

Deering Community Church

The Newsletter



Worship & Spiritual Life Ministry

March-April 2018



Pastor's Thoughts by Rev Bill Beardslee

Dear Deering Community Church, UCC and Friends, Did I say it's hard to reflect upon and write about one liturgical season when we're in the midst of another? It is! We

haven't even gone to the Cross yet and I need to say something about Resurrection. Hrumph!

When you read this, we will be well into our Lenten discussion on the *Days of Awe and Wonder*! I do hope you've been able to join us for these thought-filled reflections and discussions.

Lent and Easter beg the questions of trust and faith. Borg evolved in his life to the point of facing his own death. When asked if he was afraid, he replied (to paraphrase) 'No. I've come to trust God with insufficient information; to know that there is Minimum Protection and Maximum support while God manifests through and for us in covenant love and community. What an example of a faith-filled life! Listen between the lines of the stories of Lent and Easter to understand and trust that while there is no insurance policy of protection there is maximum support from Spirit and Christ-Love as well as the community of the Beloved of which we are all a part.

May your Lenten-Easter journey be filled with surprise and even new birth like those crocuses itching to show their beautiful faces. Peace

HAPPENINGS: Lenten Study Continues

You are invited to read selections from Marcus Borg's book, *Days of Awe and Wonder: How to be a Christian in the Twenty-First Century*.

This book is a compilation of Borg's writings that span his career. They are deeply thought provoking and cause us to wrestle with some of the deepest questions and realities of our tradition. While I recommend you read the whole book, we will be selective in our reading over the six Sundays of Lent. If you miss any sessions you won't get lost. You'll only miss out

on the amazing discussions we have in these sessions. The dates for meeting are as follows:

Lent 3, March 4, Chapter 4, Jesus, Our Model for Being Spirit-Filled.

Lent 4, March 11, Chapter 6 ,Awe, Wonder, and Jesus.

Lent 5, March 18 , Chapter 7, Is Jesus God?

Lent 6 , March 25, Chapter 14, The Heart and Soul of Christianity.



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MAUNDY-THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, March 29th 6:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Join us for a profound service at 12:00 pm at the foot of the Cross in the sanctuary.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE APRIL 1st!

6:00 am at the field next to Fox Forest. Breakfast to follow at Deering Community Church.

EASTER SERVICE is at our regular time of worship, 10:00 am

The Hillsborough-area World Day of Prayer will be held at MARCH 2nd at Valley Bible Chapel, 14 W Main St. The program was written by women in Suriname (on the northern coast of South America), on a theme of **God's Amazing Creation**. The program starts at 7 pm. There will be NO potluck supper.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING March 11th.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas of need in God's world: there is hunger, sickness, and injustice in so many communities. It is easy to feel there is nothing we can do to help. We can feel trapped by hopelessness and fear that what little we can do — won't have an impact.

But there is hope!

Better yet: we are that hope!

As the Apostle Paul writes, "by the power at work

within us," God is able to "accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). "We are the agents of transformation that God uses to transfigure this world" (Archbishop Desmond Tutu). Wishing and dreaming of a better world means nothing if we don't realize that God gives us community to practice love and compassion. We cannot only care for ourselves, but we must also care about those around us, both near and far. Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in ways we can't foresee. Our gifts become blessings to people we don't know and blesses in ways we can't expect. We can make a difference beyond what we can imagine.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IS MARCH 11th!

Move those clock hands (or digits) AHEAD or you will be early to church. Not a bad thing but...

Yom HaShoah- Holocaust Remembrance Sunday, APRIL 15th

We remember the Holocaust, its victims, its survivors, its accomplices.

ANNUAL POETRY NIGHT, FRIDAY APRIL 20th

Sign up to read your poetry or that of others which is meaningful to you. This is a very inspirational evening.

PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS MINISTRY PRESENTS MS NANCY BROWN, April 22nd

Following the church service, Nancy will lead us in a workshop exploration on communication and boundary awareness. More information is forthcoming.

Worship & Spiritual Life Ministry

Moderator's Report by Bryan Terry

It is with great pleasure that I announce the election of a new position that will bring significant energy and stability to our Church. The Deering Community Church now has a Vice Moderator: Deanna Raenz. I look forward to working with Deanna.

While details are still in the making for the slate of responsibilities for the Vice Moderator, the Council had decided that this new position would be fruitful for the church's governance now and in years to come. The main thought was to have someone follow the Moderator for a year. This person would get a chance to see and learn much about how one Moderator conducts church business along with the Pastor, Coordinating Council members and staff. The hope is that after a year the Vice Moderator, Deanna, would feel more comfortable in taking over the Moderator's position. Welcome Deanna!

