



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.

OCTOBER 2025

NEWSLETTER



FROM THE MODERATOR

Happy October! Leaves are turning, temperatures are getting cooler and the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here before we know it!

Last February, church members met to create a new Vision 2026 plan for our church. Some great conversations and dreams for the future were shared. A list of goals was created and they have not been forgotten! Some of the items have been completed and cost estimates for several of the wish list items have been generated.

Join us on Saturday, October 18th at 9am in the Undercroft Community room (either in person or on Zoom) to see where we are with the vision, and to have further discussion on where we want to go with the vision 2026 plan. We will be officially launching a new fundraising campaign that morning with a \$20,000 goal to make these improvements, I am pleased to report that we have already achieved 10% of that goal with pledges from the property committee!

At a previous Church Council meeting, we voted to advertise our open AV technician position on Indeed, school networks, and anywhere else we can think of. I want to give a big thanks to those volunteers who are keeping us going in the meantime. I also want to thank Sue Long for doing extra duty for both the AV services and the belfry during the interim. We will begin advertising that position in October and hope to fill the position soon.

We also plan to start new task forces this month to update our bylaws and another group to update our Safe Church policy. If anyone has any interest in joining one of these committees, please let me know. I appreciate those who have already volunteered to serve on these committees and I look forward to us beginning the work!

I look forward to seeing everyone around as our fall routines (like football games) continue and our church continues to thrive!

Faithfully,
David Henderson, Church Moderator



NHCUCC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

OCTOBER 4 - LIVE PEACE DAY!

Sponsored by NHCUCC Women's Fellowship

This is a day devoted to expressing peace through the sharing of music, visual arts, culture, and communication. It is part of a global initiative inspired by the United Nations and PEAC Institute.

This global Pause for Peace concert has been planned hoping to bring billions from around the world together through cultural music and feel the transformative power of human connection.

All are invited! Saturday, October 4th, 9am to 4pm
at the UCC Congregational Church of Laconia, 18 Veterans Square, Laconia

Thank you to the following local musicians, who will perform the
Live Peace Concert through the day:

K.Robert Bengston

Jazz Sanctuary house Band with Rev. Emilia Halstead

Suzuki Children's String Orchestra, Director, Sue Ann ERB

Bristol UCC Joyful Noise Ukulele Band

(Director: Debbie Doe / Manager: Karen Sticht)

Oldest of Friends, Randy Hencke and Deanne Fortnam

The Power Chords, director, Lorraine Barrows

In addition, we'll hear from Dr. Jaylene Bengtson, local artist, of how the visual arts can bring awareness and inner peace. Come for all or part of the day!

Lunch will be available. Donations are greatly appreciated for both lunch and concert performances. This will help defray the cost of the day, with a portion going to support the PEACE Institute.



STEWARDSHIP . . . is the Care and Nurture of Something So That It Will Last

The first three paragraphs that follow, were taken almost word for word from a national United Church of Christ website / Stewardship resources. Specifically, this was from a letter from a Maryland UCC Stewardship Committee to their own congregation.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money that Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Each year, our congregation's stewardship and generosity committee promotes a Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving, in our furtherance of understanding the value of good stewardship.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we strive to treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

For many years we, here at Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC have followed a similar program involving a Consecration Sunday in our fall schedule. While deciding what we should give back to God is truly a prayerful and year-round consideration, the timing of asking for pledging for the coming year and blessing those pledges, also greatly assists our Finance Committee in planning a church budget that we can live with and continue God's work in the upcoming year.

Many people follow Sanbornton Congregational Church online via the live streaming of our weekly services on YOU-Tube channel. We also encourage any and all who are able to attend in person, especially on Consecration Sunday to witness the blessing of our pledges. Our church uses these pledges to plan for and continue to carry on God's work in our community and outreach to those in need in the world beyond. If you are not currently on our member's or mailing list, but want some information, please just request and we will be happy to send via email.

We are planning our Consecration Sunday Celebration on **November 9th**, when we can bring our pledges to church and have them blessed, and . . . where we would love to have you join us and follow up at a special coffee fellowship. An informative packet will be available approximately two weeks before. This info may be obtained at our **October 26th**, Sunday service at 10 am - *we'd love to see you* OR it may be mailed or emailed to you on or after Monday, Oct. 27th, for your review and prayerful consideration.



Faithfully submitted by Marg Whedon for Stewardship

PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

URGENT FINANCIAL UPDATE

This year we have seen a significant decrease in pledge income, and at the same time our ongoing expenses, like yours, have risen. As a result, we have already withdrawn \$20,000 from our investment fund this year and will need to process an additional amount this month.

We certainly would appreciate it if you have not completed your 2025 pledge or would like to donate to your church, this would be a great opportunity. For a current update of your pledge amount, simply call or email either our Financial Secretary or me.

