

# Sanbornton Congregational Church UCC

## Belfry

*The Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC, situated in Sanbornton, NH 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 truly welcome! Please join us any Sunday.***

*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 church denominational heritage is Congregational, where congregations are independent and autonomous.*



photo: Marg Whedon

# October Newsletter

# FROM THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR



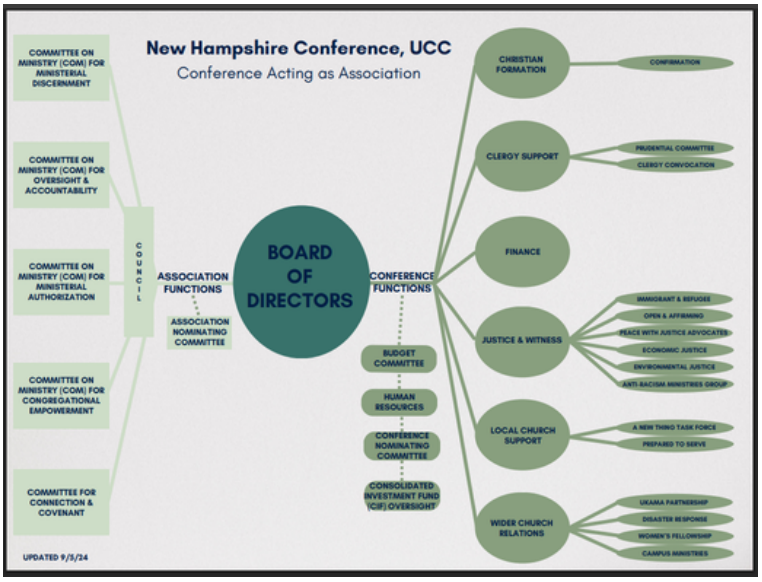
1771 – present

On September 27, 2026, right after church I hustled to Wolfeboro for a delicious lunch at First Congregational Church. While the lunch was spectacular, the most nourishing part of the day was the gathering of people. More than 45 clergy and laity representing 14 churches from the greater Lakes Region attended. We sat in small groups, eating lunch and participating in a structured discussion, sharing what is happening in our New Hampshire churches. We talked about our challenges, shared our successes and brainstormed ways that the Conference and the Granite State Association could develop resources for local churches, strengthening all of us together. More of these sessions will be hosted throughout the year in different parts of the state. Anyone can attend.

Not long ago, I was perplexed when people referenced our Conference. What is this thing with a capital “c” that is so important? As your Administrator, I rely on the support of the Conference on a weekly basis; they publish The Weekly News (full of local, state and national UCC news), organize workshops (including Prepared To Serve), and provide a current list of Supply Pastors. The Conference does so much more!

The Conference website says “The United Church of Christ (UCC) is organized in a way that reflects both unity and diversity within its structure.” Below is a summary as I understand it.
There are four basic parts in the UCC structure:

1. **Local Churches** - each church makes their own decisions while being supported by the greater UCC community.
2. **Granite State Association** - association functions
   - Committees on Ministry (COM)
     - COM for Ministerial Discernment
     - COM for Ministerial Authorization
     - COM for Oversight and Accountability
     - COM for Congregational Empowerment
   - Committee for Covenant and Connection
3. **NH Conference** - conference functions for 130 churches
   - Christian Formation
   - Clergy Support
   - Finance
   - Justice & Witness
   - Local Church Support
   - Wider Church Relations
4. **National Setting** - supports the work of local churches, associations, and conferences by providing resources, leadership, and coordination of national initiatives.




As independent as we are at Sanbornton Congregational Church, having the support of the UCC and the New Hampshire Conference makes it possible for us to collaborate with other churches and stay connected in our state.

If you would like more information about the New Hampshire UCC Conference or the Granite State Association, take a look at their website and sign up for The Weekly News. www.nhcucc.org

Kindly,

*Sue*

# IMPORTANT DATES/TIMES TO REMEMBER

**It's FALL  Church Service starts at 10 am**

## *NOW IN PROGRESS*

**Seekers** - Bible Study First 'n' Third Wednesdays each month @ 10 am in Our Church Community Room.

**Crafters** - Second 'n' Fourth Wednesdays - @ 10 am
We are now working on making crafts for Christmas Fair

**Hospitality** - is looking for baked goods, veggies or fruit for "yummier" coffee / fellowship time after church

Are you curious about the different types of membership opportunities here at Sanbornton Congregational Church?
We host periodic informational meetings about membership, about what it means and how it works here at Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC.
Some of the questions have been:
"What if I am already a member at another church, can I still join this one without leaving that one?"
"Are there different kinds of memberships?"
"What if I am not sure of what I do or don't believe?"
"I come from a different faith. May I still attend?"
"Can I preview your services online?"
"Can I receive a packet of information?"
We occasionally host informational meetings that may answer these and other questions in more detail.
Scheduled meeting dates can be found on our calendar.
To receive some advanced information in an email or or by printed snail mail, **contact us at:**

