BELFRY NEWSLETTER SANBORNTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC MARCH 2023



A Note from Pastor Paula

Here we are once again in the church season of Lent. A time when we pause to examine our lives and our relationship with God and others. It's also a good time to pause....... Coming out of the pandemic we have so many adjustments to make; work, school, war, unbelievable weather changes, zoom calls, live-streaming everything – it can and is overwhelming at times. We are constantly on the go - even when we are waiting for something – we turn to our phones and play a game or check our emails or the news. We never seem to just stop and rest.

A question I read in a Lenten devotional asked; What are we running from? Why do we feel the need to fill every second – and all the while, we are running on empty.

This Lenten season I invite you to ponder; What are you running from? What are the things that separate you from God? What is the baggage that you continue to carry – that you

don't need to

I would like stillness and in answers to these to suggest that refrain from hands 24/7 – no phones in waiting you're using your really not

I write this

to propose, that it is in the prayer that we find the questions. May I be so bold as for the season of Lent we having our phones in our phones at the dinner table, no rooms – try to notice when phone as a distraction and it's necessary.

note out of personal

experience – I am going to do my best at following my own suggestion. To keep me accountable – I invite you to ask Bill once in a while how I'm doing. May this season of Lent bring you closer to God and bring each of you a sense of peace.

Blessings Pastor Paula

From the Minister of Music

For most of our congregation, the organ restoration project is done: the organ sounds wonderful, and we are all proud of it and its beauties, especially in Laura's hands and feet. For the team (Bob Bengtson, Laura, Clif and me), however, it is still in progress. We have a "punch list" of things that need to be done. They are being addressed gradually, as time (and money, now running short) permits. Much of the remaining work involves electrical matters, and Clif is our man, handling each challenge with care and skill. Estimating the hours Clif devotes to this work would be difficult, if not impossible. Bob provides the expert advice and does work beyond the capability of us amateurs. Be assured, we will get there in the end!

On April 13, the Sanbornton Historical Society will meet in our sanctuary for a program about New England church music history, especially regarding the history of music in our church. Laura and I did a similar program on Old Home Day, and we were asked to give it again. Everyone is invited.

Another reminder: Do you like to sing? We are always on the lookout for potential choir members. Speak to me or Laura if you are interested...don't be shy!

Dennis

Board of Worship -

The Ministry of worship is diligently carrying out the duties necessary for a smooth transition of seasons thanks to the steadfast care of the sacristy and alter weekly by Barbara Oslo. Also helping by securing volunteers for each service as greeters and readers are Cheryl Prevost and Marjory Hillman. Sue Long takes responsibility for printing and folding our weekly bulletin. We thank them all for their dedication.

Anyone with questions, concerns or ideas may call me anytime at (603)731-9766. Faithfully,

Sandy Trottier

BOARD OF OUTREACH

ISAIAH 43:19A, NLT





One Great Hour of Sharing On Sunday March 19th, we will be taking up one of the UCC national offerings – One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHS is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business microcredit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. For the next few weeks, the church will be collecting offerings – please designate the offering in the memo line OGHS. Thank you!

From the Historian

Pastor Jean O'Bresky



Pastor Jean O'Bresky is originally from Minneapolis, MN. She studied at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Bachelor of Arts [BA], Psychology), at the Abbott Northwestern Hospital (2004, Clinical Pastoral Education) and at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (2000-2005, Master of Divinity - MDiv, Theology and Pastoral Care). Starting in 2005, she served as an on-call overnight Chaplain for the Hennepin County Medical Center, a Trauma 1 Emergency Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She and her partner, Shelly Sechrest, moved to the East Coast in 2007. From 2007-2009 she was an Associate Pastor at the First Congregational Church UCC in Concord, NH, where she was very involved with Community Outreach. She joined our church in November of 2009 as an Interim Pastor, and built relationships with the children as well as the congregation. She had confirmation classes, children's sermons, and enjoyed "just hanging out with them", as she once put it. She worked with our search committee to help find a settled pastor who would be "a good fit for our congregation". She was very active with us (see the 2010 Sanbornton Old Home Day parade photo

below) for 2 years. We thanked her and wished her well in November 2011.



After leaving Sanbornton, she and Shelly moved to Springfield, VT where Pastor Jean served the First Congregational Church UCC Springfield as their pastor from March 2012 to September 2017. She and Shelly moved back to Minnesota at the end of 2017. As well as serving churches both as a settled pastor and interim, she has been a hospital **Chaplain**, community **organizer**, public policy advocate, homeless shelter director and she's even served as a Chemical Dependency Technician at The Pride Institute in Eden Prairie, MN., where she assisted counselors and nurses in caring for the clientele of a residential treatment center for GLBT people in recovery. She was the **President** of the Springfield Family Center (poverty alleviation) for over 4 years, where she led the rebuilding of the board of directors. For more than 3 years she served as the **President** of the Association of Springfield Area Churches, which entailed working with 13 local churches in town wide projects, and was a Member Of The Board Of Advisors for the Springfield Hospital Ethics Committee, where she helped revise hospital policies concerning clinical ethics. Of all the hats that she has worn, parish ministry is what she loves the best. "My favorite part of being a parish minister is getting to know people and becoming a part of their lives. I get very attached to the communities I am serving." Pastor Jean said. "Church is not just about what happens on Sunday mornings, but how we reach people all seven days of the week." Today, Rev. Jean O'Bresky is the Spiritual Care Coordinator at Kindred Hospice Care in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Submitted by Karey Caldwell, Historian

Good morning,

I hope you are all staying safe and warm during the snowstorms.

This is what I have for the <u>usher</u> schedule for March:

March 5 - Bob & Arlene

March 12 - Cliff & Brendan

March 19. - Robert & Marilyn

March 26 - Barbara & Cheryl

If you find you have a problem with the schedule, please let me know.

Thank you,

Cheryl

THE BELFRY AND THE SANBORNTON UCC WEBSITE

The Belfry Newsletter and the <u>www.uccsanbornton.org</u> website is published and maintained by the Sanbornton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Sanbornton, NH.

Please direct questions and/or comments to Robert Ladew at: 603-393-6604 or robert.ladew@gmail.com.