We sincerely thank you,

Laurie Greci, Financial Secretary – 603 729-0498, morganluvr263@gmail.com
Brendan Morrison, Chair Property & Finance Cmte. 603 630-3976, bdmamerica@gmail.com

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES

SAVE THE DATES (go to our website to see our online calendar for more details)

Sunday, October 12, 2025 - PHOTO HUNT - Gather after church to take some pictures for our photo gallery for use on our YouTube Channel and social media posts

Saturday, October 18, 2025 - Vision Meeting - 9 am
In the Undercroft Community Room and Zoom.

Revisit our goals and quotes for property improvements.

Sunday, October 26, 2025, 2:00- 4:00 pm. Sanbornton's Trunk-or-Treat

Sunday, November 9, 2025 - Stewardship Sunday

Saturday, December 6, 2025 - Annual Christmas Fair

SANBORNTON'S TRUNK - OR - TREAT

Sanbornton's Trunk-or-Treat is scheduled for **October 26th, 2025** and will be happening at the Sanbornton Elementary School parking lot from 2 pm - 4 pm. If you would like to participate in our Sanbornton Congregational Church's TRUNK and help hand out TREATS, Marg Whedon or Matt Timmons are the contact persons and they would welcome your help. This could be your chance to dress up and see all the kids that participate in this fun & safe event. If you would like to donate some treats for the event, there is a donation bin in the back of the sanctuary. **Thank you!** We bag up the treats and include a great little message from our church and hand them out at the event.



TIDBITS OF HISTORY

Sanbornton Church 1771 - present



To the Selectmen of Sanbornton
Gentlemen
The undersigned respectfully request
that you would insert an article in the
next warrant for a town meeting in said
town to the following effect viz.
To see if the town will vote to add
the land where the old Town Meeting house
formerly stood to the burying ground adjoining
said lot, and appropriate the same as
a public burying ground provided the same
shall be funded and laid out free from any
expense to said town
Sanbornton June 8. 1838.
Josse Ingalls
Asa Lunnier Jr.
Ephraim Orway Jr.
J. H. Lane
Nathan D. Moore
John R. Taylor
Burtlett Hill
Charles Lane
Charles Robinson

FROM THE CHURCH HISTORIAN

Did you know that Sanbornton's Centre Cemetery is part of our church's history?

Back in the early days of our town (1770's), the original "Meetinghouse"
(what they called the church back then) was located further up on Tower Hill
than it's current location.

In 1783, the Centre Cemetery was placed in a position adjacent to that original
"Meetinghouse". It was very common for burial grounds to be
on the same property as the church.

In 1834, the old Meetinghouse was taken down and rebuilt in its current location.

In 1838, a letter was written to the Town Selectmen, requesting that the land
once occupied by the Meetinghouse be used to expand the burial grounds.

The request was granted.

Today, you can still see (and use) the original stone steps
that once led to the Meetinghouse!

Submitted by Karey Caldwell, Church Historian



CHURCH MUSIC



All through the summer Laura has provided us with beautiful organ music which we love and appreciate! Thank you so much. We have also been graced with some beautiful solos, duets and other special music over the summer and NOW our choir has returned from summer vacation and is practicing and flexing their “vocal chords”, to sing praises to God. With Laura’s support we will continue to thrive.

As always, Dennis, our choir director is choosing wonderful music that not only uplifts all of our spirits but also includes lyrics that support the readings and sermon of each service. And . . . he manages to pull out the very best we can give vocally. They say, “one who sings such music, prays twice”. Another plus we have come to love and appreciate at our practice / rehearsal gatherings, is Dennis’ sharing of great little tidbits of history of the composers of the pieces on which we are working or personal glimpses of his experiences he’s had in his long pursuit of his musical education and career! We love what you do! Thank you.

Mary Ruth is a key support person in organizing all of our music so we have each piece at our beck and call for practice on Thursday evenings and for Sunday Services. Thank you for all your “behind the scenes” work. Not to mention an occasional “tickling of the ivories” in Laura’s absence.

We are ALWAYS looking for a few more dedicated voices to add to our choir. High, medium and low voices, melody and harmony, ALL appreciated!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

UPDATE: DAISY DUBE CHILDREN’S HOME IN MT. SELINDA, ZIMBABWE



Our partners in the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe have developed a plan to build four new cottage buildings on the site where the orphanage building existed. If you would like to make a donation to support the Daisy Dube Children’s Home, destroyed by fire on July 13, 2025, checks can be made out to Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC. Please put “Daisy Dube” in the memo line. Additional information about the fire, the re-build plans and how the Zimbabwe government is involved can be seen in The Weekly News.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



GETTING TO CHURCH

DON’T FORGET – We have several folks who would love to come to church for Sunday worship but have no way to get here. If you have the desire, the time and the ability to help with this need (even for just one Sunday), please let Sue Long know. You can let her know in church or by emailing her at: administrator@uccsanbornton.org

Thank you!



