



The United Church of Christ in North Hampton

Monthly Musings From Your Pastor

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:18-19

I can remember when I first learned to drive, I spent a lot of time looking in the rearview mirror. I was worried about getting hit from behind, I was worried that I was holding up traffic. I can remember my driving instructor at the time telling me that I need to be more concerned with the road ahead than the road behind. He said, "There is a reason that the windshield in front of you is bigger than the rearview mirror."

Where do you find yourself spending time looking as we enter this new year? Are you more focused on the past? There is nothing wrong with glancing at the past on occasion but just like driving, it can be dangerous if we spend too much time looking back. I know that for myself, if I stare into the past too much, I find myself getting filled with regret and what could have been, rather than living in the present and looking at what could be.

Isaiah's words are a great place to start this new year! He reminds us that our God is a God who is constantly calling us, encouraging us to move forward. Our God is a God of forgiveness a God of constant new creation. Take a moment right now to pause, to give thanks for the past year and to reflect on the possibilities of the year ahead..... How is it that God is calling you to be part of a new thing this year? in your own life?.....in the life of the church?..... As individuals and a church community we are given the gift of newness!

Will you pray with me? God of new life, God of new beginnings, we give you thanks for this past year, for the blessings and for those challenges that helped us to grow in faith, for we know that you were with us in both. May we be open to your Spirit in the year ahead as we look forward to seeing how it is that you are calling us to new things, in our individual lives and as a community of faith. Amen.

In Christ,
Rev. Mike



Sundays in January

Worship Leader: Nancy Beveridge

1/6 Epiphany Sunday

Youth are invited to remain in worship for communion

Flowers: Leavitt Trust Fund

Church Council Meeting

Ecumenical Choral Epiphany Service at 3 pm at Hampton Methodist Church

1/13 The Baptism of Christ

Hands On Learning in the Garden Room

Flowers: Chevalier Family

1/20 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Hands On Learning in the Garden Room

Flowers: Booker Trust Fund

Annual Meeting after worship

1/27 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Hands On Learning in the Garden Room

Flowers: Barbro Bolh

Rev. Mike's Installation

UCCNH Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 20, 2019

After Worship in the Sanctuary

When the meeting is adjourn we will gather downstairs in the O'Connor Vestry for pizza.

ANNUAL MEETING

Mary's Music Notes



The month of December was filled with music.

I'd like to thank the following people for adding their talents to what was played and sung:

soloist Amy Pruszynski, Brenda Tharp (percussionist extraordinaire), John Sillay for playing four-hand piano with me, Deb Eaton and Brenda Jardine for their beautiful duet, Joanne O'Connor (who added her amazing flute music to many songs), tone chime players (Deb Armstrong, Ellen Dozet, Sue Launi, Brenda Tharp, Duncan Tharp and Kat Tharp), and Jonna Dozet for singing Christmas eve, and of course, the choir. Thank you for all who went caroling, too. Music makes the season merry and bright.

With sincere gratitude,

Mary Oliver

Altar Flowers

Almost every Sunday there is a new arrangement of flowers that graces the altar table. Ten weeks out of the year these arrangements are paid for by monies left to the church by past members. Eight to nine weeks out of the year, parishioners bring an arrangement to Little River Chapel in the summer. The rest of the weeks (other than Easter and Thanksgiving) are arrangements that are sponsored by parishioners. Often the flowers are dedicated in honor/memory of a loved one or in celebration of a significant birthday or anniversary. Sometimes they are sponsored without a dedication. The cost is \$40 and the money can be put into the offering plate as long as it is identifiable. Please call the church office with your dedication and sign up on the Worship board or call the office.

The 2019 flower schedule is up in the O'Connor Vestry. Please consider signing up. Thank you. ~
Ellen Dozet, Admin. Assistant

Come Celebrate with Us!

The United Church of Christ in North Hampton
Cordially invites you to attend the
Installation of
Rev. Michael Gelsomini



Please join us as we affirm the covenant between our church and our recently called pastor.

Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 3 PM
295 Atlantic Avenue
North Hampton, NH

The Rev. Joan MacPherson will preach.
A light reception will follow the service in the O'Connor Vestry.
Clergy and congregations are invited to attend.
Clergy are invited to gather at 2:30 PM to robe and process.

No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here

Gather TOGETHER



Open Mic Night, Friday, January 18. Performers should be here at 6:30 p.m. to sign in and the audience might expect the show to start around 6:45 p.m. Tell your friends!

Ladies Union

Will meet again on January 9, 11 a.m.
in the O'Connor Vestry. All women are
welcome. Please bring your lunch.
Beverages and dessert is provided.



UCC Book Club

The UCC Book Club met at Nancy Bergeron's home for a Christmas brunch. After a time of fellowship, enjoying all the wonderful food offerings, we shared Christmas readings and our own personal Christmas memories. It has been a great year of reading and we happily anticipate another year of more great reading. Come join us!

- January 19: Eleanor Elephant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman hosted by Beth Seavers
 - February 16: Jayber Crow by Wendell Berry hosted by Gail Hiltunen
 - March 16: Book to be selected, hosted by Anna Pike
 - April 20: A Colored Man in Exeter by Michael Cameron Ward (local author) hosted by Mary Myers



Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Wednesday, January 2, 2019 in the O'Connor Vestry. If you would like more information please talk with Gail Hiltunen, 964-6909

Annual Ecumenical Epiphany Choral Celebration

January 6, 2019 3:00 pm, at the Hampton United Methodist Church. Singers will rehearse at 2:00 pm. All are encouraged to come and enjoy each church choir's favorite music offering of the Advent/Christmas season. The service will end with a mass choir of all the area churches. Come support our choir!

Hands-On Learning

I am so excited for this new year! For many it is a time of reflection and preparing ourselves for how we want to start the new year. My favorite activity is to ask the children what they remembered most about 2018. We write down what their favorite song, hobby or activity is at this point in time. Taking note of these interests is almost like taking a snapshot to always remember how kids view the world in 2018. After this activity I will ask a few questions.

- * What was their favorite lesson about God and Jesus?
- * Why was it their favorite lesson?
- * Is there anything that they would like to know about God, Jesus and the Bible? What are you looking forward to for 2019?
- * What do you think God would want you to do? Why?
- * How do we know what to do?

The last question is a doozy but one of my favorites. We will practice taking a deep breath and praying to God for guidance. We do not always know what to do but taking a moment to check in with God is always a good way to start. January is a time of Epiphany. We will learn what that means and on the 13th we will learn about the Baptism of Christ. Topics for the month are Extravagant Signs, Good News, and Good Ways.

Important note: I am excited to announce that starting this month I will have a new e-mail contact for Faith Formation: faithformation@uccnorthhampton.org. Having this e-mail will make it so much easier for me to quickly find e-mails pertaining to Faith Formation and Volunteers of Faith Formation. I will continue to send out weekly e-mails via Mail-Chimp. Please know that anyone who is interested in what is going on weekly for our kids at church is more than welcome to be on our mailing list. You do not need to have children to be on the list. Please let me know and I will take care of it.

A friendly reminder to the congregation, children who are picked up at the end of Hands-On Learning are no longer under my watchful eye.

Once again I would like to thank parents and guardians for the privilege to work with your children! They are truly a blessing.

Blessings,
Pamela Sullivan, Faith Formation Coordinator



Storm Closings

If travel to attend worship has the potential to be treacherous, we encourage you to make the safest decision for you. Rev. Mike is able to walk to church and therefore will be here for worship on Sundays.

During the weekdays, the church will follow the North Hampton school system's closings. If the school is closed for the day, so will the church be. We do not want the staff to drive during treacherous conditions. When the school is delayed we will open at 9 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. giving our plow person more time to plow. When this decision is made, it will be listed at the bottom of the TV screen on Manchester's WMUR TV, channel 9 and it will also be listed on their website.



