



*Sanbornton  
Congregational  
Church, UCC*

# Belfry

*April, 2024*

Things always happen when you least expect it, or so goes the quote. And we have all witnessed that personally with the 3 feet of snow that has fallen here in the past 2 weeks. And in late March/early April no less!

We have had many good things happen too when we least expected it. Like having Richard Slater with us for the past many weeks. And having Easter Sunrise service again and an Easter Morning breakfast that drew a big crowd. Other things have happened like having our pulpit supply booked through June (thank you, Sandy!) with the exception of one Sunday later this month that we are working on.

Despite being in limbo by not having a settled Pastor quite yet, we are doing very well as a church. We had a wonderful church visioning session last month, brainstorming ideas as to where we would like to be as a church one year from now. And we have many great events coming up later this year, like the historical presentation on our Paul Revere Company Bell, Old Home Days this summer, and plans for another wonderful Christmas Fair in December. And we have adapted well as a church through these times. We have made many new changes lately that are all working smoothly, I am pleased to report.

I want to express my sincere appreciation for all of the hard-working people in our church (many behind the scenes) who have stepped up during this time. Whether it's working to fix an antique clock in the sanctuary, or making sure good food is waiting in the Undercroft after each service or sending cards to those infirmed or simply wishing a Happy Birthday. Thank you all!

I sincerely believe that even more good things are going to happen when we least expect it in the coming months! With our caring church community, how could it not?

Moderately Speaking,  
David Henderson

## Sanbornton Old Home Day - July 13, 2024

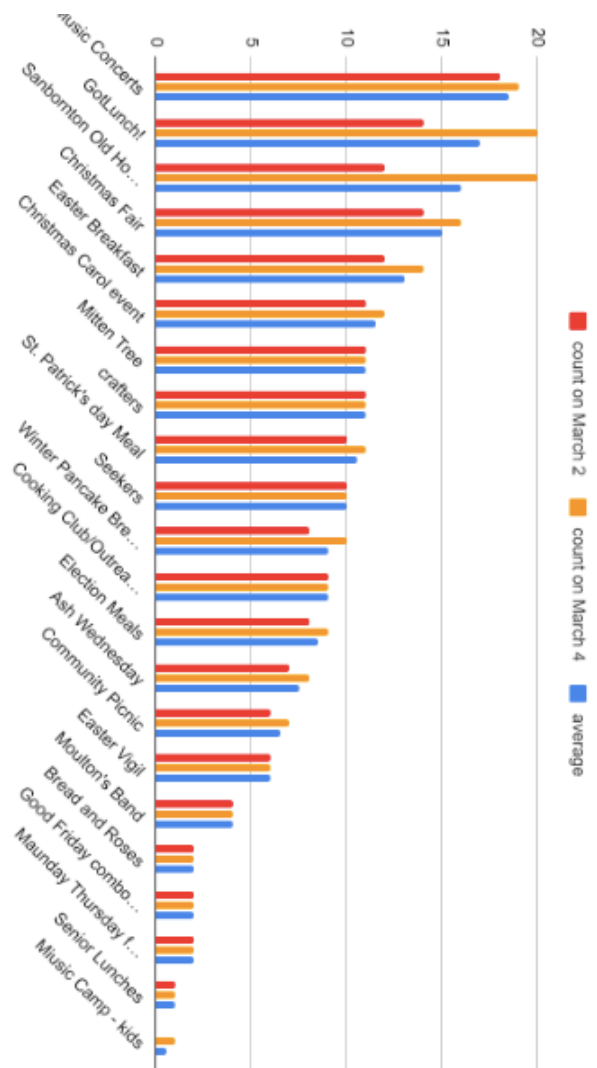
During our Vision 2025 Meeting, this event came up as an important event for our year. Plans are underway for our church to have a presence not only during the day BUT ALSO in the preparation and planning and in events leading up to the big day. A small group of volunteers from the town meet on the first Monday of every month and are making plans for this annual event.

Already, there are tasks of all sizes and styles that need to be done to meet our goal of being active as a church for this event. Are you interested? Would you and a friend like to take on a small job? Some examples include folding/counting t-shirts for inventory, providing a dessert for the OHD's fundraising dinner and opening the sanctuary during the event. We will be selling beverages during the day and there are many small tasks that need to be done to make that happen too (buy/donate/deliver some beverages, loan coolers, provide ice, sell drinks for an hour on OHD, supervise the recycle bins,...). We are also looking for some folks who would be willing to coordinate small components of the day. If any of these things sound like you, let Sue Long know ([sue.long.70b@gmail.com](mailto:sue.long.70b@gmail.com)).

