

# D<sub>+</sub>eering Community Church

## The Newsletter



### From The Pastor's Pen



Dear Deering Community Church, UCC and Friends,

We walk together into the year 2019! And then there will be the year 2020! Unbelievable!

How do we think of time, of passages, of past, present and future? Some great teachers say we think too much about past and future and not enough about the present, the moment, the Gift... And then the moment is gone, passed us by. There is so much madness about us. The air is thick with stupid and dangerous, with hate, homophobia, prejudice, discrimination, robbery, and untruth. What do we do? How do we claim the moment? How do we live as fully as we can? We continue to do what we do.

I am reminded of a great poem by the farmer-poet Wendell Berry which reads in part:

Friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor. Love someone who does not deserve it.

Denounce the government and embrace the flag. Hope to live in that free republic for which it stands. Give your approval to all you cannot understand. Praise ignorance, for what man has not encountered he has not destroyed.

Say that the leaves are harvested when they have rotted into the mold. Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus that will build under the trees

### January, February 2019

every thousand years.

Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts.

As soon as the generals and the politicians can predict the motions of your mind, lose it. Leave it as a sign to mark the false trail, the way you didn't go.

Be like the fox who makes more tracks than necessary, some in the wrong direction.

Practice resurrection. Practice Resurrection! Practice being born again, and again, and again, and...

We move into the New Year having attempted to reclaim Jesus and our faith from those who have kidnapped him and made them into their own image. We walk forward boldly and humbly. We will soon cruise into Lent, a time of deep reflection upon Jesus's journey to the Cross and beyond and try to figure out what that means to us. I look forward to that walk with you. Peace.. Bill Beardslee



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Rev Bill Beardslee

## Happenings



The monthly **ATTIC TREASURES THRIFT SHOP** continues on the last Saturday of the month from 9:00-1:00

**Reclaiming Jesus**  
A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis



This is an explorative, after-church Bible Study/Discussion group stretched over Advent and the winter months. It is an effort to reclaim the biblical story and narrative in a time when the Jesus we know has been used to justify regressive and dangerous theological and political stories. These are the stories that allow children and parents to be ripped apart from each other, stories that justify erasing the presence and memory of our LGBTQ sisters and brothers, stories that place profit over people, lies over truth, power over service and collaboration.

These are the first four sessions during Advent.

January 6: Session Five: To Protect and Seek Justice

January 13: Session Six: Truth is Morally Central to Our Personal and Public Lives

January 20: Session Seven: Christ's Way of Leadership is Servanthood

February 3: Session Eight: Go into All Nations Making Disciples

February 10: Session Nine: Change the World Through the Life and Love of Jesus Christ



## JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup>

### immediately following worship

CONNECTION · INSPIRATION · RECOGNITION

Annual Reports will be ready two weeks before the meeting for your review and preparation. PLEASE read it and be prepared to

- Accept reports from 2018
- our 2019 Budget
- consider a vote on whether to accept and fully embrace our new church structure. It has been almost three years in the making and a year in practice.
- vote to redo our By-Laws if we accept the Structure



### The ANNUAL SOIREE

February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Brought to you by our WSL-Music Ministry

Come share your musical talents or just to listen and have fun together.

Sam Kelly is the contact person for this event.

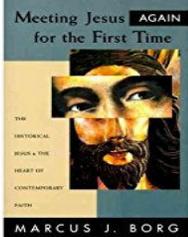
## Happenings

Rev. Bill Beardslee

### After Church Forum: ARGENTINA, A Living Perspective

Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am

A friend from the community, Belen Lee, will present her experience and perspective from living in and working with the people of Argentina. Broaden your perspective of the world. Hear Belen's beautiful and heart-rending stories of our sisters and brothers from the South American continent.



**LOOKING AHEAD. Please mark your calendars**

**MARCH 10<sup>th</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup> After church discussion**

Deanna Raenz leads us in the study of this wonderfully refreshing look into the life and ministry of Jesus.