The restructuring is now in full swing with the new model of Ministry Area Coordinators making up the Council. Each area is being charged with better refining their mission and identity. We/they are also working out ways to make the pieces of their mission work as efficiently but effortlessly (!!!) as possible, by incorporating the participation of each and every one of us. We all have a great many skills and attributes, probably much more than we even realize! It feels good to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. No one needs to do more than they want to at any given time. I know you will feel the buzz of not only the bees come Spring, but of the energy and excitement that will be all around us...everywhere! Keep your eyes open for opportunities to *participate*!

Please know that every single one of us is equally important. As we continually strive for enhanced and open communication, it is hoped that no one feels excluded. Questions are good. Most questions may need all of us to put our heads together. It is up to all of us to help and 'be' our church!

We're keeping the best of who we are while sloughing off parts that have past their prime.

Regenerating, recharging, re-purposing, reaching out while reaching in. Call it what you may, but we are definitely on the cusp of something great. Let the word out!

Let us be filled with gratitude for all we have. Let's let the Holy Spirit hold and sustain us while filling our hearts with compassion and giving us a true understanding of what we are called to do, and the courage and strength to do it. Let us always shine brightly with God's love, and let our light shine and spread that love~

Assistant Moderator By Deanna Raenz

Welcome to WSLM (Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry)! There are many new and exciting things going on in our small but mighty church recently and many more to look forward to. WSLM is working hard with Bill and the other ministries to create something great in our church. Here are a few of those projects being worked on by Bryan (coordinator), Deanna (co-coordinator), and Sam (head Deacon and accomplice of WSLM). Due to the nature of the new structure there are still many questions to be soul searched and ideas to be thought out. We are currently working on our mission/vision statement that not only encompasses us as a ministry, but aligns with the goals of who we all are as a church. What are our sights set on for 2018-2019? What do we want to become? What good do we want to do in the community and beyond? It's up to all of us to shape this. WSLM currently watches over a few key pieces of our church life such as hospitality, new membership, spiritual life, music, and congregational care. Though we may seem to have it all figured out, there is always a need for ideas, assistance, and volunteers; readers, greeters, refreshments, and so much more is needed on a weekly basis! If there is a burning passion to help inside of you, don't be afraid to reach out! Exciting news! Keep your eyes peeled for the WSLM Opportunities Fair which will take place after church, date to be announced. Remember, building community starts with 'everyone', not just 'one'.

Worship & Spiritual Life Ministry

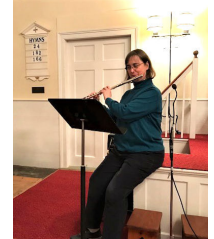
Musical Notes by Jane Waters : This report focuses on a most enjoyable evening, February 16th, the Annual Musical Soiree. Although there were fewer performers than scheduled, the quality and enthusiastic response was very rewarding. Sam Kelly, MC, charmed everyone with his easy-going banter as well as excellent banjo artistry, exploring unusual facets for his instrument. His rendition of Cohen's *Hallelujah* was very



Leonard



special. Steve Waters opened the program playing a thoughtful popular tunes medley. The choir sang *Make Us One*, a song with meaningful words. Loraine



Meyette, a flutist friend, played a lovely Celtic piece after which she got us singing *Amazing Grace* and *We Shall Overcome*. Stan Long and friend Ray Siekerski played their guitars and sang favorite songs, including lots of fun with *Little Red Riding Hood*. We all enjoyed Stan's humorous takes. Finally, 'A Rose Between Two Thorns' featuring Peter Cram with his guitar strumming friends rounded out the program so nicely, including songs by Elton John and John Denver, et al. To top it off, would you believe Pastor Bill recorded the program and posted it on Instagram? A Soiree first! Thank you, Bill. Refreshments following the program were appreciated and enjoyed by all. The next *Newsletter* will be a report on the music presented during the Lenten season.



Resource Ministry

Facilities Management Team by Jean Lewis : Greetings to all from your 'Facilities Management Team' which falls under the Resource Ministry in our new church organizational structure. You formerly knew our team as the 'Trustees'.

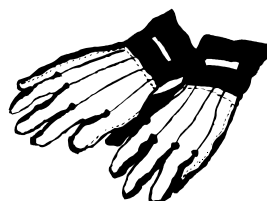
We have met and created a new list of maintenance items which have been culled from old lists and combined with our newer projects. They have been categorized from high priority, to medium, to low.