### Vision 2025 Meeting - The Results!

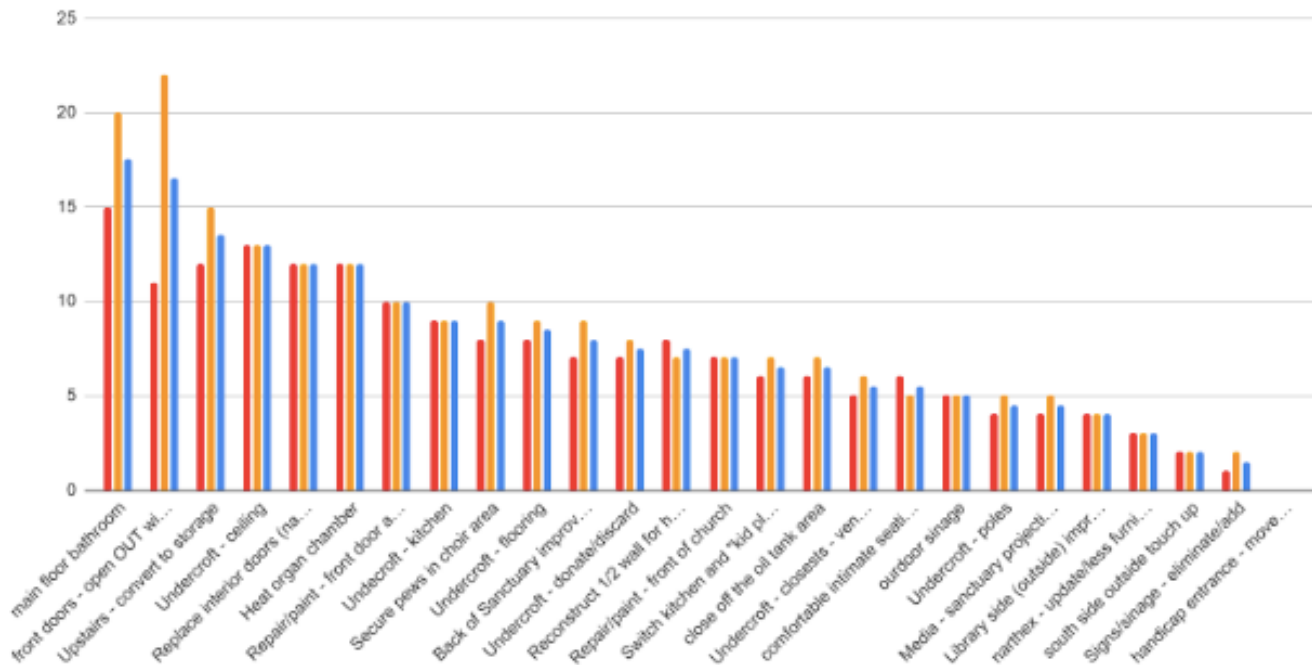
On March 2, in a productive hybrid meeting, we brainstormed, discussed and prioritized four categories of focus for our year. The results are summarized below. It is the hope that these can be used as a direction for us in the next year. The Church Council has digested the data and are working on ways to make proposals about ways to move forward!

What Activities Do We Hold in 2024?	count on March 2	count on March 4	average
<b>Music Concerts</b>	18	19	19
<b>GotLunch!</b>	14	20	17
<b>Sanbornton Old Home Day</b>	12	20	16
<b>Christmas Fair</b>	14	16	15
<b>Easter Breakfast</b>	12	14	13
<b>Christmas Carol event</b>	11	12	12
<b>Mitten Tree</b>	11	11	11
<b>crafters</b>	11	11	11
<b>St. Patrick's day Meal</b>	10	11	11
<b>Seekers</b>	10	10	10
<b>Winter Pancake Breakfast</b>	8	10	9
Cooking Club/Outreach	9	9	9
Election Meals	8	9	9
Ash Wednesday	7	8	8
Community Picnic	6	7	7
Easter Vigil	6	6	6
Moulton's Band	4	4	4
Bread and Roses	2	2	2
Good Friday combo service	2	2	2
Maundy Thursday food/meal	2	2	2
Senior Lunches	1	1	1
Music Camp - kids	0	1	1