OCTOBER FULL 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 Americans were very spiritually in tune with nature and often used moon phases and cycles to keep track of the seasons. They gave unique names to each recurring full moon, which were used to identify each month and keep track of seasons.

Look for the **"Full Harvest Supermoon" on October 6th!**

The full Moon that happens nearest to the Fall Equinox (September 22 or 23) always takes on the name "Harvest Moon". Unlike other full Moons, this full Moon rises at nearly the same time—around sunset—for several evenings in a row, giving farmers several extra evenings of moonlight and allowing them to finish their harvests before the frosts of fall arrive. Native American tribes also called this the Corn Moon because the corn is harvested around this time of year. It was also called the Barley Moon, this is the time to harvest and thresh ripened barley.

Other Native American full Moon names for this month include:

"Moon When the Plums Are Scarlet" by the Lakota Sioux.

"Moon When the Deer Paw the Earth" by the Omaha.

"Moon When the Calves Grow Hair" by the Sioux.

Cool October night sky events you won't want to miss....

Two meteor showers peak in October! The Draconids peak around Oct 8 but will be mostly lost in the full Moon's glare, and the Orionids peak Oct 21–22. With no bright Moon to interfere, conditions will be ideal – observers can expect 10–20 fast meteors per hour at peak.

Three Featured Comets: Comet 3I/ATLAS (discovered July 2025) will reach perihelion Oct 30, with astronomers estimating its nucleus at >3 miles wide, with a mass of ~33 billion tons! It will then pass behind the Sun, reappearing in December. You'll need good binoculars or a telescope for best results. Two other comets, SWAN (C/2025 R2) and Lemmon (C/2025 A6), will also brighten the night sky. SWAN reaches its closest Earth approach on Oct 19 but remains very dim without a telescope. Comet Lemmon rounds closest to Earth on Oct 21, and it could brighten even further by Nov 8. This implies naked-eye visibility under dark skies! Get out and enjoy some of God's night sky beauty!

ADVENTURERS AMONG US

Portland, ME to Isles of Shoals

Much of this trip can be single-hand sailing, but there are many times when one needs a “First Mate” to provide that extra set of eyes, and hands to handle the lines or the tiller. Plus, there’s safety in numbers. This was to be the fourth (and final) long voyage for me and the **Seacluse**. Polly was brave enough to step up and help me accomplish one last long sail, 58 miles. That’s 10 hours +/- on the water. The unusual wind direction was from North by North East and the waves were rougher than predicted. but visually clear. Once we passed Cape Elizabeth, we were about 3 - 4 miles out from the mainland for our straightest, shortest route. Admittedly, we left the dock in Portland later than planned to assure arrival in Gosport Harbor before sunset. As we passed Biddeford Pool, where we could have picked up a transient mooring and spent the night, we decided to push onward. With 4 hours ‘til sunset, 5 hours of travel light, we were cutting it close to arrive before dark !



As we approached the northern end of Appledore Island, this moon rose up out of the ocean and became our light to travel by. That, and Polly was posted out on the bow with flashlight in hand. I know Gosport Harbor well, including 30 feet of hidden ledge extending out into the water from Malaga Island, however I’ve never piloted that boat into the harbor in the dark. I think both of us were praying for God’s guidance!

Sometimes (actually ALWAYS) faith is REALLY important. This muted “orangi” moonlight wasn’t a lot of help ‘til it rose a bit higher in the sky. Then three flashes of light from Smuttynose Island. “They’re signaling, Polly. Return 3 flashes back.” She did. Another three flash exchange to confirm, so the guys would come out to meet us. It was Polly’s job to highlight each mooring ball ‘til we spotted ours.

Past a larger sailboat on the Portsmouth Yacht Club mooring, then past Mr. Foye’s lobster boat. “There it is Polly. We have one shot at this, kiddo. I am going to “kiss” that mooring ball with the bow, then you are going to grab that line with the boat hook, then your hand and HOLD ON !” She did it ! Line secured and motor off, just as my sons-in-law came up beside us in the Smuttynose skiff. Safe landing, a bite to eat, and a good night’s sleep on island. Exploring next day.



Marg & Polly at Haley House
(Circa 1760) Smuttynose Island

A Note From Your Editor:

HAPPY FALL TO ALL, Sue has a lot on her plate but is still finding time to help me learn all the nooks and crannies of this CANVA program for publishing a fun-filled, fact-filled newsletter. We really do appreciate any article. Contributors who try to get their write-ups into us on or before the 25th of each month for the upcoming Belfry, gives us time to set up & “typeset” (there’s the “old” publisher person in me, talking) for a more enjoyable read.

Sincerely, Marg Whedon

P.S. Please send your articles to: administrator@uccsanbornton.org
OR submit directly to the Google link provided by our administrator each month. Thank you !

