sure what to share with you until I had a recent "Godcidence"...you know, a coincidence that really isn't a coincidence at all but rather God's hand working in God's timing.

What I'm about to share might seem like a small thing...but that's part of the point. I believe God cares about the minute details of our lives as well as the sweeping hugeness of what's going on in the world. We are told in scripture that God knows every hair on our head.

On Saturday, April 6, (one week and one day before my sabbatical was to begin) I was in a bit of a funk. I couldn't really identify it right away, but there was a heaviness within me. I was thinking things like, "I should be getting excited about my upcoming time to write and travel, see family and friends"; however, I was feeling low and questioning my even going on sabbatical. "Who am I to think I can write a book?" "Who am I to leave home for weeks at a time?" "What am I doing?" "Is this God's plan for me or just an idea I came up with?" All of this and more was racing through my mind. Several times that day, Warren asked me what was wrong, and I'd just reply with an "I'm just tired." At that point in time, I couldn't really identify my feelings or where all this was coming from.

Sunday morning, April 7, I got up, still feeling a bit down, which is very unusual, especially on a Sunday morning. I LOVE Sunday mornings...and Monday mornings and Tuesday mornings...I tend to be a morning person. Morning is when I sit on the porch in my bentwood rocker, sipping hot coffee with candles lit,



### Office Hours and Contact Information

**Church Phone: (603) 284-6151**

**Pastor Deb Hoffman**

On Sabbatical Through June.

Pastoral emergencies call (603) 915-1047.

Rev. Bob Schneider

Email: [pastordebhoffman@gmail.com](mailto:pastordebhoffman@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant - Joisse Rumary**

Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Email: [sandwichchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sandwichchurch@gmail.com)

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## CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### Thank-you Note

☺ Our thanks to Daphne Frentress & Deb Kumpf for their cleaning of the Methodist Meetinghouse for the month of March. Our thanks also to Karen Wright & Jane Quimby for the cleaning of the Methodist Meetinghouse for the month of April.

*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*



Sunday June 9th after worship we will be moving to the Baptist Meetinghouse.

HAPPY  
*Anniversary*

Happy Anniversary to the following couples !!!

**May 12 Tom and Kathryn Birch**

**May 15 Rich and Deb Kumpf**

**May 22 Lewis and Sharon Vittum**

**June 5 Bill & Silke Hoffman**

**June 16 John & Susan Davies**

**June 18 Kirke & Nancy Read**

**June 21 Fred & Sue Bowden**

**June 22 Malcolm & Judi Knowles**

*Happy Birthday*

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

**May 5 Hayden Hillsgrove**

**May 11 Leslie Johnson**

**May 27 Deb Kissell**

**May 29 Bill Borrebach**

**June 2 Kathryn McDonald**

**June 8 Dotty Burrows**

**June 13 Janet Calley**

**June 20 Anita Larson**

**June 24 Jason Haddock**

**June 24 Kirke Read**

Continued from page 1

reading devotionals, journaling, and just having my quiet time with God. It is such a blessing to have the time to start the day in this way. But on that Sunday, I woke up still feeling tired and just kind of blah. I went to the porch with coffee in hand and just sat there for a while, thinking about the day before and wondering why I'm feeling this way. Eventually, I started reading my devotionals. One of them (I forget which one) pointed out that when we're struggling with something within ourselves sometimes it is from God and sometimes it is from the opposite of God, the evil one, satan, the great deceiver or whatever you want to call that negative force that puts doubts in our minds. Then, I read the devotion from the Upper Room, and it began like this, "I am in the process of publishing my first book..." The words just jumped out at me. What are the chances of me reading this on that particular day after spending the day before doubting my call to write. For me, both of these readings were affirmations for my whole time of sabbatical. I don't really know how to explain it, but the fog lifted from my spirit, and I felt like me again.

I just wanted to share this because I realize I have a lot of these "what are the chances" moments in my life...these "Godcidences"...and I bet if you think about it, you do too. What a comfort to know that God is in the small stuff, the medium stuff, the large and enormous stuff of our lives.

