

Shalom



The Quarterly Newsletter of
the South Newbury Union
Church

P.O. Box 37; Newbury, NH
03255

www.southnewburyunionchurch.org

Summer 2021

Fall

***Food Pantry** open by appointment only.
Call 938-5369 for any needs.

September:

12th Sunday School begins

October:

3rd World Communion Sunday and
Neighbors in Need offering

9th Blessing of the Animals Saturday at 10
AM.

11th **VNA Flu Shots** from 1-3pm Call 748-
1731 to make appointments **prior** to **Oct**
11th

16th Meatloaf Dinner

17th Ukama Sunday (celebrating our
partnership with the Ivone Church in
Zimbabwe

November

14th Stewardship Sunday

13th Turkey Dinner

20th Celebration of Rev. Keller's ministry

21st Thanksgiving Sunday Celebration

NEWS NEWS NEWS

At last month's Executive Board meeting, we received and accepted David Keller's letter of resignation effective November 21, 2021. We had the privilege of working alongside David to create a strong leadership team capable of carrying on the ministry of South Newbury Union Church.

I would like to thank David for his 9 years of service to SNUC. With his guidance, we created two Capital Campaigns to renovate the church and now the Friendship House. We have effective leaders on all boards. He has been able to see us through CoVid 19 pandemic, keeping church services alive with technology.

The church's lay leadership will be working with the NH conference to advise us as we seek an intern minister and eventually a settled minister.

We will be making plans to celebrate David's time with us at a future date and let you know what we will be doing.

The Executive Board wishes David a great retirement.

Peace,

Mary Smith,

From the Executive Board



CHURCH IN THE SEASON OF COVID-19 SOUTH NEWBURY UNION CHURCH COVID-19 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Adopted by Joint Meeting of the Executive and Deacon Boards August 29, 2021

WORSHIP:

- Social distancing established by ribbons on alternate pews
- Masks strongly encouraged for everyone.
- Space is disinfected weekly; hand sanitizer available at both entrances
- Children will not come forward for a “children’s” message
- Decrease sung music (prayer response, etc) in the service

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

- Children enter Friendship House one child at a time, and immediately wash their hands.
 - Masks expected children and adults when inside
 - Children’s supplies kept in personal containers

FUNDRAISING

- All fundraising dinners return to takeout only.
- October Dinner – meatloaf on October 16 – approved for takeout
- November Dinner – turkey on November 20 – under reconsideration because it’s scheduled the day before Rev. Keller’s last worship with SNUC.

MEETINGS

- Both the Executive and Deacon Boards will be all zoom, making for greater

inclusivity of board members, and less technical challenges.

- Chairpersons of smaller committees have option to meet all zoom, in person, or hybrid but need to poll members ahead of time, and make sure there’s assurance that a hybrid meeting will work.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

This year, the Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. One third of NIN funds support the Council for American Ministry. Two thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects in their communities.

You will find a NIN special Mission Offering envelope - included in this edition of Shalom.

Please bring your offering to worship, donate online, or mail in your donation.



Dinners Rocking and a Rolling!!!!

Our dinners have been a great success amid this pandemic. Even in trying times people need to eat, so we continue to serve! Our dinners have sold out every time! As always, we need help in prep and serving our customers from a distance. Since our dinners are all take out it does take a huge effort to get it all together and out the door

in a timely fashion. Together we will continue to provide for our community and our church! Dinners that are up and coming:

October 16th - Meatloaf dinner

Menu: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, mixed vegetables, roll and butter, dessert

Suggested donation: \$10

November 20th - Turkey dinner

Menu: Turkey w/ stuffing, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, Squash, Roll, and Apple crisp Suggested donation: \$12

NEW BIBLE STUDY UNDERWAY!

The second section of the book of the prophet Isaiah is comprised of messages addressed to God's people when their leaders were in exile in Babylon and Jerusalem was in ruins. The people had concluded that God was finished with them. But the prophet announced that God was about to do "a new thing," and that the people's circumstances were about to change dramatically.

We will explore this extraordinary piece of Biblical literature in ways that invite us to hear the prophet's message address to us. When we suspect that God is done with us, how do we hear an unexpected announcement of newness?

We will be exploring Isiah 40-55 at 4 PM on Tuesdays starting August 31 and continuing until November 16. Rev. Keller will lead the study, which will be available a zoom video conference. Newcomers are welcome, even if you didn't participate in the early sessions. Just as David to send you the link to the zoom event.

ALL are Welcome Here

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING – UPDATE
SOUTH NEWBURY UNION CHURCH IS NOW
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING
CONGREGATION**

At our Annual meeting on Sunday June 27th, it was voted, unanimously to accept a covenant identifying the church as Open and Affirming. This covenant agrees to fully welcome all, including all races and ethnic backgrounds, all mental and physical abilities, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all sexual orientations, all gender identities and gender expressions, and all other diverse attributes that we are woven into the fabric of humankind.

We affirm that each individual is a child of God and that all are worthy of God's love and grace.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT.

The faith community of the South Newbury Union Church, Newbury, New Hampshire, reaffirms our shared covenant and beliefs that the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to love one another and to extend welcome to all people. We affirm that each individual is a child of God and that all are worthy of God's love and Grace.

As witness to these beliefs and as covenant members of Christ's church we proclaim and celebrate God's love for people of all ages, all races and ethnic backgrounds, all mental and physical abilities, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all sexual orientations, all gender identities and gender expressions, and all other diverse attributes that are woven into the fabric of humankind.

We are called to be as one body seeking to walk together in the complete life and

ministry of our church. With God's grace we resolve to be an open, inclusive, affirming and accessible community of faith. We invite all to participate and share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship and sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of our Christian community.

The ONA Committee: Keira Rand, Roberta Daw, Gail Bostic

ONLINE GIVING IS MORE CONVENIENT THAN EVER



Even though we are doing few things in person, the church is still ministering. The way we minister during the stay-at-home orders requires more of us than how we did things before. We are grateful for the many people who have continued to financially support our church's ministries. Many have been mailing checks to the church. We are depositing those gifts in our bank accounts. Some have shifted over to giving electronically. This is a relatively simple process, which anyone can do by visiting the "Ways to Give" and "Donate Now" pages on our website. We are charged a percentage of your gift, which the online system allows you to offset with an extra donation. The best (and least expensive) way to give electronically is by making an ongoing monthly donation from a bank account. The system does allow donors to give by credit card, but it is much more expensive.

However, you choose to give, your gift truly is making it possible for us to "be the church" in these extraordinary times, so thank you.

A Note From The Editor:

Hello all! I hope this Shalom finds you doing well! I know this year has been crazy and although the Summer was jam packed and full of fun...COVID has found us again. We are nothing but resilient and we will continue to provide for our friends and neighbors within COVID guidelines. It is that time of year to start thinking about your stewardship this year. Many of you never filled out a pledge sheet but yet you pledged all year long. Maybe this year you would consider pledging this year? We are very fortunate that we have so many people who care about our church and that is what helps us get through. No amount is too small. Every little bit that is given is used to keep our church open to all of you, and others. It allows us to be sanctuary for everyone! We have made so many amazing changes this year and all wonderful. We have a lot of changes happening in our future, but we are strong and resilient, and we will continue to provide for all our members, near and far. I want to say thank you to everyone who has put in so much time and effort to make it so all of us can be involved in our church family one way or another. From the tech crew to the lay ministers, dinner crews, Sunday school and so much more. All you do is incredibly important, and I am all so thankful for all that you do do! We are an amazing little church that has its whole future ahead of it and we are going to continue to grow and show the world that, even though we are little, we have BIG HEARTS!!! Thank you all and I love you all! ***IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND RECEIVING YOUR SHALOM VIA EMAIL PLEASE EMAIL ME @ wolfmomma1977@gmail.com***
Yours in Christian Fellowship,
Heather Weir

Friendship House Capital Campaign UPDATE!

Kick Off: Aug 14th...Friends, Family and community members met and were excited when the new rendering of what the Friendship House will look like was presented. Lots of goodies and a great PowerPoint presentation,

What can YOU do to help to make this plan feasible.

First of all, you can pray that God guides and blesses our effort.

Secondly, we invite you all to learn more about what we are envisioning and how we intend to solicit support. You can pick up a brochure in the Church or at the FH.

