

**First Congregational Church, Claremont, NH**

**Sunday Gathering**

**April 30, 2023, Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*\* Those who are able may stand for items marked with an asterisk.*

**Gathering**

CENTERING MUSIC

*Rolf Lovland & Brendan Graham*

WELCOME AND SHARED NEWS

**\*NAMING OUR PURPOSE**

In the laughter of children, we hear the voice of the Gate of the Way and find our way home.

**In the lap of a parent, God's compassion cradles us in the still waters of love.**

The Shepherd of our lives leads us through that door into life with him forever.

**We are baptized with living waters which refresh us, restoring us to follow Jesus all our days.**

The Holy Spirit, Keeper of truth, is the Light which guides us through every shadowed moment.

**The Breath of life stills our worries and fears, as we are lead to that peaceful place of God's heart.**

**\*SONG OF THANKSGIVING**

**"I Come with Joy"**

New Century Hymnal #349

**Recognizing our Humanity**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Day by day, God would lead us to the places of hope and healing, while moment by moment, we continue to follow sin down all the wrong paths. Let us confess our lives, as we draw near to the One who would restore us to wholeness. Let us pray together:

CONFESSION

**The wrong paths to foolish lives and repeated mistakes? We know all too well where they are, Gate of our lives. Stirring up the waters with trouble comes all too easy to us, we confess. And locking the doors of our hearts so we don't have to love others is second nature to us.**

**Forgive us, our Goodness and Mercy. May our hearts overflow with hope for others, as you anoint us with healing oil. May we share from our abundance with all who hunger for life. May we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to the places of service and life with you.**

*Silence is kept for personal reflection*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One fact remains that does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always.

**This is the Good News that brings us new life. Thanks be to God. So might it be. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI** Pilgrim Hymnal #513

Glory to the Creator and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

## Encountering the Word

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:42-47, John 10:1-16

REFLECTION One Flock – just ONE

## Responding to the Good News

\*SUNG RESPONSE TO THE WORD NC Hymnal #247

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Nobuyoshi Mitsumune*

\*THE DOXOLOGY Pilgrim Hymnal #515  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above the heavenly host. Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE followed by the LORD'S PRAYER (debts, debtors)  
Psalm 23 in Pilgrim Hymnal #69 page 518

## Sending

\*SENDING FORTH HYMN "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" New Century Hymnal #252

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Go, My Children" New Hymnal Century 82

POSTLUDE *Hiromi Uehara*

(Prayers from Lectionary Liturgies by Rev. Thom Shuman)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

(When there is not full information it's because plans are still in the works when printing)

**Tomorrow** – May Breakfast!!!!

**Tuesday**, 5:30 Envisioning Council

**Next Sunday** – Lord's Supper

**Sunday May 21** – Pot luck and initial conversation about the process toward Open and Affirming

The Envisioning Council has been meeting weekly for five weeks. In order to clarify our conversation and organize the growing number of ideas for expanding our mission, we developed this Vision Statement with the accompanying guiding principles.

**VISION:** Maximize the potential of our properties as valuable community resources in order to keep and maintain our spiritual home.

Guiding Principles:

- To create a culture of possibility and openness to new ideas.
- To develop a timeline for initiating new ideas.
- To create a manageable number of focus projects to build up during the year
- To listen to ideas from the Diaconate and from members of the church and greater community with an ear to how to initiate new ideas that bring people and resources into the building throughout the week.
- To create some goals and timelines to achieve those goals and report back to the congregation with results including barriers to successfully pursuing goals.
- To develop partnerships with the community.



## Holding each other in prayer

Email [karenparker0@comcast.net](mailto:karenparker0@comcast.net) with any edits or editions to this list.

\* denotes those added this week.

Clyde Blish,  
(Bea Tebo's brother)  
Dottie Blish,  
(Bea Tebo's sister-in-law)  
David and Janet Bunker  
Jen Coombs  
Ray Curren  
Tina Dextraze  
Donna Ellsworth  
Allyson and  
Brent Erickson-Alley  
Daniel Follansbee  
Mark Gibson  
Terry Grigsby

Maureen Kinson  
Ron LaClair  
Melissa Mason  
Wendy Oliver  
Jeanne Parsons  
Cheryl Perron  
Scott and Tracy Pope  
Karen Potter  
Bea Tebo  
Rick and Linda Watts  
\*Keith Young  
Stanley Wood  
(Doree's father)  
Nya, granddaughter of  
Maryellen Corliss

Our church  
Servicemen and women  
Our nation  
Communities affected by  
war, violence, and natural  
disaster (especially the  
people of Sudan and  
Ukraine)  
President Jimmy Carter  
and his family

Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ.

All are welcome here, whether a member or a guest this morning, we are grateful that you chose to be here in this place, for this time. If you are a guest, we invite you to fill out one of the contact information cards in the pew racks and place this in the offering plate.

- At several places in the bulletin, you will see the little asterisk symbol. This invites you to stand if you are able.
- The lines that are in bold print in the bulletin indicate that the entire gathered people read these words.
- At the time of the offering, you are invited to place your gift in the plates which are in the back and in the front.
- At the end of worship, we turn facing one another as we sing "Go My Children." This is a blessing song, and we offer this blessing upon one another.

Standing as able is one of the symbolic ways of saying "here we are, on our feet, ready to go into service." There are a few printed copies of the hymns we will sing available each Sunday. These are slightly larger than and significantly "lighter" than the hymnbook. Please feel free to use these as it helps your vision or eases your grasp,

Printed copies of the weekly newsletter The Buzz are available on the back table should you need a printed copy. We are glad to mail these to those who cannot access it on line.

We receive prayer requests at the beginning of our gathering time before the recording is made. This provides privacy for those who would ask for prayers but prefer not to have that broadcast through the public airwaves.