



Pastor's Reflections

By Pastor Sue Davidson

The season of Lent is quickly coming to a close. Our worship time together has been focused on, "Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places." Just as we search for the perfect words when playing Scrabble, it is important to search for the ways in which Jesus has shown his love to us.

The word "Lent" comes from an old English word for springtime. I know spring started this week as, interestingly enough, there were three crocuses that blossomed on Monday, March 20. Lent is a momentary pause to rethink the ways in which we search for love. Whether in the right places or wrong places, love is available for us all. Our gathering as a community of faith enables us to be God's love to each other and to those we meet outside the four walls of the church building.

The most striking worship celebrations of the Christian church happen every year at the end of the Lenten season. There is no greater contrast between darkness and light than the eclipse and glory that were experienced by Jesus' disciples between Palm Sunday and Easter morning. For centuries, Christians have marked the progression of these events through worship. We, the church, are invited to be a part of the events that honor Christ, celebrate salvation, and grow in the way of Jesus through being together as a community of faith and personal reflection.

Holy Week begins on Sunday, April 2, with the celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with the shouting of "Hosanna" and the waving of palms. Maundy Thursday, April 6, is a gathering of the community to hear the journey of Jesus with his disciples that included gathering at the communion table. Easter morning, April 9, the sunrise brings a new day of joyful celebration in the resurrection of Jesus. Worshipping together on Easter culminates a week of mixed emotions – elation and joy, anticipation, terror, bewilderment, hopefulness, love, and empowerment. It is my hope that you will choose to be a part of all these opportunities to be in fellowship with fellow travelers on the journey with Jesus in Jerusalem.

It is easy to celebrate the conclusion of Lent with the joy of Easter. The church season continues with worship each Sunday. A time to build relationships with others of faith, listen for God's call for you, and find encouragement to live as a disciple of Christ in this crazy world.

Gathering together is an occasion for a first step on the a path to a healthy relationship with God - a crossroads. The season of Lent may be coming to a close but let us take what we have learned and apply it to our everyday, ordinary lives. The opportunity to become the people God has called us to be. It is my prayer that I'll see you at the crossroads of your journey.

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Crown Him with Many Crowns

By Muriel Magg, Music Team Chairperson

Growing up in a traditional church has given me the experience of being around hymns that have enriched the church for years. “Crown Him with Many Crowns” is one of my favorites I can still remember singing during Easter when I was a little girl. While this majestic hymn can certainly be sung at any time, we often sing it on Easter Sunday to celebrate the victorious savior Jesus Christ.

The overall theme of the great worship hymn “Crown Him with Many Crowns” is based on the nature of Jesus: Revelation 19:12. There John says, “On His head were many crowns.” He is the Lamb upon the throne who willingly gave His life up on Calvary’s cross as the one true sacrifice for our sin.

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” had two writers of different theological backgrounds, both distinguished Church of England clergymen. The texts come from Matthew Bridges a British-Canadian hymnodist who lived from 1800-1894, and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903), an Anglican clergyman, poet and hymnodist. Matthew Bridges who was raised in a Church of England environment later converted to Roman Catholicism, a faith he adhered to for the remainder of his life. Both men are usually credited as the writers. There are 12 stanzas in all, with Bridges writing the first six and Thring writing the second six. There is no record of Bridges and Thring meeting in person to work on the hymn. Therefore, the hymn has evolved as a composite of the original text by Bridges written in 1851, and Thring’s version written twenty-three years later. The different verses are mixed and matched with three of the six more popular verses being written by Bridges, and three written by Thring. The result is a stirring hymn of worship containing five verses in most hymnals. It is a hymn full of reminders of Jesus and His reign over the world, his death, burial and resurrection, and the praise we will give Him in heaven.

Stanza one mentions “the heavenly anthem drowns all music but it’s own” because the praise of Jesus in heaven is stronger in meaning than any music on earth. The following stanzas sing about the Lord of Life, Peace, Love, and the Lord of Years that will last throughout eternity, which is how the hymn ends.

The tune DIADEMATA was composed by English organist and composer George Elvy (1816-1893), for Bridge’s text and is titled for the Greek word meaning “crowns.”

Christ was not simply a prophet, He was not simply the carpenter’s son, and He was not simply human, or simply divine. The call to “crown him with many crowns” is a simple but profound declaration that Christ is many things and everything. HE IS LORD OF ALL, to be crowned for many things that all add up to Him being SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

Crown Him with Many Crowns puts a spirit of adoration into us. It causes us to look to Jesus and glorify Him. May we always praise Jesus, not only on Easter but every day of the year.

EASTER BLESSINGS TO ALL!