## Moderator's Desk

Bryan Terry

As I write this, we are still in the midst of Advent, with "Reclaiming Jesus" study groups after Worship. Members of this church seem thirsty to hear and/or read, reflect and open our hearts as we perpetually strive for spiritual growth. Speaking of growth, we have steadily reached out and have been engaged in various ways throughout the community. We recently had an Open House through the Greater Hillsborough Chamber (of which our church is a member) through one of their events called "Business After Hours". We opened up the church to the town and area communities, complete with Christmas decorations that were the major workings of Pasca Ferwerda, Christine Marcroft, Deanna Raenz and community member, Paula Fortner. The church truly glowed inside and out! The refreshments were out of this world and many thanks go to all the wonderful souls who brought food, including our Administrative Assistant, Diane Seabury, who brought in dozens of award-winning (at least they should be) cookies that people raved over! Many people came to see, eat and meet new people, and to hear a bit about the history of the church *Then and Now*. Rev. Bill Beardslee read excerpts from Don Johnson's book, "Enduring Faith", and as Moderator, I spoke to the church today. Touching remarks from the Chamber's newly elected Vice President, Bob Nash seemed to genuinely reflect the sentiment expressed by many there. We have a wonderful church with a rich history and a group of dedicated people who care deeply for this church.

As we wind down this year, I look forward to the collaborative efforts of the Deering Community Church and Smith Memorial Church in holding the very meaningful "Blue Christmas" held at Smith this year. Our Christmas Eve Service - to be held at 6:00pm- will be a celebration of "Lessons and Carols", which is always a delight.

January 27, 2019 immediately following the Worship Service, will be the Church's Annual Meeting. With all the tremendous participation shown by members of this church throughout the year, I am expecting a great turnout for this important meeting. While they are always important, this year the congregation will be voting on the acceptance of the New Structure. The Council members have been working all year on ways to implement their respective ministry area's mission statements. We are still tasked with finding ways to carry out our ministries with fewer people, fewer meetings and minimal time commitments. As we become more used to working with this type of structure, we will undoubtedly be more creative in the approach we

## Moderator's Desk

**Bryan Terry**

use to carry out our missions. Some projects may be cut back while new ones should emerge as is only fitting with the people who are involved and active in our church at this time. This better reflects issues facing our society and the world these days.

Belen Lee will be bringing us a passionate presentation on "Argentina" after the Worship Service on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to check out the calendar on the DCC's website for other events. I've got the website right up in my toolbar for easy (and frequent) access!

The time is ripe for making changes in our own lives and in our church. Take time to breathe, and reflect on all the blessings each of us have been

given. Perhaps you will feel called to interact or participate in projects new to you. Always know that your thoughts, concerns, questions, and any large or small actions are important to us in this church. This is your church. This is Christ's church. I look forward to seeing what we can achieve this year, as we work together.

Keep the church and your community in your heart and prayers. Let's keep our lights shining on these winter days. Share Christ's love/light with all – even to those we find it challenging to do so. May we all have a blessed and rewarding New Year!

~ Bryan

## WSLM

**Deanna Raenz**

"The holiday season is a busy time for many, and some of that craziness carries into the new year which can bring joy and enthusiasm with it. Looking at the start of 2019, there is a lot to be excited about in the Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry. We will be doing yet another book study, led by Deanna and Bryan, this February called "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" by Marcus Borg. This book is insightful and through provoking, which should get everyone thinking and expanding their faith. Bryan and Deanna have been working on implementing the new structure for much of this year which will surely carry on into the start of 2019. This has come with its own set of struggles, but overall, the consensus is that all the strife is worth it. This new structure will bring about change that the church needs in order to be sustainable and grow. A warm thank you to everyone who made 2018 great this year and we at WSLM look forward to working with everyone again in 2019! See you there!" Joy and Blessings!

## PPRM

**Peg Hauschildt**

Members: Pastor Bill Beardslee, Jeanne Bartlett, Pasca Ferwerder, Peg Hauschildt, Joyce Peace, Bryan Terry

Throughout 2019 the Pastor Parish Relations Ministry is scheduled to meet on the second Sunday of each month following our church service, unless there is a scheduling conflict with another church activity. We look forward to utilizing the information gathered during our 2018 Feedback Discussion meetings to promote growth and maintain our healthy church community.

