

Deering Community Church

The Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

July, August 2019



Dear Deering Community Church, UCC and Friends,

We now ease into the time of Pentecost which leads right up to Advent and the Christmas season. Spring was like an odd cold and rainy season with little of the great expectation of the surging and

blooming process of budding trees, shrubs and plants. Suddenly it is summer.

You will see in these pages our past and present activities of a vibrant community, a giving community, a loving community holding each other, our ministries, our heartaches and sorrows, and our joys and laughter. We've seen friends return from winter or summer residents once again grace our pews. We've said sorrowful goodbyes to longtime friends and members who've crossed the threshold from life to death and the mystery of "Beyond." We've heard visitors exclaim "See how they care for one another." We've walked the Lenten and Easter walk as we now wade our way through the post-Pentecost months following Jesus and his little but powerful community of followers. Through it all is the steady, persistent Presence of our eternal, unconditionally loving God, manifest in Christ-Love in Jesus who by teaching and example, unsteadies our taken for granted habitual paths and ways.

Jesus experienced God through his faithful devotion to his Jewish religion. Marcus Borg remarks that "At some point in his life, Jesus must have become a religious seeker and embarked upon a religious quest...He left Nazareth and became a follower of a wilderness prophet named John....We

may further surmise that Jesus probably underwent what William James calls a "conversion experience," which James says, "need not refer to changing from one religion to another, or from being nonreligious to being religious; it may also refer to a process, whether sudden or gradual, whereby religious impulses and energies become central to one's life." (William James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*.) It is reasonable to suppose that Jesus experienced such an internal transformation, which led him to undertake the ministry that he did...." as a faithful, Jewish follower of God and Torah. (Marcus Borg, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith*.)

It is no stretch of the imagination to say that Jesus Way is a model for us to follow each in our unique way as God calls us from smug complacency to awareness and humility, from neglect and ignorance to a sharp awareness, intention, compassion and service, from passionless living to a life infused with the burning heart flames of



Inside this issue:

Moderator's Desk	2
WSLM, Deacons	3
WSLM, Deacons, Music	4
Coordinating Council, Christian Ed, PPRM	5
Guild Gleanings, Church Faire	6
OM, Food Pantry, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ukama, & Bits	7
OM Price Family memorial, Pot luck & Hymn Sing	8
OM Blessing the animals	9
July, August Calendars	10, 11
Jane Spragg Obituary	12

Pastor's Corner

Pentecost fire. May we, like Jesus, open ourselves to the religious seeker within us engaged in a mutual spiritual quest, while unique to each of us, finds common cause in spiritual fire, education, prophetic witness and action which calls each other and the world to accountability. Peace, Rev. Bill Beardslee



It is a delight to share with you that not only were Glenn and Charlotte Price generous to this church in life but also in death. They left the Deering Community Church over \$35,000.00 for our endowment. We bow in thanksgiving to Glen and Charlotte and their family. Their legacy will be felt for years to come.

Moderator's Desk

Bryan Terry

This glorious time of the year is a gardener's treasure. Everything is abloom, including the weeds! Carol Hubert, gardener extraordinaire, recently alluded that we are all gardeners in our various ministries, roles, and in our daily lives. Most of us know that by pruning, we get fuller and stronger plants. Diligent weeding also promotes growth. But before one just starts pruning, one needs to know "how much, when and where" to do the pruning. So too with the weeds... I hate to think of how many times I hastily pulled what I thought were weeds, only to realize they were some forgotten perennials from last year! I would venture to say that we can look at our church in much the same way.

Our church is indeed blooming with new growth and energy. Community members and congregants alike have been working on cleaning, fixing, painting, planting, watering, weeding and enjoying each other's company. With the church's limited number of active members, there could be times when the work load gets a bit strenuous and some of the joy we feel when giving of our time and labors gets to be more of a chore than a joy. When this happens, we need to step back and take a hard look at what we are doing. Could there be any fruitful changes in how we operate and carry out some tasks? Should tasks – or ministries – be revisited?

Do they serve our needs? Equally or more important: do they serve the people/congregation or community's needs? Do our ministries match the church's mission statement? Can we do more? Can we do less? Can or should we do things differently? These are questions we need to ask ourselves even if we are feeling just fine, and things seem to be flowing smoothly. How can we prune this garden of ministries so that we stay strong and vibrant?

As part of this pruning process, Council members have listened to your collective voice in questioning just what the Council is and does. The "Feedback-Reflection" results are what led the Council to decide to hold a real Council meeting right after church on July 21st. Please come to listen, learn and be a part of the process that endeavors to keep the various ministries, officers and congregation working together to carry out the work of this church. You can participate in some of the necessary weeding &/or pruning that will keep us healthy and strong. Thanks to the Pastor Parish Relations Ministry, your thoughts, appreciations and opportunities for change have been consolidated and sent to each ministry, including the Pastor.

