

THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org

April 2019

Issue 4

Happy Easter!



April	6	Morning Meditation 9:30 Peter Mayer in Concert 7:00
April	8	Senior Momentum 12:00 Baseball Day - lunch, snacks, movie
April	13	Morning Meditation 9:30
April	15	Senior Momentum 10:00 Chair Yoga
April	18	Maunday Thursday 7:00
April	20	Morning Meditation 9:30
April	21	Easter Sunday 10:00
April	26	Friendly Kitchen 9:30
April	27	Morning Meditation 9:30
April	29	Senior Momentum 11:30 Scattergories Game Day

*Christ
is
Risen!*





We are half way through the liturgical season of Lent. That is followed by Holy Week when we remember, reflect and eventually celebrate the events of that momentous week in Jesus' life. We go from the anticipation and excitement of Palm Sunday to the challenge and introspection of Maundy Thursday to the devastation and emptiness of Good Friday, and ultimately to the unbridled joy of Easter morning. That's a lot for one week. If it seems like an emotional roller coaster from our vantage point, imagine what it must have been like for Jesus and his followers.

If the number of people who show up on any given Sunday is evidence, many of us would prefer to go directly to Easter. To skip directly to Easter, would be like reading only the last chapter of a book. The joy of Easter is fuller when we have experienced all that comes before. In a month we will gather on Palm Sunday as our choir and children lead the procession waving palm branches. On Maundy Thursday, with our friends at the United Methodist Church of Gilford/Laconia we will break bread as we recall the meal Jesus shared with the disciples in the Upper Room. Throughout the world, Christians will come together on Friday, to remember the road to the cross. And after all of this, we will gather again on Sunday morning to celebrate resurrection.

Easter reminds us of a universal theme so much larger than Christianity: new life only comes after death. Scientists point out that all life on Earth, even the atoms in our bodies were created in the furnace of a now-long-dead star. New life is not only something that takes place in the natural world. After losses of all kinds, disappointments, heartaches, the loss of a job, the loss of a relationship, the diminishing of skills and abilities, and even death – many of us have experience a new sense life.

What an exciting time of year; the days grow longer, there's an occasional hint of spring in the air, opening day is just around the corner. I look forward to worshiping with you through all of it.

Sincerely,

Michael



Thank You & Update from Belknap House

Kathryn Holt, Executive Director sent grateful thanks from their residents for all the baby, cleaning and other items we recently donated. She also provided an update on happenings and needs of this emergency cold-weather family shelter.

Located at 200 Court Street in Laconia, they serve families in Belknap County. The shelter is open from October into May. This building functions as a hostel during other months, to provide ongoing funds necessary for shelter operation.

Unfortunately, there's a shortage of ongoing volunteers to supplement staff required for running this non-profit facility. As a consequence, more funds than initially anticipated go to cover paid staff positions, a significant burden to their already tight budget. Kathryn would appreciate our assistance with recruitment.

Most pressing need is for shelter assistants. Training is provided and new volunteers work along with staff or seasoned volunteers until they are comfortable on their own. Regular shifts are Early: 6am or 7am-9am, Day: 9am-4:30pm, Evening: 4:30pm-10:00pm and Overnight: 10am-7am (a sleep shift). Building is locked at 10pm with quiet hours from 10pm-6am. Overnight volunteers sleep in a locked staff room by themselves. Shifts may be broken down into shorter blocks of time, depending on volunteer's availability. Current plan is to close the shelter this year on May 31st and re-open on October 1st, with hostel open during interim months.

Volunteers to help run the hostel would also be appreciated, to save on paid staff coverage. General duties as noted, may overlap shifts. Morning shift checks people out, strips beds, does laundry and cleans up. Afternoon shift does check-ins and provides guests with info on area (restaurants, activities, etc.). Overnight shift is available to assist guests with any needs or problems that arise. Hostel has no curfew or quiet hours.

Other volunteers needed : office help, IT and website support, fundraising events, child care, handyman, and any other talents or ideas we have to share.

Volunteers Needed!

A community supported 24/7 crisis line service is a necessity for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Could you be the voice on the other end of the call?

Contact us at 528-6511 or aa@newbeginningsnh.org



40 Days of Giving during Lent

The First United Methodist Church is once again looking toward what we can do for the needy with the Lenten program “40 Days of Giving.” Lent is a time to consider our spiritual growth as we remember the sacrifice that Christ made for us. What better way to start this process than to give to others? This year the primary focus for “40 Days of Giving” will be providing non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items for Isaiah 61, who serve the homeless, and the Laconia High School food pantry.