News From the Moderator

By Karen Umberger, Moderator

I am happy to announce that Pastor Sue Davidson has agreed to serve as our Pastor through the end of October. Starting in May she will be devoting 14 hours a week to serving our church family. She plans to be in the office every week so you can stop by and visit with her. If you would like her to come by for a visit, just let the church office know. This time frame will provide the new Pastoral Search Committee an opportunity to, hopefully, find a new full time Pastor. The Profile should be ready to go to Conference no later than April 15th so the Search process can begin. This is an exciting time for our church and we look forward to Pastor Sue's messages each week and her assistance in bringing our congregation through this period until we can find a settled pastor.



We are going to have a grand time on Easter, April 9th, following worship! Everyone that is young-at-heart is welcome to join in the fun. This will happen rain or shine, but we hope to be blessed with a beautiful Easter Sunday! Won't you come and join us?



This photo is of the Pine Tree School's Kiwanis K-Kids program advised by Diane Gamache. Their food drive brought in 236 pounds of food for our pantry shelves.

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

By Muriel Magg, Music Team Chairperson

On Sunday, April 30th, during our regular worship celebration, we have a treat for both the music lovers in our congregation and everyone else too. The choirs and musicians of First Church of Christ will be presenting **Music Celebration Sunday**. Plan to join us as we play, sing, ring, and worship God with music. This service will feature not only special choir music, but also readings and reflections, solos, and instruments.

We look forward to welcoming our guest lay pastor [Carl Lindblade](#) on that Sunday, who will be leading us in a special worship service honoring music and the gift it is in our lives.

We may not always tap our feet to the same beat, or find our spirits stirred by the same musical style, but in music we share a faith that binds us together as one. Music connects us with faithful people from generations past and with generations yet to come.

To ALL of our musicians who bless us all year long in every season with your precious gifts of music - THANK YOU!

To the members of this congregation for supporting the Music Ministry of First Church of Christ by your presence, your generous monetary support, and with your kind words of appreciation and encouragement - THANK YOU!

When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried.



Deacon's Corner

Spring is here, or as some may call it, "Mud Season". We are winding down from the Lenten Season and looking forward to Easter. Our hearts turn to Easter, a renewal of faith, and the miracle of the resurrection. Oh what joy!

The Diaconate Committee continues to meet monthly. We are so blessed to have Pastor Sue attend these meetings as we value the sharing of her Sunday service goals. Her plan for this Season of Lent has been the theme of, "Looking for Love in all the Wrong Places" with music and sanctuary decoration that coordinate with her message. Awesome news, in case you haven't heard, Pastor Sue has agreed to continue sharing the message each Sunday through the month of October. What a blessing!



Helen & Barbara Sisson continue working on our website as it nears completion. Be sure to check out the site that is refreshed and easier to navigate. A shout out to Denise Leighton for stepping up at our church office - Thank You, Thank You!

Be sure to mark your calendars for the following:

Wed. April 12 at 7pm the Windham Singers will perform an uplifting & talented performance many of us have witnessed before bringing joy to all who attended.

Music Sunday April 30th Carl Lindblade will be our lay pastor. As many of you can predict, his knowledge and his well-presented message will be something you won't want to miss. Come join us to celebrate the beautiful spiritual music giving thanks to Floyd, Anne, and the choirs which will include the handbell choir.

Also Coming up:

April 2: Palm & Communion Sunday - 10am

April 6: Maundy Thursday - 6pm

April 7: Ecumenical Good Friday - 6pm

April 8: Holy Saturday

April 9: Easter Sunrise Service - 6:20am

April 9: Easter Sunday - 10am

Thanks go out to all our Sunday volunteers who have ushered, greeted, and read the word. You are appreciated more than you know.

We are experiencing some of our members returning to church. We are most grateful. Please join us!

Faithfully,

Your Diaconate -

Helen Goss, Chairperson; Julie James, Vice-Chairperson and Scribe; Lee Coffield, Laurel Ekberg, Muriel Magg, Fred Starkey, and Gerry Tilton, Deacon Emeritus



THE WINDHAM CHAMBER SINGERS AWARD WINNING CHOIR TO APPEAR IN NORTH CONWAY ON APRIL 12th, AT 7:00 PM

First Church of Christ, Congregational - 2521 White Mountain Highway
This event is free with donations gratefully accepted.

The WINDHAM CHAMBER SINGERS under the direction of Dr. Richard Nickerson, have captured the hearts of audiences throughout the Northeastern United States and beyond with music ranging from sacred a cappella to iconic rock sounds.

As part of their upcoming Spring Tour, the Windham Chamber Singers will spend 5 days performing throughout the Northeast, presenting assemblies and workshops at area schools in addition to public concerts.