In the months to come, keep your eye out for numerous events, forums, and opportunities to volunteer or even act as 'advisors' for our

Moderator's Desk

Bryan Terry

ministries. A "Safe Church Policy" has been created and will be presented at the July 21st Council meeting. A small committee has been working on new and revised *Articles and By-Laws* to fit the new Ministry model structure of the church. Council has been made aware of the hopes to change a few of the ministry area names or titles. For example, the Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry has elected to go back to calling themselves the Deacons. It will be up to the congregation to approve this change, when they vote on the new Articles and By-Laws at a special meeting sometime in September.

Throughout the Summer and into the Fall, we will be holding some of our favorite events that I encourage you to bring friends and family to! As you'll note in other reports and on the church calendar, there will be wonderful music, forums, and presentations. Summer is the best time for community building! We will have the annual free Chicken BBQ on June 29th that is open to everyone – whether you come to this church, live in Deering, or not!

The Annual Guild and DCC Summer Faire on August 10th, which is our biggest fund-raiser, should draw huge crowds this year. Bring your friends and families! The Steering Committee, headed by Co-Chairs: Jess Vitkauskas representing the church and Genara Clay who represents the Guild, has been hard at work putting together one of the most exciting fairs yet! Check out the special Faire website and Facebook page! Please let Bill, me, or any ministry coordinator know of events or activities you'd like the church to explore.

I want to challenge all of us to take the precious time we need to listen to our friends, community members, neighbors, and ourselves. Take time to reflect. Let's help each other to do the necessary weeding and pruning for our spiritual and church growth. We are, each of us, beacons of love and light on this hill in Deering. So let "your love- lights shine"!

Blessings for a wonderful Summer. ~Bryan

WSLM / Deacon Ministry

Bryan Terry

Worship and Spiritual Life/Deacon Ministry

Our mission is to engage in collaboration, communication, outreach and education through innovative tools and activities that support and nurture spiritual growth and a caring community. Co-Coordinator: Bryan Terry

The Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry would like to be called the "Deacon Ministry". As in the past, the Deacons would cover all the same areas that the WSLM has covered. This ministry covers a wide range of areas. The Music program actually falls under this ministry, with Jane Waters as our Music Director. Look for her report!

While the Worship Service is imperative on Sundays, there are other times that a special Worship Service is called for. The Healing Service last month was a perfect example. Carol Hubert and Rev. Bill Beardslee put together an extraordinary service that was sorely needed and greatly appreciated by those of us who were fortunate enough to have attended. Maybe there are special needs – if not worship services – that you would like your Pastor and Deacons to consider? Please let us know! If you would be interested in helping a Deacon with the Offering, ringing the bell, lighting candles or being a Scripture Reader, just write your name down on the sheet in Sherwood Hall, or speak to any Deacon. *Thank You!*

Another area of the Deacon Ministry is 'Hospitality'. After Worship, coffee hour offers an opportunity to share food, laughter and community. This is coordinated by the Deacon Ministry, but it is not up to your

WSLM / Deacon Ministry

Bryan Terry

Deacons exclusively to bring in the refreshments! In order for all of us to enjoy these weekly gatherings, please sign up on the Resource table.

Congregational care can be a rewarding experience. There are so many ways we can help and support each other. Each of us in this church find ways to reach out to friends and those suffering or in need. Thank you for being the 'shepherds' that you are. Please let any one of your Deacons know of someone who might need a helping hand, a prayer or more. We want everyone who walks through our doors to feel the warmth, caring and love that is a hallmark of this church. We are *all* Deacons when caring for others.

The "Deacon Fund" is meant to help anyone in the congregation or out in the community who has a

significant need that money through this fund can mitigate. If you know of someone who might warrant this help, please let Bill or me know. The first Sunday of the month, or Communion Sunday the offering is designated for the Deacon Fund.

The Deacons meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 3:00p. We would love you to attend a meeting if you have questions, thoughts to share or have an interest in this humbling and rewarding work.

Your Deacons: Jane Waters: Music Director, Carol and Jack Hubert, Joyce Peace, Kay Daniels, Bryan Terry, Co-Coordinator, under the guidance of Rev. Bill Beardslee

WSLM /Deacon Ministry , Music

Jane Waters

Winding down scheduled music for the choir to sing on Sunday services in June has featured some new approaches. In answer to a request that there be selections of a more current idiom, we are focusing on music which engages the congregation to join in on refrains that are very sing-able with rhythms that go along with the words. Fortunately, there is music available on line, so our only cost is the printing of the music for the choir. We hope to continue this during the summer months with our "pick-up" choir singers. In August ,we have something to look forward to when Stuart Huggard and Tom Inui will be here to sing with us.