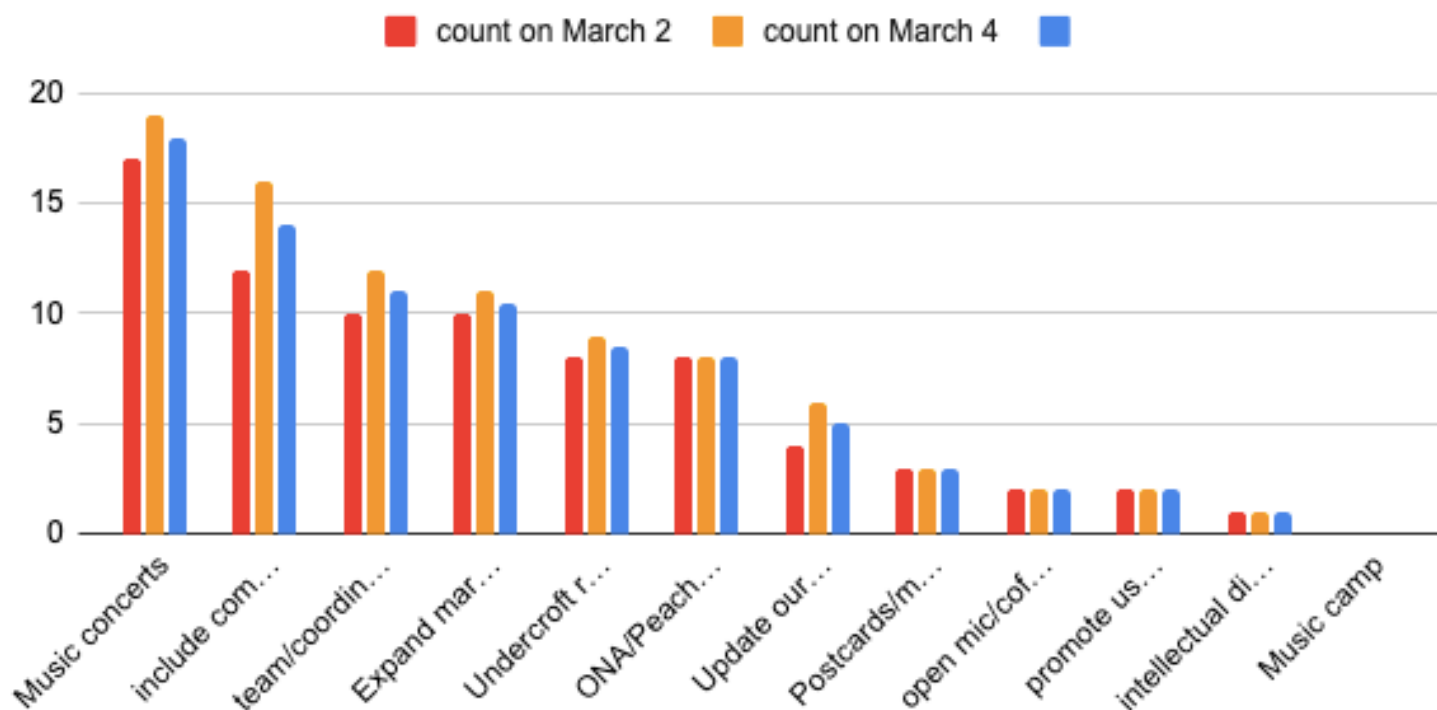
What Property Improvements Would We Like To Make in 2024?	count on March 2	count on March 4	average
main floor bathroom	15	20	18
front doors - open OUT with push bars	11	22	17
Upstairs - convert to storage	12	15	14
Undercroft - ceiling	13	13	13
Replace interior doors (narthex)	12	12	12
Heat organ chamber	12	12	12
Repair/paint - front door and lock	10	10	10
Undercroft - kitchen	9	9	9
Secure pews in choir area	8	10	9
Undercroft - flooring	8	9	9
Back of Sanctuary improvements	7	9	8
Undercroft - donate/discard	7	8	8
Reconstruct 1/2 wall for handicap entrance	8	7	8
Repair/paint - front of church	7	7	7
Switch kitchen and "kid place"	6	7	7
close off the oil tank area	6	7	7
Undercroft - closets - vented doors	5	6	6
comfortable intimate seating area in undercroft	6	5	6
outdoor signage	5	5	5
Undercroft - poles	4	5	5
Media - sanctuary projections	4	5	5
Library side (outside) improve	4	4	4
narthex - update/less furniture	3	3	3
south side outside touch up	2	2	2
Signs/signage - eliminate/add	1	2	2
handicap entrance - move to front of building	0	0	0

count on March 2    count on March 4    average



How do we welcome people to our community that aren't interested or don't feel welcome? (Branding and marketing)	count on March 2	count on March 4	
Music concerts	17	19	18
include community - build bridges	12	16	14
team/coordinate/partner with existing organizal	10	12	11
Expand marketing	10	11	11
Undercroft rentals	8	9	9
ONA/Peach with Justice	8	8	8
Update our WORDS for marketing	4	6	5
Postcards/mailing	3	3	3
open mic/coffee house	2	2	2
promote us nationally	2	2	2
intellectual discussions	1	1	1
Music camp	0	0	0