Email: administrator@uccsanbornton.org
or visit our website: https://www.uccsanbornton.org
( *where you can WATCH our service(s)* ) **OR**

Stop in any Sunday, in person, at 10 am
We invite ALL who wish to come and enjoy our service and the following "coffee hour" fellowship.
***We would love to welcome you and get to know you.***

## Announcements and Calendar Additions

that need to make the Sunday bulletin ***should*** be in Sue's inbox, ***before Friday morning @ 9 am***.
Prayer requests and joys may be made by visiting our website
*(Prayer Request button is at the bottom of the homepage)*
or may be added in-person on our prayer request sheet at the back of the church any Sunday

## More Dates to Keep in Mind

**NH UCC Conference** at:
Geneva Point OCTOBER 24th

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**TRUNK or TREAT October 25th**
1 - 4 pm Our "Bats in the Belfry" will be at this Sanbornton Halloween activity @ the Elementary School parking lot
***Yes, we need donations of small individually wrapped candy!***
***Bring to church by 10/18/26***
*so we can create kid's packages*

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**VISION 2027 Meeting**
**Saturday Nov. 7th, 2026**
Right here in our Community Room, we look to our future wants and needs, vote on priorities, set goals and start making plans to meet our church goals for property improvement and future activities.

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**Our ANNUAL Christmas Fair**
**December 5th, 2026**
Our Crafters are already hard at work to provide beautifully hand-crafted items to ensure success !

**Sanbornton's Annual Trunk or Treat** is scheduled for
Sunday, October 25, 2026, 2 pm - 4 pm.

Sanbornton Congregational Church has participated in this fun community gathering for several years and we are looking for a few things to make this year another successful one:

- 🎃 Ideas - to freshen up our "Bats in the Belfry" trunk theme
- 🎃 Halloween candy - can be left in the donation box in the Narthex
- 🎃 Volunteers - to dress in costume, distribute the candy and represent our church
- 🎃 Packers - to bag up the candy treats before the event

## Our Annual Christmas Fair is Saturday, December 5, 2026.

We will begin accepting donations in November.
Some of the items we will be looking for include your
Vintage ornaments and decorations,
gently used books,
baked goods and paper bags
(Christmas gift bags are great)
for shoppers to fill with their purchases.





We will also be looking for folks to help set up the Community Room, price vintage items, organize the space and for people to be there on December 5.

Stay tuned – more details to come!

**Read our history, listen to our organ, keep up to date on events and re-watch a service.**

Visit our Website

www.uccsanbornton.org

Visit our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/sanborntonuccchurch

Watch our YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/@SanborntonCongregationalChurch

# OCTOBER'S ARTICLE FROM OUR HISTORIAN

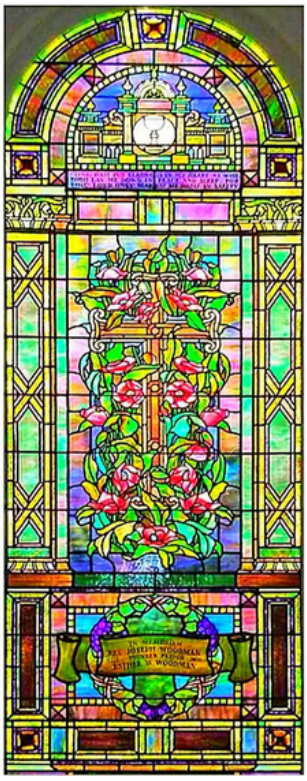
**Did you know that 100 years ago our historic Congregational Church was "electrified"? It's true! And while the broader community of Sanbornton and its remote farms had to wait for the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative's expansion in 1939, the "Congregational Society" (the historical church body) voted to bring local electric service to the church building over a decade earlier!**

**Replacement of the old lights: Prior to 1926, the church's sanctuary was illuminated by wall lamps, a large central chandelier, and original kerosene sconces (see photo). When the electric lights were wired in, the historic 19th-century oil chandelier and wall lamps were carefully taken down and preserved. They are currently kept safe nearby in the garage of the historic Lane Tavern. This photo of the church interior, Circa 1900.**



**Prior to the installation of the memorial windows, note the old chandelier, the oil lamps, stenciled walls and the chancel.**

THEN . . .