Included is a category regarding seasonal maintenance items, and one for future planning needs. It was gratifying to review old lists and find that so very many items on them have been accomplished! Wow!!

As you look around you and also review the Annual Report, you will see how very much the 'worker bees' have accomplished! Please do join the ever-growing group on the first Saturday of the month

at 7 for a great breakfast, thanks to Peter Cram, and the activity begins at 8---ends at 10! Not long, and incredible things are happening! Come on along, join the fun and fellowship.

Spring is coming,



Resource Ministry

Treasurer's Thoughts by Peter Cram: It's appropriate at this time of year to reflect on last year's financial performance, and discuss the plans for the upcoming year. Much of this was discussed at the Annual Meeting, but it's worth going over again, as people have had time to digest the numbers that were presented in the Annual Report.

Last year we finished the year reasonably well financially. After all the bills were paid and after considering special fund balances that must be held in reserve, we still had a balance in our general fund of over \$4,400. That was more than I had anticipated, and it helped us with the 2018 budget, as most of that is put into the 'Previous Year Balance Forward' line item.

Budgeted expenses for the year exceeded the budget by about 5%. This was due to a couple large expenses that hit us especially hard. The problems with our heating system, that resulted in the replacement of our oil tank, sent our 'Fuel Oil and Repairs' line item to 171% of budget. Other line items in the 'Building and Grounds' area caused the group as a whole to grow to 135% of budget. With it being the largest of the Budgeted areas, it naturally had a significant overall effect. All other areas were actually below budget. I'd say we handled it well.

On the income side, we also did well last year. Some of our income categories were exceeded by the incredible generosity of our members and friends. Recall that we had a 'to be raised' figure of over \$11,000, and while we only achieved about \$4,100 of that amount, our other income more than

accommodated the deficit.

The budget for 2018 is organized differently, as it follows the new organization of the church, so is broken down by 'Ministry'. Beyond that, one of our goals with this budget was to make it a planned record of actual spending. By that, I mean to put in numbers that reflect actual spending planned. In the past, we had planned on people buying things for the church with their own cash. Also, we've had a tendency to rob some of our special funds, when the intent of the fund was not to support what would otherwise be budgeted outlays. As a result, the overall budgeted expenditures increased by over 17%.

For the 2018 budget, we do continue the practice of having a 'to be raised' line item, and it increased moderately to a bit over \$12,000. Normally I'd cringe at the thought of having that figure so high, but with our increasing membership, and the increased interest in what we're doing, both from within and outside of our membership, I'm confident we can make the numbers work.

The Annual Report has a lot of numbers in it, and while it was handed out to people well in advance of the annual meeting, the overall financial picture of the church can take a while to gel. If anyone has questions about anything financial, Pasca and I are always available to discuss them. It's your money we're dealing with, and it's important to us that everyone feel confident that the finances are being handled in the most clear, accurate and prudent ways possible. Thank you.

Christian Formation Ministry

Chris Nase

New! Improved! For children!!

We have reinstated the children's story as part of the worship service and when this is completed, children may go to the living room for Nursery care.

Volunteers are needed for both endeavors. If you are interested in creating a brief message for the children to hear during worship please contact Chris Nase or Bill Beardslee. The Nursery needs two volunteers each week to care for the children. Please let Chris Nase know if you are able to help.

Women's Guild

Jeanne Bartlett

The hardy Guild members had to bow before storms, and frigid weather, along with a few key people recovering from various surgeries and illnesses being absent, to cancel January's meeting. Since we had not met in December, 2017 either, it was a grand coming together on February 7 when we gathered to catch up with each other, enjoying lunch and Valentine cake. This new year we approved a very healthy budget for 2018 reaching to many areas of outreach. In spite of bad weather predictions **The last Saturday of the month's Attic Treasures Thrift Shop** was open for business and volunteers for sales personal were eagerly accepted, coming from the church

congregation as well as from Guild membership.

We had a speaker, Genera Clay, a Deering resident, who came to talk about plans to set up The Little Food Pantry in Deering, and ask for support from our membership. A motion was made to gather more info about this project and stay open to further developments, and a vote resulted in an enthusiastic chorus of Yeas.

We also added two new members that day. The presence of guests, Bill Beardslee and Bryan Terry, made our meeting complete and meaningful, as well.