Now the only "mixed feeling" I have is that I will miss all of you. I will miss being with you. I will miss working with you. I will miss worshipping with you. But I'm excited for this opportunity and I'm sure I'll have lots to share upon my return.

Love and blessings,

Pastor Deb



Normally, New Member Classes are offered in May of each year and then New Member Sunday is on Pentecost; however, since I'll be away until July, New Member Classes will be offered in September this year with a New Member Sunday planned in October.

If you worship with us on a regular basis and are not yet a member, you'll be receiving a letter in August, inviting you to the New Member Class so you can learn more about this community of faith and what taking this next step means. Please know, you don't have to wait for an invitation...if you are interested in membership, just email me at [pastordebhoffman@gmail.com](mailto:pastordebhoffman@gmail.com) and you'll be on the list!

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The Christian Ed Committee offered egg and cookie decorating along with the Fire Department's annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 30. Many children and their families attended. Dozens of hard boiled eggs were lovingly dyed and nestled into beds of Easter grass to take home. The homemade sugar cookies cut into eggs, chicks, and bunnies were slathered with colorful frosting and then smothered with an assortment of brightly colored sprinkles. Many were gobbled up before they left.

Several commented that this was the first time they'd decorated eggs at Easter. Despite the lower attendance this year, possibly due to the cool windy day, all enjoyed this Easter tradition and heralding of Spring.

We'd like to thank everyone who helped make this event possible, from egg boilers, to cookie bakers, to shoppers, and our helpers at the event.

With Jesus' love,

Kim, Louisa, and Pastor Deb



Don't forget our popular **Ice Cream Social** in front of our Baptist Church on Saturday, July 6th at 7:00 P.M. A rain date of Sunday July 7th if needed. There will be several flavors of ice cream from Papa Beans Ice Cream and the Sandwich Creamery. Various topping will also be available. Donations to help defray expenses cheerfully accepted.

### From the Deacons

The Good Friday Service was well attended, definitely more than in previous years. We had Communion downstairs with Pastor Deb and then proceeded upstairs for the Good Friday Service. The Sunrise Service was held at Walter Johnson's house at 6:30 with Pastor Deb preaching and Kirk and Nancy singing beautifully. We then had our Easter Breakfast, Yum, (THANKS TO THE MEN OF OUR CHURCH). Then of course our we held our traditional Easter Service, it was a well attended and beautiful Service.

It is our plan to move to the Baptist Meeting House the 2nd week in June (6/9).



## Dress A Girl Around the World Monthly Workshops: Sewing & Cutting

We are sewing dresses for Dress A Girl Around the World – look at these beautiful finished ones! Since our first workshop in February, we have had 2 more sessions, in March and April. We now plan to hold workshops MONTHLY, each 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 10AM-Noon (see dates below). They will be held in the BMH, except June, July and August will be held in the Hodge building in the Sandwich Fairgrounds.

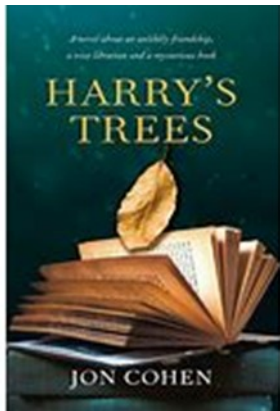
Come and start or continue sewing the sundresses OR cut fabric to create kits (we'll have fabric ready to be cut). No RSVP required; bring your own sewing machine or there will be 3 or 4 machines available for use. From new sewers to professionals and non-sewers, experience is not required to learn to create these colorful dresses. Everyone helps others. Contact Deb Kumpf 603-630-4423 (deb.kumpf603@gmail.com), or Mary Hillsgrove 603-707-7997 with any questions or if you can't make the workshop but want a dress kit to sew.