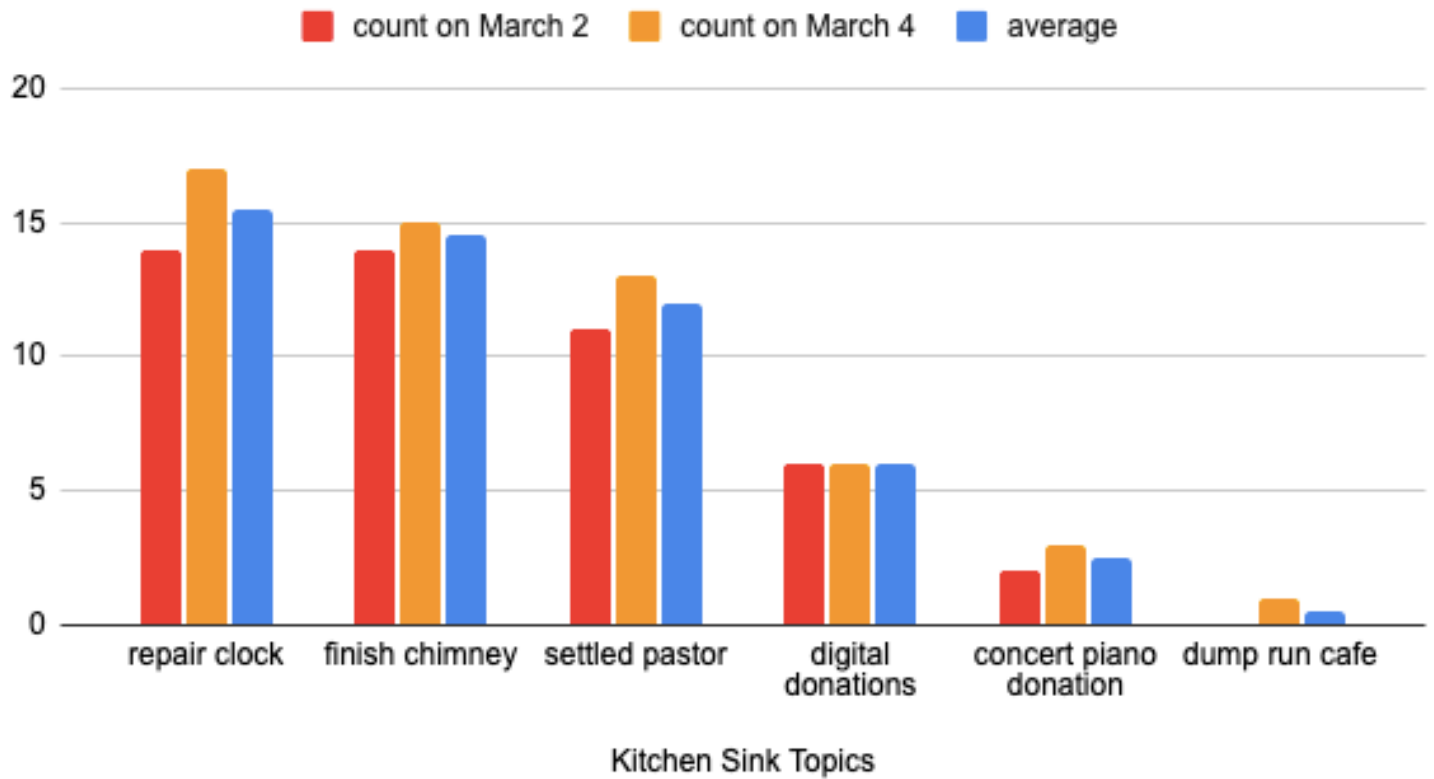
## Vision 2025 - How do we welcome people in our community?