We have submitted a 2019 budget request for our Ministry. At this time we are awaiting the decision that will be finalized at the Deering Community Church Annual Meeting on January 27, 2019. If approved, we are planning to schedule a workshop for our Congregation and Community that is consistent with our Mission. We have discussed some possibilities, but please let us know if you have a suggestion for a workshop topic. Peg Hauschildt, PPRM Coordinator

## WSLM: Musical Notes

Jane Waters

The preparation of music to be presented at the ecumenical service on Sunday, November 18 involved enlisting the choirs from the ministerium to join in the presentation of the musical "Lazarus", a piece centering on hunger and poverty. Our choir took on the major roles featuring Sam Kelly as Lazarus, Stan Long as the rich man Dives, Bryan Terry, a hungry child, and Deanna Raenz, a vocal mourner. Each of these singers really got into the music and necessary dramatic portrayal with heartfelt passion. Our choir was enhanced by singers from St. Mary's, Smith, and Hillsboro Methodist. A special feature was Kathy Brennan singing and playing guitar as troubadour. Pastor Bill added the necessary gravitas with his thoughtful narration. In order to pay tribute to Bread for the World Education Fund, the original producers of "Lazarus", the offertory went to them. We were very pleased to have a sizable congregation in attendance. Everyone was encouraged to join us in singing "Mustard Seed of Faith" with words provided as the finale. Our pastor printed out the sad biblical story for the bulletins. It was rewarding that the many revisions of this piece to fit it into the twenty minute sermon spot in the service really paid off as we timed it as exactly twenty-two minutes!

Musical evenings to anticipate: LESSONS AND CAROLS on Christmas Eve at 6 pm, A NEW TIME

The ANNUAL SOIREE, Friday, February 15 @ 7 pm. Sam Kelly will be happy sign up any singers or instrumentalists for this fun event. Best Wishes to all, *Jane*.

## Coordinating Council Ministry

Chris Nase

### Council Report

The Council met on November 13 and December 4, 2018. Highlights from those meetings included the formation of a Faire committee to help plan and organize the summer Faire; the need for a new Christian Formation coordinator, vice monitor and ministry mentors; the hiring of Terminix to work on mouse abatement; continued work on hiring people to regularly remove snow before church functions; information that the Teen Center is now serving meals; and the possibility of purchasing padded chairs for Sherwood Hall with some of the memorial money.

Please contact Council members (Bill, Bryan, Peter, Jeanne, Jean, Joyce, Pasca and Chris) if you have any questions and let Chris know if you would like the Council minutes sent to you.

Our next meeting is January 8, 2019 at 7 pm and all are welcome to attend.

## Christian Formation Ministry

Chris Nase

Please consider volunteering for Nursery or presenting a Children's message during the service. We always need two people for the Nursery and a simple message or story with a prop or visual is well received by the children of our church. Please let Chris know if you are interested or have questions.

# Resource Ministry

Jean Lewis

## Facilities Management Team for Buildings and Grounds:

### Church Repairs

Your Facilities Management team has been diligently at work with fine results. Please keep in mind that this is all volunteer work. A new exterior door has been installed on the lower level and, as I understand, was no easy task. Tim Ferwerda evidently does not fear heights, as he found a method to repair the leaking steeple/roof. It took extensive work and please thank Tim for his bravery and labor! The mysteries of faulty outdoor lighting have been resolved. Painting and scraping of the exterior continued as long as weather permitted and our buildings look fine! Many hands..... We experienced rodent (mice) invasion in the office, kitchen and basement. Terminex to the rescue! Several very brave ladies who, gloved, removed all dropping and dead bodies, sanitized all kitchen dishes and implements, and sanitized the cabinets! Guild members cleaned out the basement rodent bodies and droppings. It took most of a day. Kudoes to these members!!! Regular maintenance items are attended to as needed.

To All these dedicated workers, we thank you more than words can say. Our Church home of buildings and people is truly in fine condition. Your Team Leaders, Tim Ferwerda, Peter Cram, Jane Levesque, Jean Lewis.

