



The Brick Meetinghouse Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2017

**First Congregational Church of Swanzey
United Church of Christ
Rev. Damon Anderson, Pastor
Cindy Sweeney, Editor**

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:

Harvest Wishes to the People Who are the First Congregational Church of Swanzey.

These past months, I have enjoyed peaches and blueberries, as well as the pies that have resulted from their picking. The church has also picked its way through the stories of Genesis these past months. We have worked with the narratives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob/Israel and Joseph and have benefited from their rich tales.

As Summer wanes and the hints of Autumn are noticed, I am reminded of Joseph and how he deals with dreams and the larger patterns of Life. He read in Pharaoh's dreams the times of lean and fat; famine and feast; hard and abundant times. To make it work, he knew that both of the opposites would have to be held and a third way would need to be found. Storehouses were built to keep the excess and provide for the periods of lack. This planning provided the answer and saved the people.

The First Congregational Church of Swanzey, *the Little Church that Could*, will be starting its own work to prepare for the future:

On September 24, we will welcome Rev. Ken Baily of VanderWyden Consultants to look at stewardship, giving, and a capital campaign. We will gather for a 5:00 p.m. dinner, followed by Ken's presentation at 5:45 p.m., with time for questions to follow. Please bring a pot luck dessert to share.

From VanderWyden's website, (<http://wydenyourhorizons.com/>) where additional information can be found, it states that Ken “serves as our medium and small church specialist in the northern New England area. Ken has served in parish ministry since 1985 and has also served as a consultant for churches and conferences. Ken currently lives in Newton Massachusetts. Baptized as a Presbyterian and brought up as a Quaker, he was ordained in the UCC at the beginning of his local church ministry. After a five-year career in state government, and following divinity school at Yale and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard, he has been called to parishes in Maine, Connecticut and Massachusetts, primarily serving as senior pastor in multi-staff congregations. His doctorate in ministry, awarded by Hartford Seminary, focuses on bringing transformative leadership to various sizes and types of congregations.”

Rev. Ken and VanderWyden have successfully worked with congregations in southwest New Hampshire. Best of all, a sizable donation has been received to underwrite the congregation working with VanderWyden!

On October 1 at 5:00 p.m., the congregation will begin its study and supper. This fall, we will be reading and discussing Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer's book, *Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World*. Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer wrote this book just prior to becoming the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ in June 2015.

A summary of the book on the rear cover states that “*This book addresses the realities faced by what too many have called a dying institution. It is a call to move the institutional church out of a modality of denial and into a perspective of hope; out of a paradigm of scarcity and into a world of possibility with a growing multiplicity of options and allies; out of a time of end-game scenarios where only the fit will survive, and into what James Carse calls an “Infinite Game,” where those who play ensure that the game continues long after they have left the field.*”

As you can see, this Fall is shaping up to be a time of engagement and, hopefully, that start of longed-for renewal at the First Congregational Church of Swanzey.

Please join us for:

September 10 @ 10:00 a.m. – Worship at the original site of the church. This is located past the Carpenter Home (1 Simeneau Lane, Swanzey). Please do not park at the Carpenter Home, but drive through the open gate to grassy field beyond. This is where the service will be taking place. The rain date is September 17.

September 24 @ 5:00 p.m. for dinner; 5:45 – 7:00 p.m. for presentation and questions/answers. Please join us for dinner and presentation from Rev. Ken Baily of VanderWyden Consultants. (See above)

October 1 @ 5:00 p.m. – Simple Soup Supper and Study – We will be reading and discussing Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer's *Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World*. (See above) Please sign up for a copy of the book if you would like to join in. Supper and a brief presentation summarizing the reading will be followed by a lively discussion.

October 15 following worship – Congregational Meeting to discuss governance changes as well as address other necessary action or items.

I will keep the congregation informed as I prepare for Sabbatical, following my Holiday break. This will take place from January through April 2018.

In our lives and in our depths, the Presence of the Divine!

Be blessed.
Pastor Damon

THIS N' THAT

- ◆ **MONTHLY CALENDAR:** The calendar is often updated during any given month. A corrected version will be posted on the bulletin boards with any changes.
- ◆ **PRAYER REQUESTS:** To all those who need our prayers and support, please contact Pastor Damon to let him know your situation or have a friend or family member call the church. Because of privacy, sometimes we are not aware until you tell us.
- ◆ **DEACON COVERAGE FOR SEPTEMBER:** Barb Sault
- ◆ **MUSIC DIRECTOR / ORGANIST:** We welcome Kyle Trombley, who joined us in August as the new Music Director. Make sure you take time to introduce yourselves to Kyle. We have bid good-bye to Colby Baker and wished him well for whatever lies ahead for him.
- ◆ **ONLINE NEWSLETTER:** Please consider a shift from your paper newsletter to one sent via email. It would mean a great savings on stamps, and **THE E-MAIL VERSION IS IN LIVING COLOR!** Leave a message for Cindy in the office at 352-6689 if you want to make the switch. Thanks!
- ◆ **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** will resume on September 17.