January 2019

Calendar Legend	
(B)	Budd Room
(C)	Charrier Hall
(G)	Gold Classroom
(GR)	Garden Room
(K)	Kitchen
(M)	Music/Choir Room
(PO)	Pastor's Office
(PR)	Prayer Room
(S)	Sanctuary
(OCV)	O'Connor Vestry
(Z)	Zimbabwe Room

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day - Church Building Open only from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	2 1 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (OCV)	3 9 am Fitness Group (OCV) 4 pm End 68 Hours of Hunger (C) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (M)	4 9:30 am Kitchen Table Group (OCV)	5
6 8 am Men's Breakfast (OCV) 9 am Choir Rehearsal (S) 10 am Worship (S) AW Coffee Hour 11:30 am Council Mtg (BR) 3 pm Epiphany Service (UMC) 7 pm Boy Scout Planning (B)	7 5 pm Yoga (OCV) 7 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Cub Scouts (G)	8 8:30 am Al-Anon (OCV) 6:45 pm Blue Note Big Band (C)	9 11 am Ladies Union (OCV)	10 9 am Fitness Group (OCV) 4 pm End 68 Hours of Hunger (C) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (M)	11 9:30 am Kitchen Table Group (OCV)	12 5:30 pm Reverse Charades & Pizza Night
13 8 am Men's Breakfast (OCV) 9 am Choir Rehearsal (S) 10 am Worship (S) AW Coffee Hour	14 5 pm Yoga (OCV) 7 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Cub Scouts (G)	15 8:30 am Al-Anon (OCV) 6:45 pm Blue Note Big Band (C)	16	17 9 am Fitness Group (OCV) 4 pm End 68 Hours of Hunger (C) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (M)	18 9:30 am Kitchen Table Group (OCV) 6:30 pm Open Mic Night	19 9 am UCC Book Group
20 8 am Men's Breakfast (OCV) 9 am Choir Rehearsal (S) 10 am Worship (S) AW Coffee Hour AW Annual Meeting (S)	21 Martin Luther King Day Church Building Closed Lantern Articles Due	22 8:30 am Al-Anon (OCV) 6:45 pm Blue Note Big Band (C)	23	24 9 am Fitness Group (OCV) 4 pm End 68 Hours of Hunger (C) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (M)	25 9:30 am Kitchen Table Group (OCV) 6 - 9 pm Babysitting	26
27 8 am Men's Breakfast (OCV) 9 am Choir Rehearsal (S) 10 am Worship (S) AW Coffee Hour 3 pm Rev. Mike's Installation (S) 7 pm Boy Scout Planning (B)	28 5 pm Yoga (OCV) 7 pm Boy Scouts (C)	29 8:30 am Al-Anon (OCV) 6:45 pm Blue Note Big Band (C)	30	31 9 am Fitness Group (OCV) 4 pm End 68 Hours of Hunger (C) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (M)		



The United Church of Christ
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North Hampton, NH 03862
603-964-8687
adminassistant@uccnorthhampton.org
www.uccnorthhampton.org

“No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life’s Journey You are Welcome Here”

Staff

Pastor & Teacher	Rev. Michael Gelsomini
Music Director	Mary Oliver
Faith Formation Coordinator	Pamela Sullivan
Administrative Assistant	Ellen Dozet
Treasurer	Deborah Chase
Assistant Treasurer	Hope Miller
Sexton	Dick Cote
Moderator	Rob Wright
Clerk	Marilyn Wanyo

The Lantern is published monthly to keep our church community informed of ministries and programs of UCC NH and also to report upon our life together. **The deadline for the Lantern is the third Monday of the month and submissions can be in the form of email (adminassistant@uccnorthhampton.org) or a typed/handwritten note.**

If you do not wish to receive this publication please inform us by email (adminassistant@uccnorthhampton.org) or phone (603-964-8687) Thank you very much.