Monadnock Music Free Concert was at Deering Church and featured a Piano Trio on Sunday June 23 at 3 pm. Featured music was of Lera Auerbach, Robert



Schumann, Franz Joseph Hayden and Rebecca Clark. This was an interesting presentation of pairing two modern day composers with two well - known ones of the past. The concert was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The main event this fall will be a **BROADWAY MUSICAL EVENING on Friday, October 11 @7 pm**. The singers from the surrounding area will be joining our own singers. Maybe you would like to be a part of it. Be sure to mark your calendars.

A nice way to spend a summer evening is to go to a summer outdoor concert. I know Henniker and Contoocook have them, so check out the times for these and others.



Coordinating Council

Chris Nase

Council – *To represent and serve the congregation, using deliberate action, collaboration and leadership. Council members carry out the functional and ministerial working of the church to build a faith-based community of Christ love.*

The Council met on May 14 and June 11, 2019. Developments of note – Raffle items were procured for the Faire and include Red Sox tickets, a balance bike and helmet, Vitamix, drone and \$100 Amazon gift certificate. Carol and Jack Hubert will be the coordinators for the Christian Formation Ministry. Outreach is preparing for the BBQ. The Safe Church Policy was presented to Council in May and

will be further discussed at the next Council meeting. Financially pledges are lower than expected. Fuel oil is high possibly due to a thermostat glitch. Trash collection services began in June. Council approved a contract with Mid Maine Restoration for repairing and painting the bell tower. They come highly recommended and would begin work in the spring of 2020.

Our next meeting is July 21, 2019 directly after the worship service. Please plan to attend and see a Council meeting in action. We will meet in Sherwood Hall.

Christian Education Ministry

Carol & Jack Hubert

Ministry: To provide educational opportunities to build evolving, caring, spiritual relationships between God, neighbor and self, based on biblical foundations, and thought-provoking activities

Ministry Report to Council, June 11, 2019

Carol is lead person and organizer of this ministry. Jack is co-leading with a focus on adult Christian Ed. We have the blessing of Pastor Bill and Moderator Bryan Terry. This ministry will be a challenge as we are only in NH from May until the beginning of October.

Adults. Jack is currently scheduled to do a presentation on Genesis June 16 and a separate

presentation in August. These follow the church service. He is also researching other topics for next year through the Conference and other sources.

Children. Carol will be coordinating to present meaningful children's messages and other activities. These will be guided by the Sunday scripture as far as possible.

We are committed to this position knowing we will need help. The church may have to think "outside" the box especially during the winter. We welcome any suggestions from Council and the congregation.

PPRM

Peg Hauschildt

Mission statement: The Pastor Parish Relations Committee covenants with the Deering Community Church to support and sustain connection and communication between the Pastor and the congregation through kind collaborative listening, education and ongoing mutual evaluation for a healthy community.

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

The Pastor Parish Relations Ministry met on May 12, 2019. We finalized plans to send specific Feedback Summaries to Worship and Spiritual Life, Outreach, Christian Education, Resource, and Pastor Parish Relations Ministries as well as the Council. In June the Coordinators of each of those Miniseries received an electronic and printed copy of the Feedback that was pertinent for their group. We've listened carefully to the comments expressed by our congregation and are continuing to respond to the excellent and valuable feedback.

Guild Gleanings

Barbara Glauner

Mission Statement: The purpose of this organization shall be to try to enrich the spiritual life and friendship of women in our communities, to aid to our churches especially in benevolent work, and to cooperate with state and national societies in world friendship programs.

At the May meeting after our lunch, the Guild hosted a guest speaker, Valerie White, Educator and Certified Permaculture Designer of Beaver Hollow Education Center, who presented an inspiring slide show and presentation on "The Fun of Container Gardening" which was enjoyed by all.

At the June Meeting after our lunch, our business meeting concentrated on some of the faire plans that the Guild is working on like parking and use of the town hall in case of rain for the outside vendors.

Use of the town gazebo was offered for the fair as well. The fire cadets were engaged as an additional volunteer force to direct and monitor traffic, signage for traffic and parking. The raffle prizes have been chosen. Chris Hague told us that two high school seniors have been chosen for the two college scholarships given by the Guild and will be announced at the graduation ceremony.

Attic Treasures is busy and doing well, but is in need of people to help on Saturday mornings to sell items. Things not yet sorted but in the back room will also be available for sale.

I am writing this report for Jeanne Bartlett using the minutes sent out to members by our secretary, Nancy Stauffer.

Deering Summer Faire, August 10, 2019

The Faire is a collaborative effort by the Women's Guild and the Deering Community Church.

There is nothing like going to a small-town fair with crafts, games, terrific food, and great family fun for all ages. On Saturday, August 10th, the Deering Women's Guild and the Deering Community Church are combining forces to bring this community event to many. There will again be the world famous Grafton Village cheddar cheese sold until it is gone. There will be over 20 vendors present selling interesting goods of all types. Throughout the day there will be live music to enjoy while you browse the faire.

Raffle tickets will be for sale through August with prize choices of a pair of Red Socks Tickets, a drone, a balance bike with helmet, Vitamix, and a \$100 gift certificate from Amazon.

In the morning at 9 am, Attic Treasures will be open in the church basement. Baked goods, pies, and jams will also be available for sale all day and there will be a shish-ka-bob BBQ and fixings located out back in the pavilion where the wood fired grill is located. The BBQ gets rolling at 10:00 am.

Children's activities and fun for the entire family will be plentiful: corn hole, a children's laundry, butter churning, 'corny' pool fun, storytelling (11:00 am), a children's cupcake eating contest (1:00 pm), and more will have the kids entertained for hours. From 2:00 – 3:00 pm there will be a FREE ice cream social.

And did we say fire truck? Deering's finest firemen will be in attendance to show the kids a great time. And, we may just see some additions in the special vehicle category for kids and adults alike to see. We'll tell you more when we know for sure.

Community organizations will also be in attendance sharing their information. So, come and join the fun. Stop by for an hour or two or stay a while, but be sure to check out everything. All are welcome. Bring your friends.

Written By Ginks Leiby

OM - Outreach Ministry

The ministry of Outreach shall include outreach, service, mission and social justice, O & A, World Service, & Ukama.

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 **August**, such as ham, tuna, chicken, etc., and care products for **July**, such as laundry soap, shampoo, bathing soap, etc, but each week you're welcome to bring whatever 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. School is out now, so help is really needed for families and children. Please help if you can. THANK YOU !

Pasca Ferwerda, Financial Secretary

Joyce Peace Food Pantry Representative

'Jack Hubert sorting letters for the new sign at the church'.

He purchased new sides and letters for the sandwich sign which had been falling apart for a long time.



JULY

Jean Lewis, 4

Riley Vitkauskas, 9

Donald Johnson, 14

Elizabeth Dishong, 16

Christine Hague, 19

AUGUST

Leroy Marcroft, 10

Patricia Finn, 25

Kathleen Daniels, 26

Robert Fuller, 27

Happy

Anniversary

JULY

Carol & Jack Hubert, 8

Christine & Paul Haguer, 20

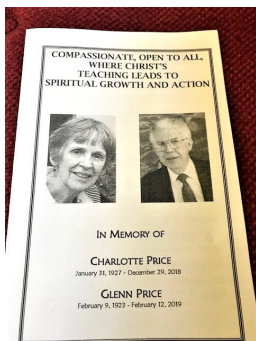
Marjorie & Henry Weeden, 29

UKAMA MINISTRY: During the week of July 8-15 the New Hampshire Conference has the honor of hosting the Rev. Dr. Kennedy Gondongwe. Dr. Gondongwe is the Principal of the United Theological College in Harare, the primary center for theological studies in Zimbabwe. Rev. Gondongwe will be welcomed to preach at Deering Community Church, UCC on July 14th at 10:00 am followed by a welcoming reception. Come, and invite others, to this unique opportunity with an esteemed member of Ukama Partnership.

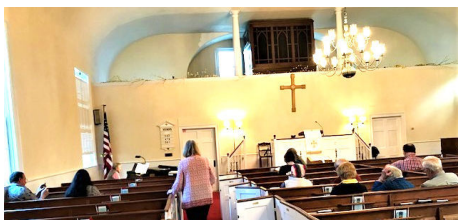
OM

Comments & Photos, Christine Marcroft

The Price family had their memorial service for Charlotte and Glenn on June 8 at 1pm at our church. The children and grandchildren were there and a few of the congregation and the community who remembered them well. It was a lovely service. The sons and daughter told stories of their parents' life and how they changed the music at our church by donating the lovely organ and Charlotte being the organist for many years. Glenn was a musician himself with a beautiful base voice and was an accomplished carpenter, among many of his other amazing gifts. He helped put things right in the church pews by fixing the book racks and so many other items over the years. Other friends reminisced with stories of their own connected with Charlotte and Glenn. There was a time for visiting and refreshments after the service where we were able to continue remembering these two incredible people.