How do we welcome people to our community that aren't interested or don't feel welcome? (Branding and marketing)

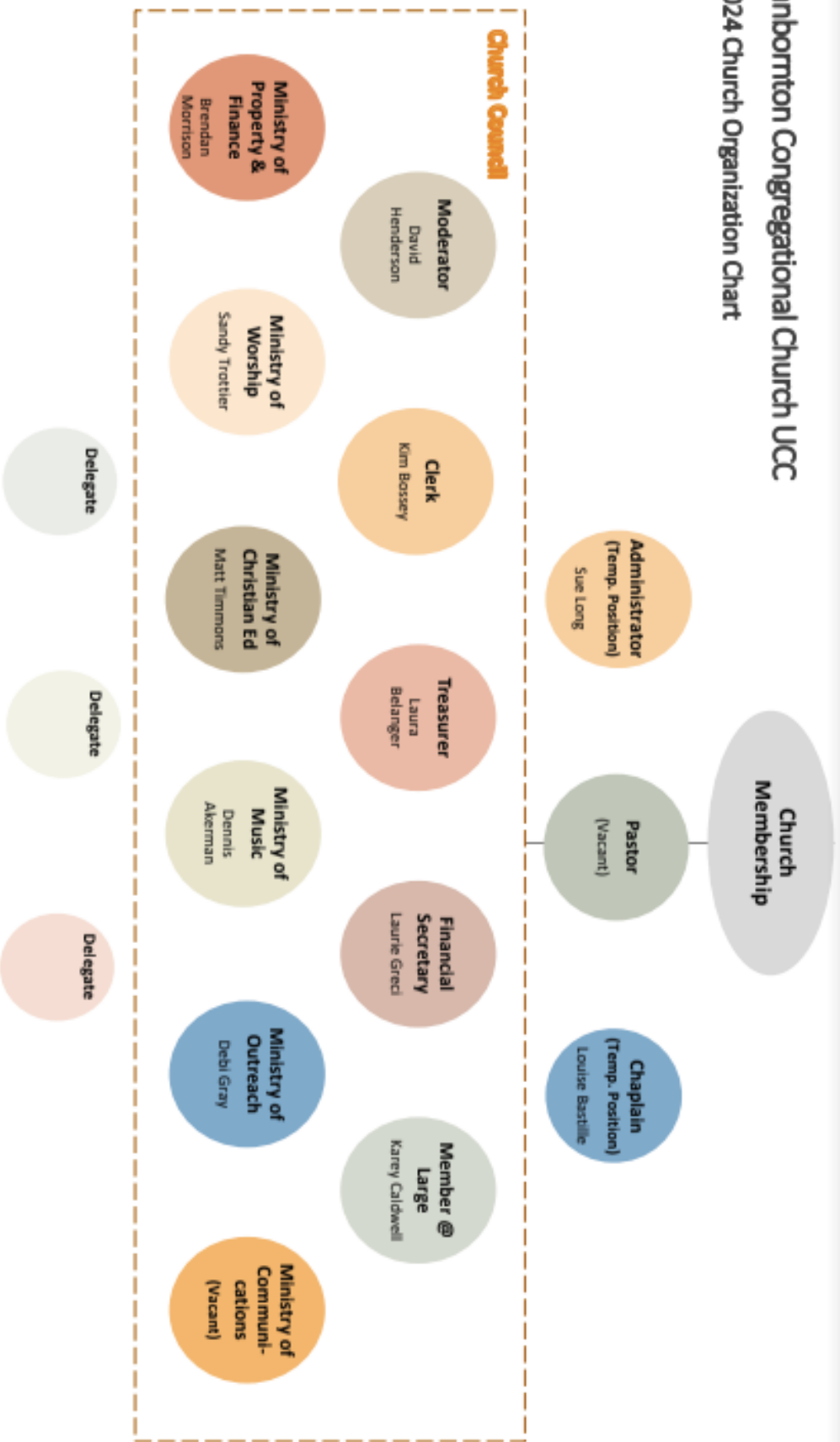
Kitchen Sink Topics	count on March 2	count on March 4	average
repair clock	14	17	16
finish chimney	14	15	15
settled pastor	11	13	12
digital donations	6	6	6
concert piano donation	2	3	3
dump run cafe	0	1	1

## Vision 2025 - Kitchen Sink Topics



# Sanbornton Congregational Church UCC

## 2024 Church Organization Chart



## SUMMER CAMP!

Springtime and the Easter season are the perfect time to think about summer camp!

The Horton Center has many opportunities for campers of ALL AGES! There is a poster on the bulletin board in the Undercroft that outlines the 2024 schedule. <https://www.hortoncenter.org/summer-sessions>



The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has summer choral residencies (for all ages) all over the United States this summer, including Washington, D.C. Visit [rscmamerica.org/2024-residencies](https://rscmamerica.org/2024-residencies) for more information.