AND NOW . . .



**Today, we enjoy so much more than just "lights" in the sanctuary (see updated photo) with our electricity: our microphones, internet, fans, refrigerator, water and SO much more, are all examples of how far we've come in 100 years!**

**Submitted by Karey Caldwell, Historian**

# STEWARDSHIP . . . What about tithing vs cheerful giving from the heart ?

The Old Testament refers to tithing - the giving of 10% of one's crops, livestock or income / money, to God. The word tithe is derived from a Hebrew word meaning tenth. To tithe was an actual command to Israel, a requirement of the law to be abided by.

Today, giving to support the work of ministry, as well as giving to those in need, is generally part of the good stewardship that God expects of each of us. Some Christians consider the 10 percent figure from the Old Testament tithe as a "recommended minimum" for their giving. However, today there are many who can't make ends meet on 100% of their income, let alone trying to make it on 90% after tithing 10% to the church. ***So what do we do?***

The New Testament nowhere designates a percentage of income a person should give. Christians are not obligated to give a 10-percent tithe. However, Scripture does encourage believers to regularly set aside money to give "in keeping with your income". 2 Corinthians 8:12). God promises His blessing on the giver: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should give as decided in your heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:6–7)..

Although the tithe is not obligatory for the Christian, the New Testament emphasizes the importance and benefits of freewill giving. We are to give as we are able. Sometimes that means giving more; sometimes that may mean giving less. It is a balance that is struck between our individual abilities and the needs of our beloved Sanbornton Congregational Church. Each should seek God's wisdom in the matter of giving; but give with pure motives, a cheerful heart, and an attitude of worship.




1 Timothy 5:17–18 says, "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The workers deserve their wages.'" Keeping our church body as a whole (people, each week's service for the people, our meeting place / the building, and expenses) together and well fed with God's Word and the guidance we find in that, is no easy task! What we give is also intended to support the work of missions (Philippians 4:10–19) and helping those in need (2 Corinthians 8; 1 Timothy 5:3).

In doing so, we must reach out beyond our church walls and involve the community beyond, offering help, extending kindness, demonstrating the love and comradery we have found and enjoy here in our church in the hope that it is contagious. Such reaching out can also involve conducting fundraisers which offer a WIN WIN to those who contribute, and to us. as well. Keeping it FUN and FAIR (unlike the greedy money changers and merchants who set up shop in the temple at Capernaum and were then visited by Jesus' wrath), I believe Fun and Fair is always acceptable in God's eyes, too.

*Faithfully submitted for Stewardship,* Marg Whedon

# MUSICAL NOTES

## Why a Red Hymnal AND a Black Hymnal ???

As you may have noticed, we now have two hymn books from which to choose. Both Rev. Slater and Dennis try to choose hymns that have wording that support the liturgy (suggested subject matter for each particular Sunday by the United Church of Christ and other Christian churches). The liturgy suggests several readings from the Bible that may be used to support points that the minister hopes to cover in his or her sermon / meditation each week. Our New Century Hymnal (black cover) is the more modern hymnal, with some wording that was re-written to ensure the music we sing, is all inclusive, (race, gender, ethnicity, etc.). Our recently acquired Red covered Hymnals are older (retired hymnals from a closing church) and sometimes the older wording here and there makes a better point while being more faithful to its original author / composer. Also, some of these old hymns can't be found in our New Century Hymnal. They were not included, for one reason or another. Hence, the choices for our musical support and enjoyment have been widened. It is nice to pick out an "old fashioned" hymn now and then from the RED book and sing.

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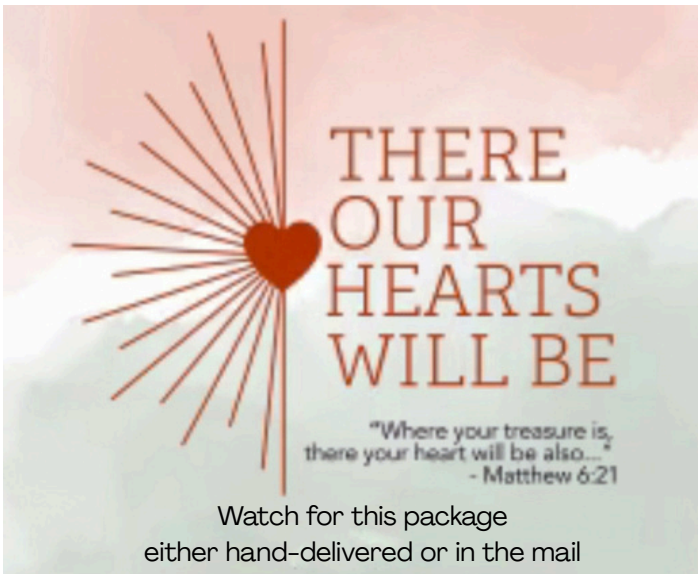
## Post Script on Stewardship