# Outreach Ministry

Joyce Peace & Pasca Ferwerda

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

**Hillsborough:** In **January**, after the holidays, there is need for paper products like toilet paper, paper towels and facial tissues. In **February**, during which there is a school vacation week, they would need meat type products such as ham, tuna, chicken, fish etc. However, you are welcomed to bring whatever food, laundry or personal care items you have to offer. The food pantry is always in need of large brown paper bags. **Weare:** Donations of all types of food and personal care items are needed.

**Cash donations are always welcome.** Please make your 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 food pantry.

Food pantry donations are part of our outreach ministry program to help others less fortunate. Please help if you can.

**THANK YOU!**

**To all the volunteers working with the Outreach Ministry, and giving of their time to these projects: Genesis Youth Services Teen bags, Cards for Women's prison, O&A , Ukama (our partner church, Zimbabwe), Humanities To Go forums, Free Community Chicken, witness to the Poor People's Campaign, and the food pantry, my deepest thanks from Jeanne Bartlett, coordinator.**



# Outreach Ministry

Jeanne Bartlett

**United Church of Christ Special Mission Offerings** sponsor vital ministries that bring hope to people in the U.S. and around the world. Our church has identified four areas where critical human needs exist:

- in places lacking health and educational resources and/or where disaster has struck;
- within systems of injustice which oppress daily life and opportunity;
- in the lives of church leaders without sufficient resources to live with dignity;
- in the nurture of youth and congregations just beginning their lives of faith.

We believe these Special Mission Offerings collectively serve to lift people closer to the abundance and wholeness to which Jesus Christ has called us to work together to bring about.

**ONE GREAT HOUR  
OF SHARING**

Channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources. This offering is received on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

**STRENGTHEN  
THE CHURCH**

Re-imagines and builds the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC does not have a strong presence. Its also provides support for existing church's new initiatives. This offering is received on Pentecost Sunday.

**NEIGHBORS  
= NEED**

Supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries. This offering is received on First Sunday of October as part of World Communion Sunday. The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a

**THE CHRISTMAS  
FUND**

Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks in this time of gift giving I am reminded of the generous response to all these special missions from church members in 2018. May this spirit of love spill over into 2019!

## Guild Cleanings

Barbara Glauner

It has been a busy year for the Guild and its 15 members. Along with our usual monthly meetings at noon the first Wednesday of most months, we spent some time branching out into new things. Our officers for 2019 are President, Jeanne Bartlett, Vice President Joyce Peace, Secretaries June Holm and Jane Levesque, and Treasurer Pasca Ferwerda. Barbara Glauner has prepared new membership booklets for 2019 which will be passed out at the January meeting.

We started running the Attic Treasures thrift shop in the church basement in 2018. That operation was expanded to each Saturday morning from once a month initially during the warmer months and church members also participated in running this. It earned around \$1000 for the year which was split half and half with the church.

A little free pantry was started up in a wooden box stand outside of the church, but with problems encountered, it will be revisited with possible participation from the town of Deering once it appears as a town warrant article. It needs a better location and shelter from rain and snow, and we will see what kind of interest there is in our town.

We transferred \$2000 from our Ameriprise account in order to provide a college scholarship to a local student in June of 2019.

A Guild budget for 2019 was submitted, but has been tabled until our January meeting for changes and further discussion. After listing all our usual charitable giving, there was a possible deficit, so that has to be addressed as to what we will do in 2019.

A permanent separate summer Faire fund raising committee has been established combining the Deering Church and the Woman's Guild which will be meeting during the year to plan for the faire instead of waiting until spring to start that process. They have already had one meeting on December 20th at 5:30 pm for Point Persons to gather and make plans. Some people have volunteered or have been designated for various responsibilities within the faire set up.

Joyce reported on mice damage and dirt in the thrift shop and its effect on having a viable business. The church hired Terminix to deal with the church mice infestation ( and frogs, snakes or ants) in the entire church. The basement Attic Treasures thrift shop has been cleaned and the dead rodents removed.