The choir first gained international attention when they won the Prize of Vienna in 1996, the highest award of the International Youth Music Festival in Vienna, Austria. Since then, they have thrilled audiences throughout the Northeastern United States, appearing at Carnegie Hall, the White House, and St. Patrick's Cathedral to name just a few.

They have appeared with artists including John Rutter, Josh Groban, Lakisha Jones, The Celtic Tenors, Lindsay Mendez and Norm Lewis. They have made 4 guest appearances at the Magic of Christmas concerts with the Portland Symphony Orchestra and most recently as special guests of Friends of the Kotschmar and Portland Municipal Organist James Kennerly at Merrill Auditorium.

The Chamber Singers accomplishments have been recognized on the Today Show, CBS This Morning and in their own prime time holiday special broadcast on WGME TV.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW and plan on attending an evening of music you will thoroughly enjoy.



Blooming Crafts Workshop

Missions Committee Fund Raiser

Led by Mary Lou Waite

(Would Welcome a Crafty Co-Leader)

Join us Mondays 6:30-8 p.m. – Howard Room
(No workshops on Monday Holidays)

Come weekly or whenever convenient

Part-time Crafters or Newbies welcome



There will be Easter Lilies in the church for Easter Sunday as they will be purchased ahead of time for decorating. If you would like to have a dedication in the Worship Bulletin on Easter Sunday, please call the church office by April 4th to let Denise know. You are welcome to take a lily home with you after the service. Any lilies that are not taken will be put in the Memorial Garden when we reach the proper time for planting.

If you would rather have flowers or a plant instead of an Easter Lily, you can bring it on Easter Sunday and it will be incorporated into the altar display.

If you would like to make a donation toward the Easter Lilies that will be purchased in advance, Helen Goss will gratefully receive. Thank you!



April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	27 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Blooming Crafts Workshop - Howard Room 6:30pm - 7:30pm Women's AA Step Group	28 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	29	30 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm - 4:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm - 5:45pm Handbell Choir	31 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	1 Holy Saturday
2 10:00am Palm/Passion Sunday 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS	3 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Blooming Crafts Workshop - Howard Room 6:30pm - 7:30pm Women's AA Step Group	4 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	5	6 Maundy Thursday Service 6pm 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open	7 Good Friday Ecumenical Service - Christ Church Episcopal 6pm 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	8 Holy Saturday
9 6:20am Easter Sunrise Service 10:00am Easter Worship Service 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	10 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Blooming Crafts Workshop - Howard Room 6:30pm - 7:30pm Women's AA Step Group	11 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	12 7:00pm Windham Chamber Singers Concert	13 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm - 4:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm - 5:45pm Handbell Choir	14 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	15
16 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS	17 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Blooming Crafts Workshop - Howard Room 6:30pm - 7:30pm Women's AA Step Group	18 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm Trustees meeting 5:00pm Diaconate meeting	19	20 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm - 4:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm - 5:45pm Handbell Choir	21 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	22
23 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm North Country Association	24 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Blooming Crafts Workshop - Howard Room 6:30pm - 7:30pm Women's AA Step Group	25 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	26	27 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm - 4:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm - 5:45pm Handbell Choir	28 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	29
30 MUSIC SUNDAY 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	1 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Blooming Crafts Workshop - Howard Room 6:30pm - 7:30pm Women's AA Step Group	2 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	3	4 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm - 4:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm - 5:45pm Handbell Choir	5 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	6

LECTIONARY READINGS

APRIL 2, 2023

Palm/Passion Sunday

Communion Sunday

(Liturgy of the Palms)

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

New Testament Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

(Liturgy of the Passion)

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 31:9-16

New Testament Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel Readings: Matthew 26:14-27:66 or

Matthew 27:11-54

APRIL 5, 2023

Maundy Thursday

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14

Psalter Reading: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

New Testament Reading: I Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel Lesson: John 13:1-7, 31b-35

APRIL 7, 2023

Good Friday

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:13-51:12

Psalter Reading: Psalm 22

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Gospel Lesson: John 18:1-19:42

APRIL 7, 2023

Easter Sunday

Old Testament Reading: Acts 10:34-43 or Jariah 31:1-6

Psalter Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

New Testament Reading: Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

Gospel Lesson: John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

APRIL 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

Old Testament Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Reading: Psalm 16

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

APRIL 23, 2023

Old Testament Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Reading: Psalm 16

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

APRIL 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter - Music Sunday

Old Testament Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Reading: Psalm 23

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Gospel Lesson: John 10:1-10

MAY 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Communion Sunday

Old Testament Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Reading: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel Lesson: John 14:1-14

Vaughan Community Service will be having their 9th Strawberry Festival on June 24th.



White Elephant Sale

The church will be heading up the White Elephant Table this year. So start saving your good clean treasures that you would like to donate for this benefit.

