

Shalom



The Quarterly Newsletter of
the South Newbury Union
Church

P.O. Box 37; Newbury, NH
03255

www.southnewburyunionchurch.org

Winter 2022

Welcome Winter

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

Dates to Remember:

December:

18th: Christmas Fund Offering

Christmas Pageant

24th: Christmas Eve Service 7pm

January:

15th- Martin Luther King Day

February:

22nd: Ash Wednesday Service 7pm

March:

22nd American Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5pm

26th: Lent

From the Minister's Desk

As the wind gust hard on a winter night in New Hampshire the lights flickered and then darkness. Just before the lights went out, I called to Barry grab the flashlights we might lose the power. But before I could finish the sentence we were in darkness. We were somewhat prepared, but the flashlight was not close by. We inched through the darkness and found the flashlight, which led us to the candles and matches. Darkness comes gradually with cold and shorter days or darkness can come suddenly. But all of us have experienced a season of darkness at some time in our life. As believers we always have a flashlight within reach, our Lord Jesus Christ. He was born as one of us tiny and vulnerable. As God incarnate, he gets us.

He knows our joys and our pains. He is that promise that no matter what happens to us he is there to listen and to comfort. And even if we don't like the winter months, we can't wish them away, they are part of the seasons in our lives. Just as we know there is winter though, there is also spring awaiting for us. Under the snow there are daffodils and tulips. There is new life waiting to burst forth. In this time of waiting, we realize what we have been waiting for has been with us all along. In the time of waiting, we are already living in God's presence, because Emmanuel is here, God with us.

Bible Study

What a great time of fellowship and reflection we have had in our study group that meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30. Presently we are journeying through advent with a devotional book inspired by Henri Nouwen. Beginning on January 10, 2023, we will explore the book of Philippians and discover the inexplicable joy we can live out post the holiday season. Paul tells us it's all joy no matter what the circumstance, but how can that be? Join us and find out. The group will then decide what would they like to study, and the possibilities are endless.

Community Garden

Would you be interested in supporting a community vegetable garden right on our church property? I have the feeling there are lots of green thumbs out there that enjoy working with the soil and the seeds. This is part of A Blessed Tomorrow effort supported by the United Church of Christ and the creation care. Our first interest meeting will be February 16, 2023, at 6:00. Soup and salad will be provided for a cold winter night with the promise of spring in our future. All ages are encouraged to come.

Children's Gospel choir

Do you love to sing? We hear that there are those of you who love to sing. Well, you will have the chance to praise God during the cold winter days. The choir will meet either before or after church. The time will be determined after your respond with interest to Pastor Cyndie or Connie.

Let your voices ring out!

Other Tidbits

Communion Sunday starting January 6 and the first Sunday of every month. Coffee Hour at 10:30 am and hosted every first and third Sunday of each month. It's a time to get to know your church members better and form great friendships and bonds.

Christmas Pageant

The pageant will take place on December 18th during the service. If you know of any children who would like to take part in the play and is not part of our Christian Education Program, please contact Christine or Courtney.

Poinsettias

The sign up has begun for the Poinsettias. Your order needs to be in by December 18th. When ordering please mark (HJ) in honor of or (M) in memory of. Donations are \$15 each. Please give the money to Elyce. If you are paying by check, write it out to "Deacons Fund"

Christmas Fund

This fund is done in the month of December and provides much needed support for ministers. The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is one of the UCC's four special mission offerings. The fund aids in helping over 900 clergy facing overwhelming financial demands in the form of Christmas thank-you checks, monthly pension supplementation, quarterly health premium supplementation and emergency grants, which can also be utilized by active clergy.

One Great Hour of Sharing

March 26 Channels resources for international programs in health, education, emergency relief, refugee ministers, agricultural development provides both international and domestic disaster response.



***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 uncomplicated 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!



This time of year, dinners slow down as many of us spend time with our families during the Holiday season. A huge shout out to everyone who has done and run a dinner and all those who have donated their time and money to support these dinners! We couldn't do it without you!

January is a potluck dinner for our church family.

Just a Thought or Two from the Editor:

In the last year I have grown a lot. I have been able to sit back and watch and learn. We have an amazing church family. No matter what the need it seems we always pull together to make everything work. There are many here who go above and beyond their required duties. There are many who deserve a huge shout out for all that they do behind the scenes as well as in front of the spotlight.

This church is filled with such passion and love. A belief that we can accomplish anything. There are times when the strong-willed clash and it seems like all is lost but, yet we continue to push forward and strive

for greatness. The love is this little church family is amazing and unlike anything I have ever seen before. I have been to other churches, and they have been much bigger than or church. They too had lots of helpers and money to boot but there was something lacking..... That is why I always come back. There is a magic and a love that can't be found anywhere else. Our church family is unique and grows and changes. I love how resilient we are and continue to be. I love you all and what we are as a family!

One last tidbit was at the last dinner there were these two women who were talking up a storm and having a great time. By the end of the dinner, they were exchanging phone numbers to get together and talk. I thought it was exactly what we are all about! Brining the community together to build and strengthen relationships. It was a beautiful site and one I won't forget for a long time. It was exactly how I see our church and our church family. We are all fiercely different, but we are also so loving, and kind and we provide an amazing environment for all to come together. I wish you all the happiest of holidays and hope that you continue to love one another as Jesus loves us!

EMBARKING ON THE JOURNEY!!

Friendship House Capital Campaign

We are still working hard on getting the word out about our capital campaign journey and ways in which people can donate.

Our Ona's Roast Beef Dinner was successful, and we look forward to doing more as time goes on. We continue to ask for your help in spreading the good news that the Friendship

House will be a handicap community center for all!

We need everyone's help.

To see a floor plan and conceptual rendering of our concept for the Friendship House go to our website:

<https://www.southnewburyunionchurch.org/>



PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Members of the military, their families, and victims of war, our sister Church in Zimbabwe, the Ivone Church, Our Church Family, Pam and Bobby Derderian, Pam and Francis Chambers, Judy Laporte, John Wallace, Chris Nichols, Alex Tanksley, Bobby Snair, Tim White, and Haley Deane.



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
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