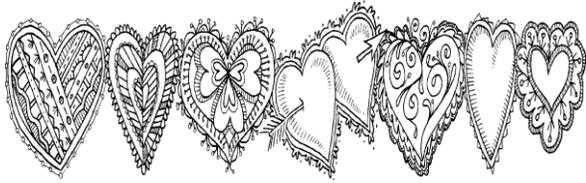


February 2017



**First Congregational
Church of Pelham
United Church of
Christ**

**THE good
news**



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

While I am the "public face" of worship at First Congregational Church of Pelham UCC each Sunday, it takes a lot of people to make worship happen. With the risk of leaving someone out, there is;

- Tom, our music director, and the choir of 10 to 15 people;
- Sue as Accompanist on Organ or Piano;
- Sharon and the Bell Choir if they are playing that morning;
- Peggy who prepares the bulletin during the week;
- Acolytes who begin our time of Worship bringing in the Light of God;
- Members of the Diaconate who perform various duties; greet, pass out Bulletins, change the paraments according to the church season, read the Scriptures of the morning, collect the Offering and prepare Communion on the first Sunday of each month and clean up afterwards;

Contd. Page 2

About us....

3 Main Street
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Pelham, NH 03076
Phone: 603-635-7025
Fax: 603 635-1134
www.pelhamucc.org
E-Mail – office@pelhamucc.org
"Like us" on Facebook!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 A.M. September – June
9:30 A.M. July and August
Child Care and Sunday School

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Rev. Bill Ferguson – Pastor
(revbill819@gmail.com)

Peggy Murphy – Office
Administrator
(office@pelhamucc.org)

Tom Seniow – Music Director
Sue Howard – Organist

OUR CHURCH COVENANT

We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and Will of God. It is our purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of this church to be witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our ancestors, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Realm of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

- Flowers, and seasonal decorating have to be donated, prepared and arranged;
- Kevin and Cullen and others who direct the Broadcast of the service over local Cable and make copies to be delivered to the TV station for weekly reruns;
- There are Sunday School teachers, Offering Counters, Coffee Makers, and Hospitality hosts;
- Laurie, who cleans and readies the Sanctuary each week.

That adds up to about 30 people. Have I left anyone out? Oh yeah – You!!

In the act of Worship, without you, the preparations made by the folks above would have no meaning. You have as important a part as anyone each week. Worship is not a "show" or a "play" for you to be entertained; you are here to participate. You have a role offering praise in word and song, listening to the readings and the preaching, you share in the prayers of and for the church and members, you may be the first one to greet a visitor or someone who is seeking a church home and you support our ministries with your financial contributions and labor.

If you were to have a particular job responsibility each week, what would we need in addition to the roles listed above? We might add a photographer or two for the website, a tech person to monitor the sound system, someone to sit with a visitor and help them through the service, additional Instrumentalists, someone to record services for the internet, someone whose job it is just to welcome the kids, chief cook and bottle-washer. The number of jobs would only be limited by our imaginations! And you wouldn't have to do the same job every week – we could give everyone a different job each Sunday, just so long as everyone has a particular responsibility.

The truth is, there is a job for everyone every Sunday morning. Even if you are not assigned a particular role to play you have a responsibility – many responsibilities, in fact.

- Showing up and being part of the community.
- Being willing to actively and enthusiastically play your role as a Christian.
- Opening yourself to allowing the Holy Spirit to act in you.
- And finally, taking what you have experienced in this time of worship and living it in the world through words and deeds of kindness, compassion, peace and grace.

There is plenty to do and you are just the one to do it! Come and join us! See you Sundays!

RB

In our worship

Worship news, prayers, joys and concerns

February 2017 -3

FIRST FOLKS

Susan Mikutel's mother, **Marilyn Ratcliffe**, passed away New Year's Eve. We Send our condolences to Susan, Stan and their family.

Also, our condolences to **Tracey & John Hollinger** and their family on the passing of Tracey's mother, **Doris Petlock**.

Alice McEdward's brother, **Robert Twiss**, passed away at the age of 92. Condolences to Alice, Bob and their family.

Prayers for:

Elaine Hornbeck for recovery from knee replacement

Don Hornbeck

Ed Shiebler had a series of strokes, recovering at Lahey Clinic

Evie Campbell who broke her leg while skiing during Christmas vacation

David Wilkerson who is recovering from cataract surgery

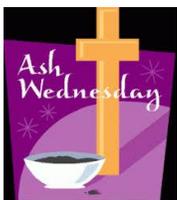


NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

On Sunday, February 5, 2017, we will be welcoming New Members into the life and membership of our Church! It is a joyous time and we look forward to celebrating with our new members!

REMINDER

ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 1st



Join us for our Ash Wednesday Worship service on Wednesday evening, March 1st, as we begin the season of Lent.

Lent is the period of 40 days (not counting Sundays) which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we observe Lent as a season of reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ withdrawal into the desert for 40 days and remembers the reflections he had as he contemplated his faith and journey to the cross.