Running through Lent, concluding on April 20, the church will be collecting non-perishable foods and personal hygiene items or financial donations. Church members have been challenged to donate one item each day during the 40 days of Lent. Anyone wishing to participate in the 40 Days of Giving is welcome to bring items each Sunday of Lent, or drop items off Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM until 12 Noon at the church office. Items being collected include the following:

Non-perishable food items: canned meat, vegetables, soups, and fruit, macaroni & cheese or rice, baked beans, spaghetti sauce, boxed hot and cold cereals, hot chocolate mix, juice, peanut butter, pasta, tea, coffee, canned milk, etc. Please, no glass jars of any kind.

Personal Care items: Feminine products, shampoo, bath soap, disposable razors, shaving cream, deodorant, laundry detergent, etc.

A donation of \$1.00, 50 cents, 10 cents per day - whatever works – designated for the FUMC with a note on the note line - Missions Committee Lenten Project.

The church is located at 18 Wesley Way (off Rt. 11A near the 3/11 bypass), Gilford. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (603) 524-3289.





New to our church? Would you like to learn more about it? Would you like to join the church?

Come join Rev. Michael Graham and others to learn about our church and what we can offer you.

Watch this space for notice of our next Meet and Greet, held on a Sunday after worship service in conference room A.

The Village Newsletter is a

monthly publication of

Gilford Community Church

19 Potter Hill Road

Gilford, New Hampshire 03249

(603) 524-6057

gccoffice@metrocast.net

www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org

Rev. Michael C. Graham, Pastor

gcc@metrocast.net

Deb Birch, Administrative Assistant

gccoffice@metrocast.net

Carolyn Ames, Music Director/Organist

AJ Coppola, Choir Director

Scott Hodsdon, Director of Youth & Family Programs

gccscott@metrocast.net

Rick Edson, Treasurer

rick.edson99@gmail.com

Carl Carder, Financial Technician

gccfinance@metrocast.net

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 to 2:00 pm

April Birthdays

- 03 Cindy Brown
- 05 Pat Fowler
- 06 James Buckley
- 09 Carolyn Scattergood
- 11 Sara Allen,
Michael Bryant
Kevin Tripp
- 14 Brienna Tomlinson
Chet Devarney
- 18 Brian Mercer
Roy Carsen
- 19 Barbara Partridge
- 21 Nancy Castellon,
Steve Birch
- 23 Warren Hutchins
- 24 Rachel Blandford
Sylvie Couture
- 28 Carole Williams
- 29 Lynne Baron
- 30 Opal Roys



April Anniversaries

- 04 Donna & Steve Snow 1981
- 05 Jan & Rich Briggs 1975
- 10 Jan & Kevin Keady
- 17 Bethany & Shea King 1997
Bill & Kathy McNamara
- 19 Dan & Judy Brown 1969
- 20 Laurel & David Greenlaw 1974
- 23 Brian & Kathy Arenstam 1994

Did we miss your birthday? Omit your anniversary? Please let the church office know.





The Chancel Choir has been enjoying working on the sacred music for the Lenten season. March featured many beautiful anthems, including "I Dreamed of Rain"--a desperate plea for no more snow, featuring rain sticks--along with Dan Forrest's, "Psalm 8: Adonai, Adonenu" featuring the women of the choir.

We also had a rehearsal filled with cupcakes, brought by one of our biggest supporters May Stewart, for Cindie's birthday! Will Gunn also accompanied the choir on clarinet during a very snowy Sunday service. Lots of excitement was had in the bell choir also, along with a woodwind quartet! Check out any performance you missed (because of snow or sleeping in!) in Michael's Weekly Notes. It's been a busy month, but very fun one!

If you are interested in joining the fun, stop by choir rehearsal on Thursday nights in the Sanctuary from 6:00-7:00. Or see Carolyn or AJ after rehearsal!

Musically Yours,

Carolyn & AJ

Prayer and Faith in the Military

5th Annual Lakes Region Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 2nd from 7:30am – 9:30am

St. Andre Bessette Parish Hall, Gilford Avenue in Laconia



Speaker will be **Chaplain (Major) Steve Veinotte**, who currently serves as Fulltime Support Chaplain for the New Hampshire National Guard. Breakfast is being prepared by our own Eloise Post and her team. Tickets are available from Michael or the Church Office. Proceeds to be split between Camp Resilience Veterans Program and Field of Flags project for Laconia Memorial Day Parade. (*Details about "Flags" coming in May Village Newsletter.*)

This event takes place on the U.S. National Day of Prayer, observed yearly the first Thursday in May. The Interfaith Prayer Breakfast was started as a means of bringing together people of different backgrounds and affiliations, to celebrate the blessings of the year and join in inclusive fellowship to support the spiritual renewal of community, state and nation.