Based on what you have learned, we ask that you speak positively and enthusiastically about our vision. This is important as we live in a small town, and your enthusiasm can accomplish much.

We would like for you to think about people you know in Newbury who might be interested in supporting our campaign. We are not suggesting you ask them for financial support - just that you share our vision and let the Campaign Committee (Mary, Heather, Gail) know if someone you know should be added to our list of prospective donors.

Finally, while our current fundraising focus is directed toward community people not directly involved in our ministry, any financial support over and above what you have already given would be greatly appreciated and extremely helpful.

With God, all things are possible.

31st Annual Church Fair Results:

We had a fairly successful church fair even though there were a few bumps that will be addressed to make for a more successful fair next year. We had many new vendors that added to our vendor base. We made about \$750-800. Next year we will have new ideas that will allow us to become more successful. I want to thank all who baked, and gave their time, to help make this year a success.



FROM YOUR PASTOR

By the time that this edition of *Shalom* is published, many of those reading it will know that I have submitted my resignation from serving as the Pastor and Teacher of the South Newbury Union Church, effective November 21. Following the conclusion of my ministry here, I will be going into retirement from settled parish ministry. This was not an easy decision. I have a deep affection for the people of our parish, and a great appreciation for the broader Newbury community. Our ministry is blessed with dedicated leaders and consistent support. We have met challenges with faith, thoughtfulness, and creativity. With things going well, why leave? I have two answers for that question:

First, leaving when the church has competent and creative leaders is far better than leaving when the organization is in disarray.

Second, as I believe God called me to serve this church, so I have discerned God guiding me to completing this call.

We have accomplished much during our nine years together. It's worthwhile to recall what we've done. I offer this list certain that I've overlooked some things.

- Since 2013, we have participated in the Ukama partnership with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. Our partnership with the Ivene UCCZ has included six people from the UCCZ visiting us, us sending goods twice by way of a container shipment, and financially supporting the construction of the Ivene church's building.
- We became an "Open and Affirming Congregation" of the United Church of Christ, making clear our welcome of LGBTQ people in the life and ministry of our congregation.
- We have increased our participation in UCC events and relationships and benefitted from the guidance and support of the wider church.
- We undertook a visioning process which continues to pursue ways for us to be more useful to our community.
- We undertook a Capital Campaign which resulted in a beautifully renovated church building. The current focus of that campaign is seeking to renovate the Friendship House.
- We opened our space and our hearts for weddings and memorial services for church members as well as community people.
- We maintained and even grew our ministry during the pandemic, and have institutionalized livestreaming worship.

- We have held a Bible study for adults throughout my time at SNUC.
- We have put information about membership, contributions, and expenses in a computer database, enabling us to keep much more accurate records.
- We have established and sustained a social media presence with our website, our Facebook page, and our occasional newsletter, the *E-Pistle*.

All of this has involved many people. I may have brought an idea, but it's been dedicated and thoughtful lay leaders who have made these innovations and ministries possible.

Along with my high regard for our congregation's faithful servants, I have appreciated the quality of community among people in the Newbury area. Our neighbors have enjoyed our suppers and participated in our community events. They have helped us recognize the value to the wider area of our facilities and our hospitality. They have been generous in their support, especially of our capital campaign.

As we come to the end of our formal relationship and pastor and congregation, may we all thank God for blessing our efforts to be the Church God needs us to be. May we bless each other as we take leave of each other. And, may we hold fast to our confidence that God will see us through this time of transition.

OUR COVENANT

Our ancestors were called together to be God's people. Grateful for their faithful witness and this heritage, relying on God's everlasting grace, we the South Newbury Union Church family covenant together to be God's people in this place and in our time. We dedicate ourselves to the worship and service of Almighty God as it is revealed by Holy Scripture and the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

We covenant to walk together in all God's ways, with all God's people; to honor and respect one another as a caring family; to welcome all who enter our sanctuary and to live in our love and charity with our families and our neighbors. We further covenant to be stewards of the gifts of nature that God has given to us; to be faithful in the worship, action and support of this church, freely giving our time, treasure and talents. We expect the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in our midst.



***Sundays at 9:30 AM
Join Us!!***



**South Newbury Union Church
PO Box 37
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