We will have a Simple Soup and Bread Supper before the service. Please sign up to provide Soup or Bread for the meal.

In our classroom

CE, Adult Ed, Bible Study, Sunday School, Confirmation

February 2017 -4

FIRST THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

We continue our Series "Making Sense of the Bible", discussing the Nature of Scripture this month. Is the Bible the true Word of God? Is it Inspired? How does God speak to us through the Scriptures? All are welcome!



FROM YOUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Looking back at January we started off the year with Rotation #4 where the children have been learning about Moses. They have been learning about Moses through Music, Storytelling and Cooking. What fun these kids have been having as they learn about Moses! We end the month of January with a movie on Joseph and his Coat of Many Colors, which kicks off Rotation 5. If you are interested in getting involved, and teaching during one of the rotations, don't worry it is not huge commitment as it is only 3 Sundays and we provide you with the lesson plan. You prepare for it once and then deliver it 3 times for the different grades. Our Youth have also been busy with their activities. They started off the year with a meeting to talk about their New Years' resolutions and what it means to stick to one. Did you make one for 2017? They also went ice-skating in Boston followed by dinner at Faneuil Hall. On Saturday the 22nd, they had their first fundraiser for their mission trip, with a Spaghetti Dinner and Karaoke. All that came had a fun evening. We have a number of activities scheduled for February including their annual pizza fundraiser for Super Bowl Sunday, the River Hawks Hockey game and an overnight lock in at the church. Lastly, Bible Studies are starting up again, maybe this could be your New Years' resolution to attend as many as you can this year! Have a great month!

BIBLE QUIZ

LAST MONTH'S ANSWER

In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| A. A farmer sowing seed | B. A mustard seed |
| C. Yeast | D. Hidden treasure |
| E. A merchant who finds a pearl | |
| F. A fishing net | G. All of the above |

Answer: G (See Matthew 13:24-51.)

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ

What unique characteristic of the judge Ehud enabled him to outsmart King Eglon of Moab, who had been oppressing ancient Israel?

- A. He was left-handed.
- B. He was blind.
- C. He was very fat.
- D. He was exceedingly strong.

+Christian symbol+



Aureole

From the Latin for "gold," an aureole is a golden image symbolizing divinity and supreme power. It's used sometimes in medieval art to surround Mary and the Christ Child, or Jesus alone. The elongated or almond-shaped form of an aureole is called a mandorla.

In our work

Committees

February 2017 -5

TRUSTEES' CORNER

We want to thank everyone who has sent in their pledges for 2017. We ask if you have not yet had a chance to send in your pledge if you would do so as soon as you can. It is very helpful to have this information as we work on the upcoming budget.

We continue to look into the prospect of implementing a capitol campaign. The idea of a formation of an Executive Committee for the capitol campaign was discussed.

Heating in the church appears to be somewhat sporadic at times. We are having the thermostats looked at to make sure they are working properly.

Thank you to the Hollinger family for their generous donation of a sofa and TV for the youth room downstairs.

FROM THE DIACONATE

Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me."

And leaving everything behind, he got up and followed him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house,

and a large crowd of tax collectors

and others were at table with them.

The Pharisees and their scribes complained to his disciples, saying,

"Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus said to them in reply,

"Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do.

I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners."



Luke, Chapter 5, 27-32

Important Events at a glance:

- February 5 – Reception of New Members
- February 19 – Guest Speaker from Lazarus House

- **Acolytes** – We are looking for children from grades 3-6 to help us start our Worship services. Please use the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall or see any Deacon before Worship.
- **Greeters** – If you would like to greet, please see any Deacon following the Sunday service. This is a great way for you to meet your fellow members. You can sign up for one time or multiple times.
- **Altar Flowers** – If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar, please contact *Peggy* at the office. You are welcome to take the flowers after Service or ask a Deacon to donate them to a shut-in.
- **Name Tags** – We are encouraging everyone to wear their name tags on Sundays. If you need a name tag, the signup sheet is located near the name tag bulletin board in the hall between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.
- **Friendship Books** – Speaking of names, we encourage everyone to please sign their names in the black books in the pews, pass this book down to your pew neighbor, and then pass it back to the center aisle. While you do this, take a look at the names of those sitting with you! In other churches, we have heard of our black books used less as attendance or contact logs, but more as "friendship" books so everyone can get to know each other – so read a new name and say hello!
- **Church Directory** – Our Church directory continues to be available on the Church website, and was just updated with many of our new members, as we welcomed 11 of them (a record) in October!

Click on "About Us" from the list on the home page, and then scroll down to the bottom to a viewing link. The Directory is open to ALL our church family, even if you are not a member. All are Welcome! PS: If you need (or forgot) the password to access, ask any Deacon or committee member (we never write it down!). If you haven't already done so, please consider adding your (or your family's) picture to the directory!

- **Transportation to Church Needed?** If anyone has a need for transportation to church or a church function (e.g. church dinners/suppers), please contact the church office or a Deacon.