As in past years, there was no Guild meeting held during December, 2018, as it is a busy time for everyone. **The next two meetings of the Guild are January 2nd and February 6th, weather permitting.**

## Recent Events & Photos

Christine Marcroft

**Thanksgiving Ecumenical service on Nov. 18, at 3 pm:** The reverend Carolyn Keilig from Smith Church, Rev. Bill Beardslee, Rev. Paul O'Neil from the Methodist church, Rev. Marcel Martel from St. Mary's Catholic church, and Marian Baker from the Quaker friends are pictured here. Unfortunately no one was taking pictures during the Lazarus musical performance. The service was well attended. People from Hillsborough and Deering came to celebrate and thank God for all our blessings.



### BBB Meeting

Here are some pictures of the After Hours Open House sponsored by the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce. With Better Business Bureau members including our church. The chamber chair gave a brief talk about their business in the area; Bill gave an overview of the history of our church using Don Johnson's book for detailed information. Bryan then gave a talk of what is now happening at our church and invited the visitors to a tour of the church, including the thrift shop. The event was well attended and everyone enjoyed visiting, the good food, and the tour.



### Gay Men's Chorus

Lee and Christine attended the Gay Men's Chorus Christmas Concert on Dec 9 at the Derryfield School in Manchester and were at a table with PFLAG literature and ready to answer questions. PFLAG is still so necessary, trying to keep families together and moving our cause forward. Although many know about the organization, there are always people who want to know what PFLAG is all about and have questions about the support meetings. The concert was absolutely wonderful - the guys giving their all, singing well-known Christmas songs with a different take and new ones including classical arrangements. Sarah Chadwick, a classically trained soprano and the daughter of one of the chorus members, joined them for a few beautiful pieces. The chorus is getting so popular that they sell out the venues completely. It is no wonder, since their performances are just incredible and they are having so much fun doing their solo performances and little extras like dressing up.... We are eagerly awaiting their concerts in May!



### Photos at our church





# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	 2 Guild @ Noon. Choir practice @ Water's on Weds, 5:30pm	3	4	5 Breakfast 7 am, workday 8 to 10 am, church
6 10 am Worship & Communion & Bible Study	7	8 Fac. Mtg, 6 pm Council, 7 pm	9	10	11	12
13 10 am Worship PPRM meets & Bible Study	14	15 Outreach 7 pm	16	17	18	19
20 10 am Worship & Bible Study  Pflag 3 pm Concord	21	22	23	24	25	26 Thrift Shop open 9 am to 1 pm
27 10 am Worship & Annual Meeting	28	29 WSLM 7 pm	30	31		



# February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<b>1</b> 10 am Worship & Communion, & Bible Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10 am Council Leadership	<b>4</b> Guild noon Choir Practice @ Water's home Weds, 5:30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Breakfast 7 am, workday 8 to 10 am @ church
<b>10</b> 10 am Worship PPRM Meets & Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Fac. Mtg, 6pm Council 7 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day 	<b>15</b> Annual Soire 7 pm	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10 am Worship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Thrift Shop open 9 am—1 pm.
<b>P</b> flag 3 pm Concord	<b>P</b> resident's Day holiday	<b>O</b> utreach, 7 pm				
<b>24</b> 10 am Worship & Forum @ 11:30	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> WSLM, 7 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		

Deering Community Church  
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Rev. Bill Beardslee

*We're on The Web*  
[deeringcommunitychurch.org](http://deeringcommunitychurch.org)

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



### January :

Carol Hubert, 2  
Marjorie Bryce, 8  
Jack Hubert, 12  
Charlotte Price, 31



### February :

Ray Petty III, 2  
Fiona Craighead, 7  
Glenn Price, 9  
Lisa Mahar, 12  
Samuel Kelly, 13

## *Happy Anniversary*

### January :

Pasca & Timothy Ferwerda, 26  
Lisa Mahar & Bill Beardslee, 26

### February :

Kathleen & Raymond Daniels, 14



### **ONA Mission Group Transgender Remembrance Service**

Lee and Christine Marcroft were privileged to attend a Transgender Remembrance service at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Manchester on November 25. At this service the lives of those lost in the past year from hate violence were honored. There were clergy present both from UU churches as well as a minister from a UCC church, the Rev. David Reynolds. The transposition Vocal Ensemble performed beautiful music while names of the hundreds of people killed in the last year were recited and candles were lit in their memory. A very emotional time... After the service there were refreshments served and people came by our PFLAG table to get information about the LBGTQ movement.