The New Hampshire Conference is planning to have a delegation of youth from across the state attend the Regional Youth Event (for grades 7-12 and their youth leaders), July 28-31. Significant scholarship support is available. If you would like to be a part of the New Hampshire team attending the Regional Youth Event, please register at <https://www.silverlakect.org/campsession/18183657> and then please send a copy of your registration confirmation to [grankin@nhcucc.org](mailto:grankin@nhcucc.org).



### From the Historian....

Two years ago, this newspaper clipping, from 1971, was sent to me from none other than our very own Barbara Akerman. There is a handsome young man in this photo that you may recognize from our congregation on any given Sunday! The photo and article were from our church's 200th Anniversary, and, if you look closely, you will see a very large cake! Although some of the clipping was lost over the years, I've taken a little "license" to copy, and fill in the words that were missing, to the best of my ability. Check it out!



"200th ANNIVERSARY celebration of Sanbornton Congregational Church was climaxed by services held Sunday with Dr. Everett Barrows, right, conference minister of the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ, giving the sermon. At the reception which followed in the Town Hall, old photographs held the attention of, from left to right, (Rev.) Richard Crooks, present (church pastor), Dennis H. Akerman, moderator, (Mrs. Claris) Bodwell, whose late husband (was the) grandson of the second (church pastor), Rev. Abraham Bodwell (who lead the) church from 1806 to 1852."

Submitted by Karey Caldwell, church historian



## Interesting Trivia about the Full Moon: April's Pink Supermoon

*"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. Although many Native American Tribes gave distinct names to the full moon, the most well-known names of the full moon come from the Algonquin tribes who lived in the area of New England and westward to Lake Superior. The Algonquin tribes had perhaps the greatest effect on the early European settlers in America, and the settlers adopted the Native American habit of naming the moons. They even invented some of their own names that have been passed down through time.