Upcoming Workshop Dates (10AM-Noon):  
 May 17 (BMH); June 21 (Hodge); July 19  
 (Hodge); Aug 16 (Hodge); Sept 20 (BMH)



## Book Group



The Community Church of Sandwich Book Group will be reading, "Harry's Trees" by Jon Cohen. Here is a description of this read:

*"A grieving widower, a determined girl, a courageous librarian and a mysterious book come together in an uplifting tale of love, loss, friendship and redemption.*

*Thirty-four-year-old Harry Crane works as an analyst for the US Forest Service. When his wife dies suddenly, Harry, despairing, retreats north to lose himself in the remote woods of the Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania.*

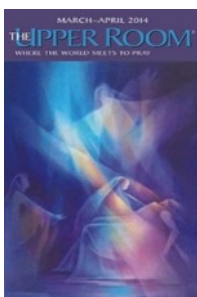
*But fate intervenes in the form of a fiercely determined young girl named Oriana. She and her mother, Amanda, are struggling to pick up the pieces from their own tragic loss of Oriana's father. Discovering Harry while roaming the forest, Oriana believes that he holds the key to righting her world.*

*Harry reluctantly agrees to help Oriana carry out an astonishing scheme inspired by a book given to her by the town librarian, Olive Perkins. Together, Harry and Oriana embark on a golden adventure that will fulfill Oriana's wild dream—and ultimately open Harry's heart to new life."*

We meet on Mondays at 10 AM in hybrid fashion. Those of you who prefer meeting in-person, we meet downstairs at the Baptist Meetinghouse and then we also offer a Zoom Option.

If you prefer Zoom, please email Janet at [jkcocch@yahoo.com](mailto:jkcocch@yahoo.com) so the Zoom link can be sent to you. If you prefer in-person, just show up with your book!

## Bible Study



Meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Currently we are using the Upper Room Devotional for our Study. This provides a new topic of discussion each week. We use the Wednesday devotion which also provides discussion questions in the back of the devotional.

If you've been unsure about making a long-term commitment to a Bible Study, this is the type of study you can participate in any week you are able. If interested, please email Tony at [tmgasbarro@gmail.com](mailto:tmgasbarro@gmail.com) so you can receive the Zoom Link.

This group also likes to eat and we try to gather in person about once every other month for a pot-luck dinner as we share in our study time.



### Prayer Shawl Team



Although most the knitting and/or crocheting is done in the comfort of your home, we gather together once a month, the first Tuesday of the month at 1 PM at Jackie Berry’s home to fellowship together while we knit/crochet.

In making prayer shawls or blankets, there is just one requirement: We ask that whenever the piece is picked up for continued work, a prayer is said...whatever comes to your heart...prayers for comfort, peace, healing...

Normally we do not know in advance who will receive these items, but we believe that God knows. These shawls and blankets are then blessed and given away whenever a need is seen.

If you are interested in this ministry, please call Jackie at 603-279-0450 for more information and for directions.

### Church Bell Repair

The trustees are happy to report that the windlass or wooden wheel has been rebuilt and installed on the bell in the Baptist Meeting House. This allows the bell to be rung manually with a rope that will extend down into the closet adjacent to the narthex. This is the first time, we think, in over 40 years, that the bell can be rung with the rope. Plans for the future include arranging so the bell can be rung automatically on designated hours of the day.



Thanks,  
Peter

**Trustees’ Meeting**  
Thursday May 9th  
Thursday June 13th  
Both are at 4:00 P.M. (MMH)  
Zoom Link Available

**Board of Outreach**  
Tuesday May 7th  
Tuesday June 4th  
Both are at 11:30 A.M.  
(Jackie Berry’s home.)

**Deacons’ Meeting**  
Tuesday May 14th  
Tuesday June 13th  
Both are at 6:30 P.M. (Zoom)

**Council Meeting**  
Tuesday June 18th  
6:30 P.M. (Zoom)



## ***LADIES AID – PAST and FUTURE***

In March, Ladies Aid held a meeting planning this year's agenda. At the April meeting, we thoroughly enjoyed the Sandwich Children's Center preschoolers entertain us with songs about The Three Bears, Thunder, Little Fish, The Wheels on the Bus and a Train! Thanks to the SCC Teachers, Pastor Deb (who leads their singing) and Jackie Berry for fueling the kids with cookies and milk.