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September Milestones

(Please note: If you are new to the church, or if we've missed you on our monthly milestones list, or even if you wish to have your name removed from the list, please contact me at: officeswanzucc@ne.rr.com or 352-6689. Thanks. Cindy Sweeney, Administrative Assistant.)

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

September 4, 2005: Rev. Robert Hamm, Sandy Hamm and Emily Hamm.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

September 8, 1979: John & June Alonzo; September 19, 1992: Beth & Ray Thompson.

BIRTHDAYS:

September 4: Wayne Lechliger; September 9: Ethel Nilsen; September 10: Ken Colby III; September 11: Duncan Priestly; September 18: Heidi Schnyer; September 22: Shirley Fosdick; September 24: Barbara Huguenin and Daniel O'Connor; September 25: Averie Bassingthwaite; September 29: Hayden Goodenough, Thomas Schnyer and Mike McDaniel.

Hospitality / Coffee Hour Schedule:

September 3: Tina Messer; September 10: Cheri McDaniel-Thomas; September 17: TBD; September 24, Ethel Nilsen & Tina Messer

The clip-board is available in the kitchen to sign up for upcoming coffee hour dates.



ADULT POT LUCK LUNCHEON & HYMN SING
~ Wednesday, September 27, 2017 ~
11:45 ~ 1:30 p.m.

We gather for our Pot Luck luncheon at 11:45, pray & eat at noon. For the luncheon, kindly provide a main dish, salad, or dessert to share. Beverages are provided. We hope you will join us for a time of good food and fellowship! You don't have to be a member of the church to attend. Bring friends and neighbors. The luncheon will be followed by a Hymn Sing, led by Kim and Craig Fisher! Please feel free to call Deb Sprague at 357-0125 if you have any questions or suggestions.

**SCHEDULES FOR THE REMAINING 2017 LUNCHEONS
ARE POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARDS.**

IF YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS, PLEASE LET DEB KNOW!

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SERVICE AT ORIGINAL SITE: A Sunday service will be held at the original site of the church on September 10, at 10:00 a.m. In the event of rain, it will be held at the site the following week, September 17, at 10:00 a.m. For those of you who may not know where that site is located, here are directions: Turn into Simeneau Lane off Route 32, just at the junction of 32 and Sawyers Crossing Road. Drive up the lane. The site is just beyond the Carpenter Home. Pass through the gate. There will be space for parking. Chairs will be available for the service. We hope to see you there.

SUPPER AND CONVERSATION: Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 24, 5:00-7:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall. A meal will be provided and we are asking that you bring "pot luck" desserts. Rev. Ken Baily of VanderWyden Consultants will be speaking regarding the process involved for a Capital Campaign. We will have plenty of time to ask questions, share any concerns and engage in conversation. Rev. Baily will bring an overview and a short hand-out. Please plan to join us.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the church, please see Damon. A membership service is being planned for October.

ONLINE NEWSLETTER: Please consider a shift from your paper newsletter to one sent via email. It would mean a great savings on stamps, and **THE E-MAIL VERSION IS IN LIVING COLOR!** Leave a message for Cindy in the office at 352-6689 if you want to make the switch. Thanks!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES begin at church on September 17. We think you would enjoy the outdoor service on the 10th, though. It's a great time to be thankful for our beautiful part of the world, while you are sitting in the great outdoors. This year there will be some special surprises in store. Come and bring a friend. Learn more about being a Christian and what the Bible is all about. Fun learning, and no grades! Come and celebrate First Sunday!