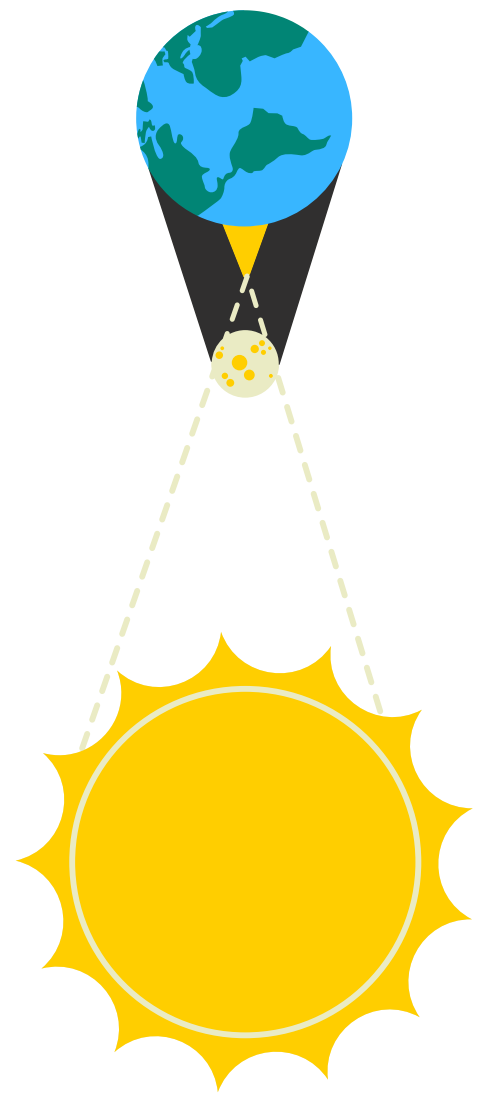
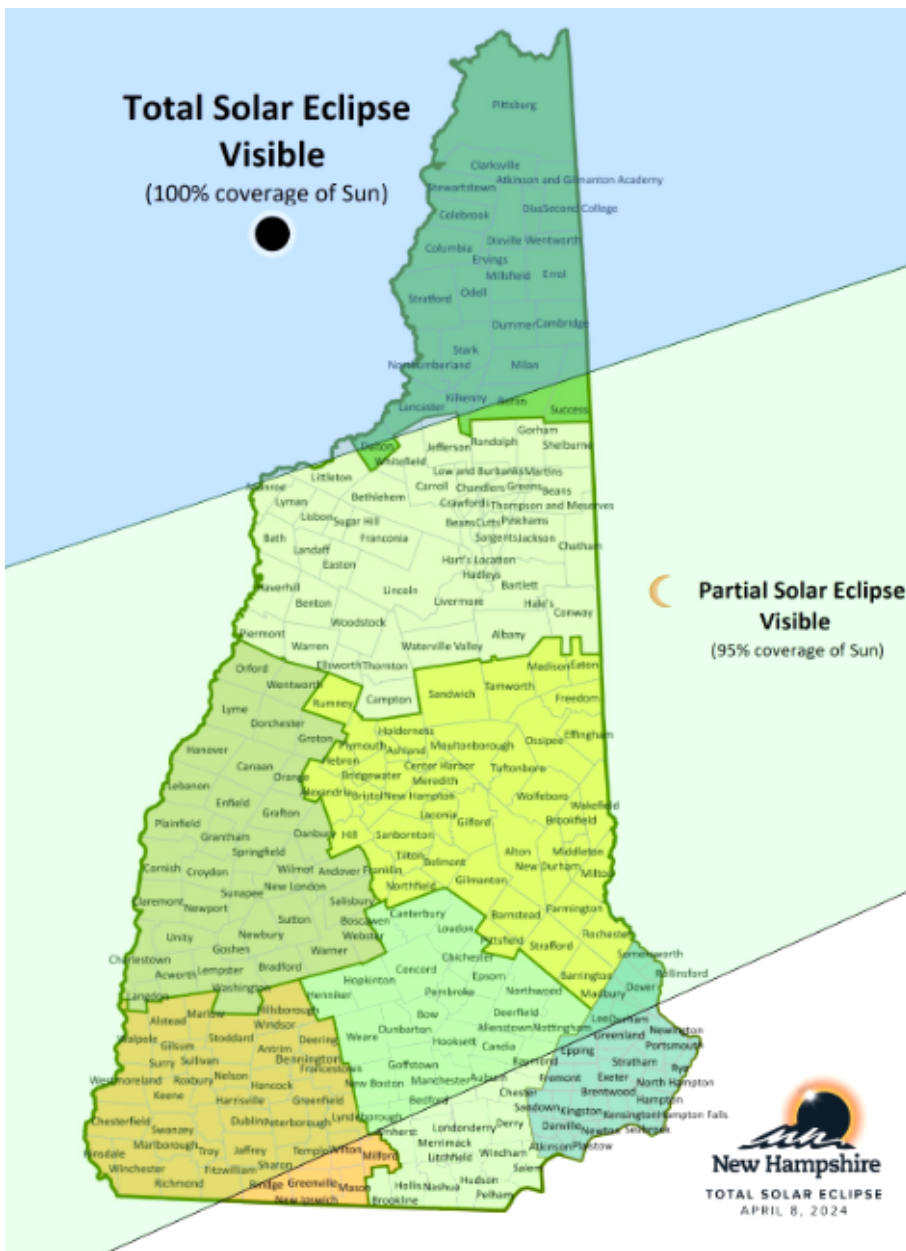
**The Full Pink Supermoon** will occur on **April 23rd**.

This name came from the herb moss pink, or wild ground phlox, which is one of the earliest widespread flowers of the spring. The early spring rains awaken the plants and trees and brings forth the renewed life of nature and spirit. Seeds are waking and the world begins to wake with beauty as farmers prepare. This is a time for Growth! For these same reasons, April's moon is also called the **Seed Moon**. This name is meant to indicate the season most appropriate for planting the seeds of that which you hope will flourish in the coming season of growth and fertility.

The Choctaw tribe of the Southeast US refers to the April full moon as the "**Moon of Blackberry**" when the berries begin to appear in that southern climate, while the Cherokee use the more general but very spring-appropriate "**Flower Moon**" name. The southwestern Apache tribe often uses the name "**Moon of the Big Leaves**" to indicate how trees are flourishing in April. Other names for this month's celestial body include the **Full Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon**, and among coastal tribes the **Full Fish Moon**, because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn. This is also the first full Moon of the spring season, so it's also known as the **Paschal Full Moon**. **This month's moon is also a "supermoon", which is when the moon is closest to the earth in its orbit, and appears larger than usual.**

And speaking of the moon being so close to the earth...Are you all ready for the **Solar Eclipse on April 8th**? Visible across North America, this eclipse has been dubbed the Great North American Eclipse (also Great American Total Solar Eclipse and Great American Eclipse). A total solar eclipse occurs when the Moon's apparent diameter is larger than the Sun's, blocking all direct sunlight, turning day into darkness. Totality **occurs only in a narrow path across Earth's surface**, making this eclipse so special...**and the last one visible this way for another 20 years!** This eclipse will also have a long duration, **at 4 minutes and 28 seconds at its maximum!** In NH, we will witness **95% coverage of the sun** (see map below), so watch for the **start** of the eclipse (first partial) at **2:14pm**, start of totality at **3:28pm**, end of totality at **3:32pm** and the end of partial at **4:29pm**. So get your special eclipse viewing glasses and be part of this **amazing sky event!**