### **† Upcoming Ladies Aid Meetings †**

**Thursday, May 9, 2024 MMH 11:15AM**

Program: *Nominating and Election of Officers*

Convener: *Lois Merrithew*; Hostess: *Jackie Berry*; Secretary: *Michelle Gasbarro*;  
Devotions: *Deb Kumpf*

**Thursday, June 13, 2024 MMH 11:15AM**

Program: *Installation of Officers*; *Cathy Graham: Community Nursing*

Convener: *Susan Davies*; Hostess: *Karen Wright*; Secretary: *Michelle Gasbarro*;  
Devotions: *Susan Davies*

The Newsletter submissions for the July / August edition will be due. June 18th.







## **Dessert Auction**

This years' **Dessert Auction** will be held **June 15th at 10 am** in the Craft building at the fairgrounds. This has been a very successful fundraiser in the past. Many hands make light work and we have been blessed to have so many of you volunteer to bake and offer goods for the auction. If you can donate any delicious offerings please contact Jackie Berry to let her know.

There will be offerings from local bakeries, Moulton Farms and a raffle of two baskets, one will be a PET basket and the other CHILDREN'S GAMES.

All proceeds will go to a non-profit mental health concern. If you have time to donate we will need help with set up and break down, runners to bring desserts to the highest bidders, cashiers, and donations for the two baskets.

## **Thank you**

Tony and Michelle Gasbarro would like to thank you all for your love and concern during Michelle's recent surgery and recovery. The cards, emails, texts, and food were comforting and helpful. The prayers were appreciated.

The loss of Tony's brother was sudden and again, the prayers, cards and outpouring of love was comforting. The arrangement of roses was beautiful and lasted for weeks. This church community is like family and we appreciate all you do.

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

Our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/sandwichfederatedchurch](http://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/UCl4HVm9Sx98-ZeeFofvB5Cg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCl4HVm9Sx98-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.

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## May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)  6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	2	3	4
5 10 A.M. Worship  Online Worship Available	6 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)	7 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)  11:30 A.M. Outreach  1 P.M. Prayer Shawl	8 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)  6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	9 11:15 A.M. Ladies Aid  4 P.M. Trustees Meeting (M)	10	11
12 10 A.M. Worship  Online Worship Available	13 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)	14 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)  6:30 P.M. Deacons (Zoom)	15 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)  6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	16	17 10 A.M. Dress a Girl (B)	18
19 10 A.M. Worship  Online Worship Available	20 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)	21 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)	22 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)  6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	23	24	25
26 10 A.M. Worship  Online Worship Available	27 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)	28 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)	29 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)  6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	30	31	

## June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p><b>2</b> 10 A.M. Worship</p> <p>Online Worship Available</p>	<p><b>3</b> 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)</p>	<p><b>4</b> 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>11:30 A.M. Outreach</p> <p>1 P.M. Prayer Shawl</p>	<p><b>5</b> 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b> 10 A.M. Worship</p> <p>Online Worship Available</p> <p>Move to BMH</p>	<p><b>10</b> 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Deacons (Zoom)</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p>	<p><b>12</b> 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p><b>13</b> 11:15 A.M. Ladies Aid</p> <p>4 P.M. Trustees Meeting (M)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 10 A.M. Dessert Auction</p>
<p><b>16</b> 10 A.M. Worship</p> <p>Online Worship Available</p>	<p><b>17</b> 10 A.M. Book Group (hybrid)</p>	<p><b>18</b> 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9-1P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 10 A.M. Dress a Girl (Hodge)</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
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“B” = Baptist Meetinghouse; “M” = Methodist Meetinghouse



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**Community Church of Sandwich**  
**P.O. Box 267**  
**Center Sandwich, NH 03227**



### **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.