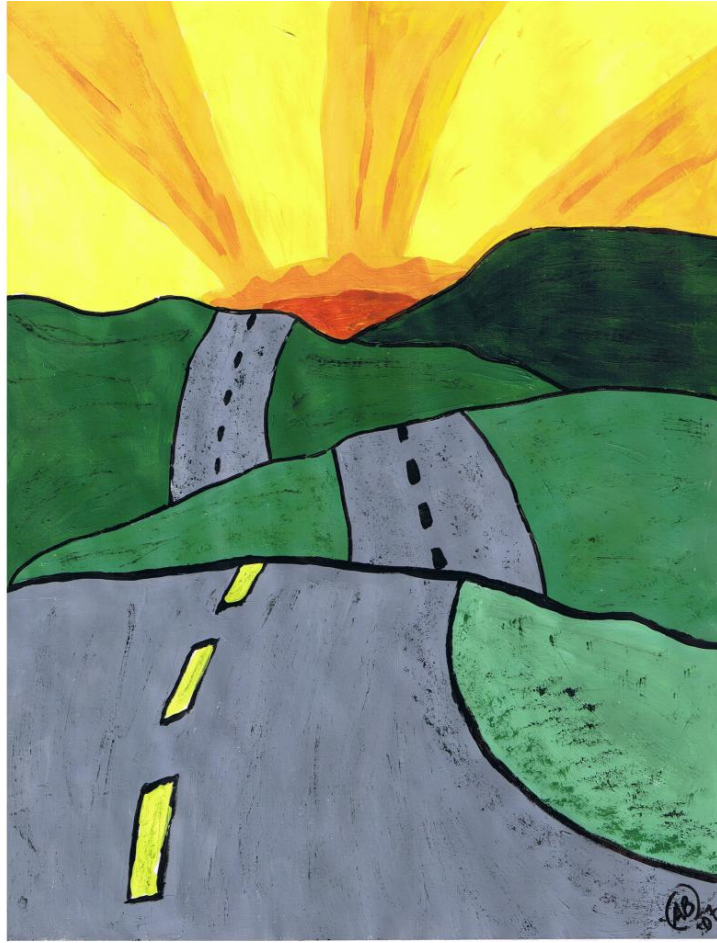
SNACK SACKS: Beginning in September we will again be filling snack sacks for children who do not have food for snacks. I am hoping we will begin on 9/3. The Snack Sack basket at the altar could use your help. We are really trying for healthy snacks--granola bars (check content), hot chocolate mix, nuts, crackers, cereal (the little packages make good snacks), dried fruits, etc. I would like to put some school supplies in the first one. Could you provide pencils, pens, glue sticks, markers? They are on sale now. These items will help with school work throughout the year. THANK YOU! See Sandy Allen if you need more info.

CARING CRAFTERS (Formerly Craft Group): 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, beginning September 6, from 10:30-12. This first meeting will include discussion about things we would like to make for others. We have a head start on Christmas Fair items. Cards will always be needed for holidays. What would you like to do? Come join this friendly group for crafts, coffee and conversation.

BASKET RAFFLE LIST: It's that time again! Are you interested in signing up for a basket for the church basket raffle to be held at the Christmas Fair? Please see the Bulletin Board outside of Friendship Hall. There are still a quite a few open spots. Thanks. Pat Haselton

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO SUPPORT THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE HARVEY: http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_harvey

10:00 A.M. REGULAR HOURS RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 10
&
SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES ON SEPTEMBER 17



“JOURNEY-OF-LIFE”

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				30	1 5-7:30 p.m. FH Huskies dinner	2
3 9:00 Svc. REGULAR HOURS START SEPT. 10	4 Labor Day	5	6 Damon away 10:30-12:00 FH Caring Crafters	7 Damon away 5-7:30 p.m. FH Huskies dinner 5:30-8:00 CL Girl Scouts	8	9
10 10:00 a.m. Svc. at original site Rain date on Sept. 17th At 10:00 a.m.	11 6-7:00 Wolves CL Happy Trails 6:30-8:00 FH	12 Mums here 6:00-8:00 CL Girl Scout Training 6-7:30 p.m. Interact FH	13 9:30-4:00 p.m. Garden Club FH Mums will be picked up	14	15	16 No Supper this month
17 10:00 a.m. Svc. Sun. School Rain date for svc at original site	18	19	20 10:30-12:00 FH Caring Crafters	21 Ministries Leaders 4:30 5-7:30 p.m. FH Huskies dinner 5:30-8:00 CL Girl Scouts	22 Fall Begins!	23
24 10:00 a.m. Svc. Supper & mtng. 5:00-7:00 FH Capital Campaign Rev. Baily	25 6-7:00 Wolves CL	26 6:30-8:00 FH Pack Meeting	27 Adult Potluck & Hymn Sing 11:45-1:30 p.m.	28	29 5-7:30 p.m. FH Huskies dinner	30

CALENDAR WILL BE UPDATED AS NEEDED

FH = FRIENDSHIP HALL

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



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