Outreach & Communication

World Service by Jeanne Bartlett: World Service members are reminding everyone of the upcoming One Great Hour of Sharing. Please take note of the ways you can contribute to this fund: envelopes will be found in our generous and loving church on Sundays, or you can contribute on line or by mail. **More than can be imagined happens through support of this mission.**

One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. The suggested offering date for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is March 11, 2018. Click [donate](#) to give securely online or mail your gift today to: One Great Hour of Sharing - United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship (OPS) 2nd Floor, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Our members are heartened by the approval of our annual meetings budget, which includes a line designating funds to keep our monthly teen bags full for the Hillsborough Youth Services Genesis drop-in center. Thank you so much.

Refugee Solidarity, & Immigration by Barbara Luckett: I am continuing to go to the NHCUC ministry on immigration; however, I do not sense much interest from our church on becoming more involved in the Immigrant Solidarity Network (which includes the Sanctuary movement). Besides the UCC in Meriden, there are now two other churches who have voted to become Sanctuary Churches. The immediate deportation of our Indonesian UCC Immigrants is on hold, but no one knows when that will change. I continue to attend some vigils at the Federal building in Manchester to support those immigrants who are reporting for check in at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). These Interfaith Prayer Vigils are held on the first Thursdays of each month from 8:30 to 10 am as well. If anyone in our community is interested and able to actively participate in this Solidarity Network, please let me know.

Parish Relations Ministry

Peg Hauschildt, Coordinator

Our group, Pasca Ferwerda, Joyce Peace, Bryan Terry, Jeanne Bartlett, Pastor Bill, and I have read the book, COMPLETING THE CIRCLE by David R. McMahon. It describes an interesting new process which results in an informative evaluation of our congregation, Minister and staff. We plan to lead Feedback/Reflection Groups that will provide an opportunity for participants to speak about what they are experiencing in various aspects of our church life.

It is our goal to establish an on-going system to obtain high-quality feedback that relies on healthy habits of interpersonal communication. To assist us, we have arranged to have Reverend Nancy Brown provide a 2-hour presentation on Communication for our congregation following the church service on April 22, 2018.

You will continue to hear more about this exciting Completing the Circle approach. Our group has embraced the following statement made by David R. McMahon: "Good feedback is to our community life what breathing and eating are to our biological lives!"

Outreach & Communications Ministry

All Council & Ministry Folks, by Rev Bill Beardslee: I'm happy to say I just finished meeting with the reps from the Antrim Grapevine to go over details of their pilot use of our facilities for a one day a week Parent-Child Play Group. Both Amy Doyle and Paula Coombs are from Deering and have worked at the Grapevine for years. They are excited about the space.

The mission of the Grapevine is "to promote family and community health and well-being through support, education and the sharing of resources. "

Grapevine programs and services support:

Parents and Family Members as the best teachers of their children.

Support Children, so they will be healthy and ready to learn.

And Our Community, as a healthy and supportive environment for all.

Visit them at <https://grapevinenh.org/about-the-grapevine/>

Our collaboration begins as a SIX week pilot program hosted on Mondays beginning March 12th from 12:00, for set-up, prep to 3:00 pm, clean-up and closing (the program itself runs from 1:00-2:30).

They would use Sherwood Hall, the living room and kitchen, and the pilot program would end at the beginning of school vacation April 16th. During this week we would sit and evaluate moving forward if it is deemed prudent and mutually agreeable. They bring all materials, snacks and equipment they would need, though they would like to use our kiddie chairs, kid's easel, and kid's bench.

Pastor Bill will draw up a contract to keep a paper trail. We are offering this service free of charge as a community outreach. This is an exciting opportunity for all.

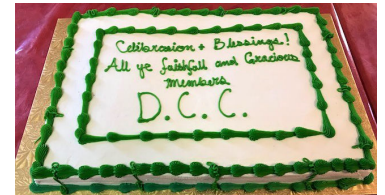
Peace

Outreach & Communications Ministry

Past Fun Events by Christine Marcroft: We had a soup and game night on January 20th, which was a great success. Everybody had so much fun playing games, and the food was delicious. This evening was Stan and Sally Long's idea, and there will be more to come!



On January 1st, we celebrated one successful year of the Deering Community Church with a great big beautiful cake!



And on February 4th, after the service, we enjoyed watching the very interesting film "The Courage to Show Up", featuring the conversation between Brene Brown and DeRay McKesson about vulnerability, shame, courage, race, and privilege. Ms Brene Brown is a best-selling author and speaker, and DeRay McKesson is a Black Lives Matter activist. A lively discussion followed the viewing.