The **deadline** to submit for the May Newsletter is April 17th.

Friendly Kitchen is **Friday, April 26th**. Our volunteer crew serves lunch at the Salvation Army in Laconia at noon on the 4th Friday of each month. To help serve or contribute food to the meal, please sign up downstairs on the bulletin board. For this month's menu they need donations of American Chop Suey and brownies. (The crew provides green beans.) Thank you!



Coffee Hour Hosts



We would love to have members of our church community commit to volunteering **once a year** to help host coffee hour during the scheduled "Members of the Church" days. You can host it with your family, a friend, or join forces with another family! Please contact Eloise Post for more information or to get yourself onto the coffee hour schedule.

986-6723 or eloise@metrocast.net



The first Sunday of every month is

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

Please bring donations to church.

Food Pantry **Bottle juice, cookies and canned pasta (e.g. Beef-A-Roni, Spaghetti-os).**

Please make sure items have not expired.

New Beginnings

(Please label these donations "New Beginnings" and bring to the church foyer):

Disinfectant Wipes (Lysol/Clorox/generic brand)
 Laundry detergent / fabric softener sheets
 toothbrushes/toothpaste
 Shower caddies (something for shelter guests to carry shower items back and forth from their room to shower)
 Sunscreen/sunblock
 Diapers: Sizes 5 & 6. These sizes are our most needed items
 Soup & Crackers



Church Attendance for March

3	182
10	130
17	181
24	175
31	?





Easter Lilies

Each year, the Flower Committee decorates the sanctuary with Easter Lilies and spring flowers. Members and friends are invited to donate plants to decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Many of these plants are given in memory of loved ones. The list of donors will be included in the Easter bulletin.

This year, Easter is April 21st.

The cost of the Easter lilies will be \$10.00 per plant.

Your plant may be delivered to a shut-in by a member of the Committee, or you may pick up your plant after the Easter service.

I would like to order _____ plants at \$10.00 each.

_____ My plant may be delivered to a shut-in.

_____ I will pick up my plant after the Easter service.

Please fill in the names for the Easter bulletin: (print)

Given by _____

In loving memory of: _____

OR

To celebrate the life of: _____

Please forward your completed order form to the church office. Please make your check payable to Gilford Community Church, and please indicate that it is for Easter Lilies. Thank you for your gift!

ORDERS MUST BE IN BY Monday, April 14th.



EASTER EGG HUNT AND CRAFT DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH

FOLLOWING SERVICE

SPONSORED BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

All children are invited to join us for our annual egg hunt and craft day. There will be several Easter-themed crafts, as well as an egg hunt for both older and younger youth.

Craft table will be in the GYC during coffee hour. The hunt will be held outside if the weather allows it.



Join us on Saturday, April 13th, 1-3pm, for the GYC's "Puppet-Palooza". Kids will enjoy a 1 hour show, featuring Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals. Following the show, all kids in attendance will have the opportunity to create their very own unique puppet.

Only \$5 per child (accompanying adults do not need ticket)

Sponsored by
Children's Dentistry of the Lakes Region






For the 10th straight year, The Gilford Youth Center and Gilford Parks and Recreation are hosting "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Friends" on Saturday, April 20th, 8-10 am. This is a pancake breakfast for both kids and adults. Kids can have their picture taken with the Easter bunny. There will be prizes, face painting, cookie walk, coloring contest and raffles. Proceeds from the event will help fund future Gilford Youth Center programs.

\$4 for kids, \$6 for adults.

No reservations are needed..Just show up on the day of the event, between 8-10 am.

April 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Adult Book Study 10:30am Chancel Choir 6-7pm	5	6 Morning Meditation 9:30am Peter Mayer Concert 7pm
7 Worship 10:00am Communion Food Collection Diaconate Mtg. 11:15am Outreach Mtg. 11:15am	8 Senior Momentum Baseball Day Movie & Lunch 12:00pm Church Council 6:25pm	9	10	11 Adult Book Study 10:30am Chancel Choir 6-7pm	12	13 Morning Meditation 9:30am
14 Hymn Sing 9:45am Worship 10:00am 	15 Senior Momentum Chair Yoga 10:00am	16	17	18 Adult Book Study 10:30am Chancel Choir 6-7pm  7:00pm	19	20 Morning Meditation 9:30am
21 Worship 10:00am 	22	23	24	25 Adult Book Study 10:30am Chancel Choir 6pm	26 Friendly Kitchen 9:30am	27 Morning Meditation 9:30am
28 Worship 10:00am	29 Senior Momentum Game Day 11:30am	30				