The Potluck and hymn sing held in May was a medium turnout, but everyone had a great time singing the familiar hymns and enjoying the wonderful potluck! Aren't they always the best?



OM

Here are some pictures of the lively blessing of the animals on June 2nd.

Carol Hubert and Lauren Warner did such a great job in organizing this event. We gathered together after church at 1 pm in front of the church where the animals, all dogs, with their owners had assembled. We had a few people from the Community attending which was great! Carol and Lauren had put together ribbons for the animal owners, tables with information about keeping your animals healthy, toys and treats and free gifts. The weather couldn't have been better – after a rainy and stormy morning!

Bill did such a wonderful job of giving a short talk, mentioning Francis of Assisi ..., blessing each animal and reading a prayer with all which made a meaningful afternoon despite the warmth of the day - as one of our visitors mentioned. Cheers, pictures from Christine Marcroft.





July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Council Leadership@ 10 am	3 Guild @ Noon 	4 Independence Day	5	6 Breakfast 7 am, Workday 8 am Attic Treasures 9 to 1 every Sat.
7 10 am Worship & Communion.	8	9 Fac. Mtg. 6 pm Council 7 pm	10	11	12 Eleanor Campbell Event	13
14 10 am Worship, Zimbabwe Preacher	15	16 Outreach 7 pm	17	18	19	20
21 10 am Worship, Council Meeting, Pflag 3 pm Concord	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10 am Worship	29	30 Deacons, 3 pm	31			



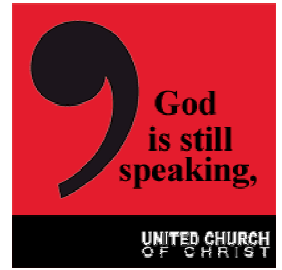
August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Breakfast 7 am, Workday 8 am church Jane Spragg Memorial service
4 10 am Worship & Communion	5	6 10 am Council Leadership	7 No Guild meeting, Fair set up	8	9	10 Church Fair 
11 10 am Worship	12	13 Fac. Mtg 6 pm Council 7 pm	14	15	16	17
18 10 am Worship	19	20 Outreach 7 pm	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24
25 10 am Worship	26	27 Deacons, 3 pm	28	29	30	31

**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*



Jane Ellis Nichols Spragg



Jane Ellis Nichols Spragg, MD , age 97., formerly of Hillsborough, died on Saturday June 1st at the Elizabeth De Rahm Hospice House in Cambridge, MA. She was predeceased by her husband Howard E. Spragg, DD. The Spraggs moved to NH in 1976 after summering there for many years. Jane practiced office gynecology and family planning in Hillsboro for five years and worked in the student health department at Keene State College. She closed her office in 1987 to travel with her husband Howard, who died in 1991. She moved to Concord NH in 2002. Jane is survived by children and grandchildren. Burial will be private in Deering, NH. A memorial service is planned at Deering Community Church for Saturday, August 3, 2019. Memorial donations may be made to Planned Parenthood or a charity of choice.

To all members of the Deering Community,

My mom, Jane Spragg, passed peacefully in the wee hours of Saturday morning, June 1. Jane was 97, and while it had been many years since she lived in Deering, this church and the community she so loved remained the dearest connection she had. As she'd wished, her remains will be placed in a small graveyard just down the road from her former home here.

Jane was a walker! At 92, she still took an hour a day to walk around a park near her apartment at Cadbury Commons in Cambridge, MA, close to my own home in Arlington where she moved in 2013. Jane was an ever-curious, committed human being who delighted in life. Despite her Alzheimer's, she made every effort to connect with anyone she met. Jane's lifelong passion for justice, for medicine and women's health, and for the natural world were infectious, not to mention her involvement in community theater in Deering!

We had the gift of several weeks of accompanying my mom while she was in hospice care—first in her apartment, then for the past two weeks in a local hospice residence. Jane was delighted to be surrounded by love and family, declaring at one point, “If this is what dying is like, people should line up on the mountain top to die!” Those of you who knew Jane can easily imagine her grin.

Jane outlived my father, Howard Spragg, by 28 years. Howard was a minister who worked for the United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries. Jane's later years were filled with travel, with good works and “fighting the good fight” for worthy causes, and with pleasure in the company of family, friends, and acquaintances. Thank you to each of her Deering friends for your part in making Jane's life well-lived and happy. We will miss Jane's bright spirit, and look forward to celebrating her life with the community later this summer.

Deborah Spragg
27 Linden Street
Arlington, MA 02476