You can call the church office or Vaughan if you need to drop-off items as we get ready for the Festival.

All proceeds will be split between the church and Vaughan as our mission outreach.

We will need volunteers to help that day, so if are available, please call the church office and let Denise know.

MUSIC IN THE VALLEY

By Floyd Corson, Organist

Since 2020 musical events at First Church of Christ and other venues in the Valley have been seriously impacted by the COVID pandemic. Now, in 2023, our Church's Music Team and White Mountain Musical Art is taking steps to bring back a variety of musical happenings, not only for the enjoyment of our Church members and friends, but indeed, the residents of the entire Mount Washington Valley region. Music is a great communicator and provides wonderful therapeutic comfort which so many of us need in this troubled world.

On **April 12**, the Windham High School Chamber Singers will present an evening concert in our sanctuary. Additional information regarding this wonderful group of young performers is elsewhere in our newsletter. Experience the joy and talent of these young musicians. The **final Sunday of April**, after a hiatus of three years, First Church will recognize the **Ministry of Music** at our regular morning Worship Service. Again, more details of this special service can be found in the Congregate Tidings.

WMMA brings back the **Seacoast Wind Ensemble** on **May 28 at 7:00pm**. This annual Memorial Day Weekend Concert will be held at Fryeburg Academy PAC. Great appreciation is extended to Col. Karen and Lt. Col. Jim Umberger, U.S. Air Force Retired for underwriting this event.

On **June 11 at 4:00pm** WMMA will present Duncan J. Cumming and Floyd W. Corson in **TWO MEN-FOUR HANDS-TWO PIANOS** in a recital of music by Mozart, Brahms, Stravinsky & Milhaud. This is a private home concert.

Returning after a long COVID interruption, WMMA is scheduling the **THIRTY-SECOND MOSTLY BACH FESTIVAL** on **August 26 at 7:30pm** and **August 27 at 4:30pm** with full Baroque Orchestra, Festival Chorus, Vocal and Instrumental soloists. Information on all WMMA concerts will soon be posted on the White Mountain Musical Arts web page.



This photo is of the Food/Socks drive sponsored by Profile Subaru which took place in January.



04-03 Jessica Hodgkins
04-09 Daniel Nusbaum
04-11 Linda Hyde
04-12 Dyane Barbour
04-12 Patsy Perry
04-14 Emily Eastman
04-15 Laurel Ekberg
04-15 Claire Smith
04-15 Christine Russian
04-18 Barbara Starkey
04-20 Dorthea Seybold
04-25 Patricia McGrath
04-27 Fred Starkey
04-30 Brady Boucher



04-10 Fred and Barbara Starkey
04-21 Peter and Linda Hyde

PRAYER list...

Please pray for those dealing with illness, surgery or recovery, especially: **Matthew Schiller; Bob Borchers; Jennifer Terry's father, Lynn Terry; David Tilton; Bob and Evelyn Porter; Sandy and Greg George; Linda Hyde; Glenna Tibbetts' brother, George Fernald, and Audrey Vorperian.**

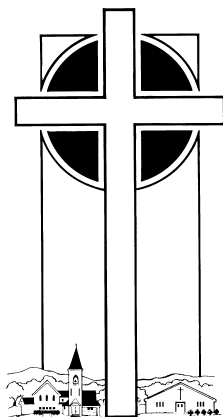
Remember those in our extended care facilities. They are - *At Merriman House:* **Liz George-Hussey; Cynthia and Conrad (Connie) Briggs; and Marilyn Elliott.**

Please call the church office with prayer concerns if you wish names listed in the next *Congregate Tidings*.

The Congregate Tidings
First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ
PO Box 401
N Conway, NH 03860-0401



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:



Holy Week

Sunday, April 2nd at 10:00 a.m.
Palm/Passion Sunday.

Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m. in the Vestry
Maunder Thursday service of Communion.

Friday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m. at Christ Church
Episcopal - Ecumenical **Good Friday**
observance.

Sunday, April 9th at 6:20 a.m.
Sunrise Service in the park across the street
Followed by a Continental Breakfast sponsored
by the Diaconate.
In case of inclement weather, we will gather in
the Sanctuary.

Sunday, April 9th at 10:00 a.m.
Celebratory Easter Service in the Sanctuary.

CHURCH & VAUGHAN STAFF

Pastor: Sue Davidson
Church Administrator/Editor: Denise Leighton
Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins
Vaughan Learning Center Director:
Heather Ouellette
Organist: Floyd W. Corson
Associate Organist: Muriel Magg
Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir Director:
Anne W. Polak
Church Sexton: Mark Schiller

Worship Service at 10 A.M.
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Fax Number (603)356-2106
E-mail address:
churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com
Website: www.northconwayucc.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh