



*The Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC, situated in Sanbornton, New Hampshire is a Church for Peace and Justice. We declare ourselves an Open and Affirming member of the United Church of Christ welcoming people of every race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, age, economic class, physical or mental ability. **All are welcome!***

Founded in 1771, the church has been a cornerstone of faith in this small community and the surrounding area through the generations since. We are a congregation of the United Church of Christ which was created by a merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed churches. Our denominational heritage is Congregational, where congregations are independent and autonomous.

JUNE 2025 ISSUE



THE MODERATOR

School is letting out for the summer and everyone is beginning their summer plans. The choir will be taking off for the summer and resume again in September. This is also the time for gardens and farmers markets that we cannot enjoy during other seasons of the year. This is also the time when we can slow down a little and dream about the future.

Note that we have a church meeting with the search committee coming up June 8th where we will be soliciting your feedback as well as presenting a plan for worship and ministerial services for the next 12 months. Be sure to join us and be a part of the discussion!

As the weather is beginning to warm up, our church members are now busy working on plans for both the "Got Lunch" Sanbornton program and the Sanbornton Old Home Days. Everyone is excited about being involved in those programs again.

And as I mentioned last month, our church property committee continues to meet every other Sunday to formulate a plan to prioritize projects and estimate pricing to address the wish list that was created at our Vision 2026 meeting. We plan to hold a follow-up Vision meeting later this spring with the whole church to further discuss some of the ideas that the committee has come up with.

And lastly, I want to mention how great it was to have a chamber concert at our church last month. There were over 70 people there and it was an amazing evening with some very talented musicians. And as I was leaving, I could not help but overhearing a couple in front of me say "Oh, that was wonderful! We have to come back Sunday and hear more of this music!" Of all of the important and rewarding community outreach that we do, my favorite is when we open the front doors of our church and welcome people in!

Faithfully,

David Henderson, Church Moderator



CENTRE CEMETERY COMES ALIVE !!



Come join us for a special day in our historic cemetery. Come listen to our ancestors introduce themselves and share a little history of their family.

Who knows, they may have lived in your house!

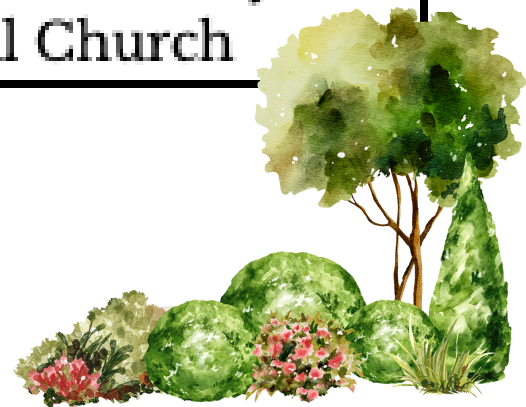
When: Thursday, June 12th at 2:00 pm

Where: At the Centre Cemetery - up Tower Hill Road to the Cemetery on the left side

Who's There: some famous Sanbornton residents have returned to visit with you!!

Refreshments following at the cemetery.

Presented by the Sanbornton Historical Society and the Sanbornton Congregational Church



A YEARLY TRADITION

A huge thank you goes out to Isaac and Orson who volunteered to place 34 American flags on the graves of servicemen in our historic Centre Cemetery. We have a total of 372 individuals buried here. The earliest is dated 1772.



OUR HISTORY

Back on May 1, 1983, members of our church got together to clean up our very own Centre Cemetery. Pride in our little cemetery continues to this day, as our Centre Cemetery Committee will be hosting a special event this month (look for that info elsewhere in the Belfry)!

These are just a few of the photos taken on that day by Betty Weiant. Thanks to the assistance of Dennis Akerman and Kim Bossey, we've been able to identify some of the folks in these pictures.

In the first photo: the 2 men pulling down the pole are Brett Bayley and Dennis Pancoe.

In the second photo: the woman is Barbara Powers, the man in the tan pants, flexing his muscles, is our music director Dennis Akerman, and next to him is Chuck Powers (not related to Barbara). The tractor is likely that of George Currier.

In the third photo: the man with his leg up on the pole is Dennis Pancoe, and the man in the cap, sitting, is Bill Abbott.

If anyone has any additional information on the identities of the folks in these photos, please let me know, as this is part of our church's history!



LESSONS IN LIFE (AND STEWARDSHIP) - THE FIVE L'S

This information was gleaned from a beautiful interview, conducted by Ed Mylet on a Podcast, which my sister sent to me. I had the privilege of watching and hearing Mr. Mylet interview Dr. Gladys McGary who is 102 years old. She described her philosophy of life as being guided by "The 5 L's."

"Love, the most crucial one, and Life are numbers 1 and 2", she said. "They go together, hand in hand." She went on to explain, people can't have one without the other. "If a seed is placed in the Great Pyramid and left untended, nothing happens. But with love, you know . . . light, water, nurturing and good stewardship, it grows. With continued loving care, it flourishes." She went on to give an example to consider: "An expectant mother, truly connected to the growing child inside, they are one for a time. What the mother eats or is nourished by, so the growing infant is also nourished. The health of the mother influences the health of the child. Everything the pregnant mother is, the growing child is. Being a good steward of her own body, increases the success of survival of the child." The Love of one for another creates new Life, carrying onward.

Laughter (#3): "Laughter WITHOUT love is cruel, mean, drives families apart, causes wars. Laughter WITH love is joy, camaraderie, shared fun." Laughter is uplifting to the spirit.

Labor (#4): "Labor without love is drudgery, performed because 'you just gotta do it', day after day. But Labor with love is bliss! That is what inspires a painter to paint, a singer to sing, a writer to write." Perhaps that is why Laura makes the organ speak to us with beauty each Sunday, or why our Choir Director inspires us to sing music with emotion and an inspiring message each week, or why our dedicated Supply Pastor comes back Sunday after Sunday to speak to us, with us, for us, about these things.

Listening (#5): "Listening without love is an empty sound, not understandable to us, but listening with Love is thought provoking, understanding, perhaps with empathy."

"What do you think we are getting stuck on these days?" McGary asked the interviewer. "We don't understand our own power and what we COULD be doing in the world today." She continued, "God created ALL these beautiful things around us, animals, flowers, the earth, the sky, water, . . . then God created human beings and he gave us CHOICE, the right to choose, dominion over the earth. We took that gift of dominance and started deciding to do whatever we darn well pleased. Many forgot to practice the gift with LOVE and care, instead, doing so without.

LOVE was Jesus' top priority message, the one L that should accompany all the other L's. He delivered it quietly, sometimes with a hard wake-up call approach, but mostly by example. I think the 5 L's apply not only to our lives, but apply to the Stewardship of our church, as well, where lessons in the 5 L's are brought to our attention (by many) for our review each Sunday.

Stewardship WITH Love is caring, nurturing, helping us grow, finding happiness in the outcome. Stewardship WITHOUT Love is just "tryin' to pay the bills".

Respectfully submitted,
Marg Whedon for Stewardship



THE MOON

"Genesis 1:14 - And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years..."

Native American tribes often used moon phases and cycles to keep track of the seasons and gave a unique name to each recurring full moon. The full moon names were used to identify the entire month during which each occurred. The early European settlers in America adopted the Native American habit of naming the moons. They even invented some of their own names that have been passed down through time.

The full moon this month will fall on June 11th. It is known as the "Strawberry Moon" by folks in certain areas (like ours) that are blessed with berries. It is also known as the "Rose Moon," (Europe) or the "Flower Moon", because the first crop of strawberries is picked in June and roses are in full bloom. The Strawberry Moon was universal to every Algonquin tribe, and picking by moonlight is said to honor the crops, and insure bigger bounty next picking season. Others common names include the Honey Moon, Stockman's Moon, Hot Moon, Mead Moon, Moon of Horses, Lovers' Moon, Strong Sun Moon and Dyad Moon. Dyad is an old world term for pair. It is believed the pair refers to the Moon and Sun being of equal importance in June.

Not only is the Summer Solstice this month (20th), but June also means that Milky Way "Core Season" is here! This is the time when the Milky Way is visible as a faint band of hazy light arching across the sky all night. Find yourself under dark skies away from bright city lights to see it best! What you'll be seeing is the bright central core of our home galaxy, seen from our vantage point within the galaxy!

For stargazing tips, planets and more, visit <https://science.nasa.gov/solar-system/skywatching/whats-up-june-2025-skywatching-tips-from-nasa/>

-Karey Caldwell



THE ADMINISTRATOR

CRAFTERS meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 10 am. Come for crafting, coffee or just wonderful fellowship. All are welcome! If you would like a "take-home" project to help us out with our Old Home Day project, just let us know.

REMINDER - During the months of JULY and AUGUST we begin worship at 9:30 am.

GotLunch! Sanbornton

Sixteen families (35 children) have signed up so far this season for delivery that will begin on June 23, 2025. A volunteer meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 9, 2025 where the Board will present a brief overview of the volunteer program and provide a time for volunteer paperwork to be completed. There are several new opportunities for volunteers that we are looking forward to sharing at the meeting. We are still accepting food and financial donations, and will do so throughout the season.

**Check out our new website by visiting the church website -
<https://www.uccsanbornton.org>**

Plymouth Chamber Trio

On May 30, 2025, we welcomed over 80 people to Plymouth Chamber Trio's first concert. The unique and beautiful blend of organ, violin and cello filled our sanctuary, making it sound as if there were more than only three instruments there.

The program opened with G.F. Handel's Organ Concerto in G Minor, Op. 4, HWV 291. "Adapted from its original chamber orchestra version, Laura Belanger recreated this rarely-heard concerto for string trio, in an attempt to bring attention to the two charming slow movement duets for violin and violoncello." (from the Program Notes).

SEE NEXT PAGE



THE ADMINISTRATOR

The program concluded with The Suite for Violin, Violoncello and Organ, Opus 149. From the program notes: "The Suite for Violin, Violoncello and Organ, Opus 149, is a substantial four-movement work, wherein the first section we hear evidence of the composer's masterful blending of both the Baroque and the Romantic. A meditative set of variations on an original theme follows. Then, a solemn sarabande, is beautifully conceived for all three instruments in the vein of a Romantic slow movement before the Moto perpetuo finale, with the most extroverted music of the entire piece, brings the suite to a dazzling close."

Indeed, it WAS a dazzling close to an exceptional evening. In our small town of Sanbornton, we are so fortunate to experience this kind of professional music, expertly presented by the talented Laura Belanger, Sai-ly Acosta, and John Acosta.

Many thanks to all who contributed goodies for the reception that was held after the concert and thank you to Laura for coordinating this special event.

Progress in the Undercroft

The utility area in the Undercroft is looking a bit different, thanks to the unwavering efforts of Clif and Brendan. At the time of this publication, the drywall has been installed and mudding and taping has begun. The door has been ordered and is expected anytime. Soon, the wall will look as if it has always been there.