Prayer List / Prayer Requests

Please help us keep the prayer list current by using the "Prayer Requests" sheets in the pews, which can be filled out then handed in during the Offertory. One can also specify on the sheet whether a phone call or visit from Rev. Bill is needed. Names typically go on the prayer list for a three week period.

Worship Coordinators & Greeters for February

Bryan Gaudreau, Susan Mikutel

Greeters: Mission Committee

The next Diaconate meeting is **February 13th at 7PM.**

As always, please contact a member of the Diaconate with any questions, comments, or suggestions. Diaconate Co-chairs Bob Diack can be reached at bob.disck@siriusdecisions.com and Chris Bulkley at Christopherbulkley@gmail.com.

In our ministry

Missions, Youth Ministry, Conference and UCC News

FROM YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE

We are holding a "Mission Sunday" event on Sunday, February 19th, to host the three charitable organizations where our volunteers do "hands on" work every month.

This includes the Wish Project, the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Lazarus House. They will have tables in Fellowship Hall after worship to display information and can answer questions about volunteering and their organizations. We hope this inspires you to take advantage of these opportunities to offer the time, talent and treasure with which you are blessed to become a blessing to others.

February's dates for these hands-on mission projects include Monday, February 6th at the Wish Project in Lowell; Saturday, February 11th at the Nashua Soup Kitchen; and Monday, February 27th at Lazarus House in Lawrence. See the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall or just ask a Mission Committee member if you are interested in donating some of your time and talent to these worthy causes.

The next special mission event we are sponsoring is our socks, underwear and diaper drive at the UMass Lowell vs. UMass Amherst hockey game on Saturday, February 11th at 7pm at the Tsongas Center in Lowell. We are so excited that many of you are coming to the game, but if you aren't coming you can still make a difference by donating socks, underwear or diapers in the marked bins in Fellowship Hall. Lots of used clothing is regularly donated which is very useful to the organizations who distribute them to needy recipients. However, there is also a critical need for underwear, socks and diapers which just aren't donated on a regular basis to organizations like the Wish Project, homeless shelters and VA Hospitals. We will accept new packaged boxers, briefs, panties, bras, undershirts, dress socks, white socks, and winter socks in any sizes for men, women, and children and onesies and diapers for babies

Blessed and Thankful, *Your Mission Committee*



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

We had an amazing Karaoke Night last month and thank those who came out to support our Youth Groups in their fundraising for their trips this year. We have some very "talented" singers in our church!



YOUTH GROUP PIZZA SALE

Since the Patriots have secured a place in the Super Bowl, we will be taking orders the next two weeks for **YOUTH GROUP PIZZA**. The Youth group prepares Pizza just for you to serve at your party! Cost is only \$8 for Cheese and \$10 for Pepperoni! See any Youth Group member to order or place an order by calling the church or after Church on Sunday!



Attention High School Seniors! Please let RB know if you have been accepted to college or what your plans are for next year! We will gladly announce it in our upcoming Newsletters!

UCC NEWS NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE PREPARED TO SERVE 2017

Registration is Now Open!

"Prepared to Serve 2017" is scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 25, 2017, at Pembroke Academy in Pembroke, NH.



NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



This year's theme will be ***"I Planted, Others Watered, but God Gives the Growth."***

Last year's event saw record attendance with over 500 laypersons and clergy participating. As we look forward to this year's event we are planning a full schedule for the day that includes time for worship, attending workshops, viewing exhibits, and enjoying food and fellowship with folks from all over New Hampshire. With over 80 workshop options on a variety of topics, we are hopeful that this day will be meaningful and productive for all who attend.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come experience the joy and inspiration that Prepared to Serve offers.

If you are interested in learning more, view the event brochure, <http://www.nhcucc.org/Documents/WeeklyNewsDocuments/2017%20Prepared%20to%20Serve%20Booklet.pdf> or sign up now by visiting the event registration website. <http://www.cvent.com/events/prepared-to-serve-2017/event-summary-4868555b56424dd7b6af5b13565a0a7b.aspx>

Workshops fill quickly, so don't delay!

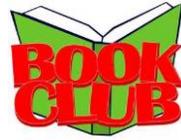
We look forward to seeing you in February!

Note: The online registration deadline is February 15th at 11:59pm

In our community

February 2017 -8

Book Club will be meeting, Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00 PM, in the Church Parlor. This month's book for discussion is "*The Kitchen House*" by Kathleen Grissom.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will assemble Hygiene Kits for Church World Service at our monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, **February 28th, 2017**. These kits are sent to people in areas suffering from disasters, violence, and poverty. They can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

The Congregation is invited to help by bringing any or all of the items on the following list, or by contributing money. We'll be collecting these items the whole month of February. There will be collection boxes in Fellowship Hall.

Thanks so much for helping.

Contents of Hygiene Kit:

- One hand towel approx. 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six (6) Band-Aids
- One wide-tooth comb

CWS requests NO toothpaste

Website

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE



(www.pelhamucc.org) and Facebook Page
(First Congregational Church of Pelham)
for information about your church & activities.