Open & Affirming Ministry by Christine Marcroft

I was able to attend the second hearing of the Transgender Bill 1319 this past Tuesday. The Hall was packed again and there were 45 People speaking on behalf of the bill – and at total of 4 speakers against it. Now it is up to the Full House to vote on it....Could be as soon as next week!

Gerri Cannon, who has spoken at our church, was very instrumental in bringing this bill about, together with Ed Butler, a NH Rep and friend.

For Your Information

Food Pantries

We continue to collect alternating weekly donations of non-perishable food for the Food Pantries.

Hillsboro: There is need for small cans of meat for **April**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc., and personal care products for **March**, such as soap & laundry soap, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, but each week you're welcome to bring whatever food or personal-care items you have. The Food Pantry is still in need of large brown paper bags.

Weare: Donations of all types of food and personal care products are sorely needed.

Cash donations are always welcome. Please make checks payable to Deering Community Church and note "Food Pantry" on the memo line. Periodically, accumulated cash donations are divided and half is sent to each of the above food pantries.

Food Pantry donations are part of our outreach program to help others less fortunate. Please help if you can. THANK YOU !
Pasca Ferwerda,



MARCH

Ruth Kochalka, 8
Esther McLain, 11
Betty Carpenter, 14
Apryl Craighead, 25
Timothy Ferwerda, 31

APRIL

Noah Vitkauskas, 2
Robert Compton, 7
Jane Levesque, 14
Jim Cook, 14
Jeanne Bartlett, 16
Ewan Craighead, 22
Jane Spragg, 25



Happy Anniversary

APRIL

Jessica & Bryan Vitkauskas, 6

Hillsboro Food Pantry Challenge by Joyce Peace

March 1st—April 30 there will be a food pantry challenge sponsored by businesses in town donating at least \$100 each for hopefully a total of \$10,000 of incentives.

Matching donations of money from the community, and donations of food such as canned or packaged goods equal to \$1 cash equivalents, are accepted for this challenge.

We hope for \$10,000 from the communities.





March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
				1 Choir Practice each Thursday at 7 pm	2 World Day Of Prayer 7 pm Valley Bible Chapel	3 7 am Breakfast, 8 to 10 am, Workday
4 10 am Worship & communion	5	6 10:30 am Council Leadership	7 Guild @ noon	8	9	10 Clocks move forward 1 hour for daylight savings time
11 10 am Worship , 11 am Teen Food packing , OGHS offer	12 Grapevine Program 12 noon to 3 pm DCC	13 6 pm Trustees 7 pm Council	14	15	16	17
18 10 am Worship Pflag 3 pm Concord	19 Grapevine Program 12 noon to 3 pm DCC	20	21	22	23	24
25 10 am Worship , Palm Sunday	26 Grapevine Program 12 noon to 3 pm DCC	27 7 pm Deacons	28	29 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	30 Good Friday 12 pm	31 Guild Thrift Shop, 9 am to 1 pm



April 2018

Sun

**Sunrise
Service 6 am
& Breakfast**

**1 Easter
Sunday, 10 am
Worship &
Communion**

Mon

2
Grapevine
Program 12
noon to 3 pm
DCC

Tue

3 10:30 am
Council
Leadership

Wed

4
Guild @ noon

Thu



5
Choir Practice
each
Thursday @ 7
pm

Fri

6
7 7 am
Breakfast, 8 to
10 am
Workday

Sat

8 10 am
Worship, 11
am Teen
Food Packing

9
Grapevine
Program 12
noon to 3 pm
DCC

10
6 pm Trustees
7 pm Council

11
7 pm W S & O

12

13

14

15 10 am
Worship,
Holocaust
Remembered
PFlag 3 pm
Concord

16
Grapevine
Program 12
noon to 3 pm
DCC

17

18

19

20

Poetry Night

21

**Newsletter
Deadline**

22 10 am
Worship, &
11:30 - a 2 hr
talk by Rev
Nancy Brown.
Earth Day

23

24

7 pm Deacons

25

26

27

28 Guild
Thrift Shop, 9
am to 1 pm

29 10 am
Worship

30

Deering Community Church
United Church Of Christ
763 Deering Center Road
Deering, NH 03244
603-464-5643
Rev. Bill Beardslee

We're on The Web
deeringcommunitychurch.org

*We're on Facebook at Deering
Community Church, United
Church of Christ*



Deering Community Church

Deering, N.H.