Submitted by,  
Karey Caldwell



**A Note from Ruth Martz**

Dear Friends:

*I would like first to thank Karey Caldwell for reaching out to me for an “interview;” it was a pleasure to meet with her! Such an interview by its very nature, however, is all about me, me, me, and that isn’t the message that I would like to leave with you. This congregation is always in my daily prayers, along with great gratitude for the life of each beloved member who has died. You were blessed with the leadership of Rev. Paula Gile, and you are carrying on wonderful ministries, including Got Lunch, an awesome Christmas Fair, and active pulpit supply. It’s all about your strong faith and love of God, church, and neighbor. Thank you again for the years that we shared together and for your ongoing faithfulness in challenging times.*

*Wishing you peace and joy this Easter season—and beyond,*

*Ruth*

## From the Minister of Music

### Organ Update

It may seem quiet on the organ front, but your Organ Team never really sleeps. And there is always something which needs doing on a pipe organ.

Reminder: the Team is Bob Bengtson, Laura, Clif and me.

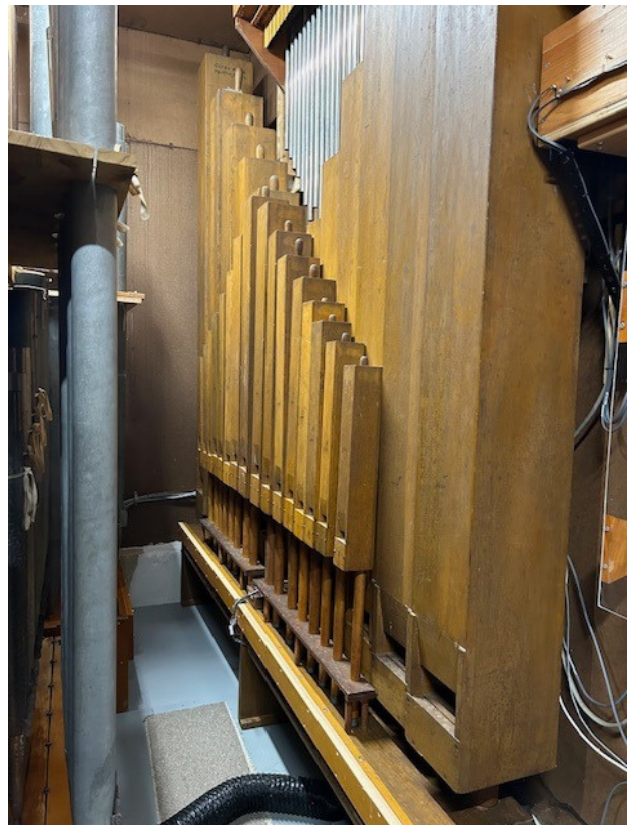
Whenever a problem, or a chance to make an improvement, arises, the Team gets together and goes to work on it.

Recently, a problem developed in the chest of the Bourdon 16', one of the pedal ranks. Six of the 30 notes in that rank began malfunctioning. Clif tried all possible electrical solutions to no avail. The only remedy was to replace the six offending actions. What that involved, though, was removing the chests the pipes sit on, (where the actions are) so they could be worked on conveniently. To do that, all the Bourdon pipes had to be removed.

That is easier said than done, because these are big pipes. It takes some doing to get them out into the sanctuary so the chests can come out. If you look at the picture of the complete rank, you'll see why. The largest pipe is about 9' tall, about 11' off the floor, and very heavy. Luckily, they get progressively smaller and easier to deal with as they go higher in pitch.

The whole thing has been taken to pieces, Bob has taken the chests home and put in new actions of a different design than the offending ones, and everything is now back together and functioning well. We're about to begin another job. I'll report on it soon!

Dennis



### Wednesday Crafters

During the lenten season, the crafters made over 50 carrot decorations using old clothespins and scrap fabric. We made some "thumb bunny" tags to attach, making an adorable little trinket, just right for Easter giving. The Sanbornton Recreation Department was happy to have these for their March 30, Easter Egg Hunt at the town park. Families with kids aged birth to 3rd grade were given these during the egg hunt and pictures with the Easter bunny. We look forward to partnering with the Rec Department some more in the future.