Don't be surprised if you see this logo around over the next several weeks. In this year of 2026 the UCC has chosen the theme for Stewardship

**THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE**

from Matthew 6 : 21 *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* encouraging us to give from the heart - to plan ahead and pledge not out of obligation but out of a heartfelt commitment to carry on the love, work and outreach of our church among us AND out into the community and the world beyond.




Watch for this package
either hand-delivered or in the mail

You will be receiving a package of information handed out in church on **November 1st** or mailed if we don't see you in church that day. We encourage you to review thoroughly. We hope that you ask for God's guidance in pledging what you *think* you will be able to do in the way of a financial commitment to support our church in the coming year. This is not a contract, it just allows our financial committee to come up with a plausible budget for 2027. There will also be a form asking questions about "what are your interests?" "what might you like to volunteer to do?" (as they say many hands make lighter work for each and we are always looking for help with this or that.) If we know what you like to do, we tend to approach with requests that might result in "Yes", rather than "putting you on the spot" about things you'd rather not. If you prefer you may fill it out by hand but we always provide a link so you can fill it out **online** (easier for us to sort thru them online) No worries tho - we welcome volunteerism any way it comes. Then, within TWO weeks, we like to collect ALL of that info so we don't slow down the budget making process.

THANK YOU

## The Neighbors in Need offering

supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries.

Contributions can be sent to
Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC
P.O. Box 126
Sanbornton, NH 03269

In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy.






The Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) is the voice for American Indian people in the UCC. CAIM provides Christian ministry and witness to American Indians and to the wider church. Justice issues that affect American Indian life are communicated to the whole UCC by CAIM.

Historically, the forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM supports these local churches and their pastors. In addition, CAIM strives to be a resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations and to strengthen their participation in the life of the church.




**One Great Hour of Sharing - *Our Love Offering to the World***
Humanitarian Assistance and Sustainable Development

**Strengthen the Church - *Sent Forth in Love***
New Church, Leadership, and Youth Cultivation

**Neighbors in Need - *Walk in Love***
Advocacy and Justice Ministries

**Christmas Fund - *The Greatest of These...Love***
UCC Clergy and Employee Assistance



# The Moon and Night Skies of October

***"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..."***

Full Moon names date back to Native Americans, of what is now the northern and eastern United States. The tribes kept track of the seasons by giving distinctive names to each recurring full Moon. Their names were applied to the entire month in which each occurred. There was some variation in the Moon names, but in general, the same ones were current throughout the Algonquin tribes from New England to Lake Superior. European settlers followed that custom and created some of their own names.

### October 26th - "Hunter's Moon"



Native American tribes referred to this Moon as the Full Hunter's Moon, as it was the time to go hunting in preparation for winter, using the light to their advantage. It rises around sunset and sets around sunrise, the only night in the month when the Moon is in the sky all night long. The Hunter's Moon isn't just any full moon. Like other moons this time of year, its path - called an ecliptic - is shallow. That means for several nights in a row, the moon sits farther north on the horizon.

This full Moon is also called the Travel Moon, Dying Grass Moon, Blood Moon, Sanguine Moon, Kindly Moon, Blackberry Moon, and the Lakota Sioux called it the Moon When Beading And Quilling Is Done

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

* October 4 — Saturn at Opposition: The ringed planet reaches its closest point to Earth for the year, shining brightly and remaining visible all night long.

*October 8–9 — Draconid Meteor Shower Peak: : Best viewed early in the evening rather than the middle of the night, aided this year by a thin waning crescent moon that leaves the sky extra dark.

*October 21 - 22 -- Orionid Meteor Shower: Under ideal conditions, it is expected to produce about 25 visible meteors per hour. The best time to look is during the early morning hours on the 21st and 22nd. These meteors are called the Orionids because they appear to radiate out from near the constellation Orion. The Orionids are caused by dust and debris from Halley's comet entering the Earth's atmosphere at 147,000 miles per hour (66 km/sec)!

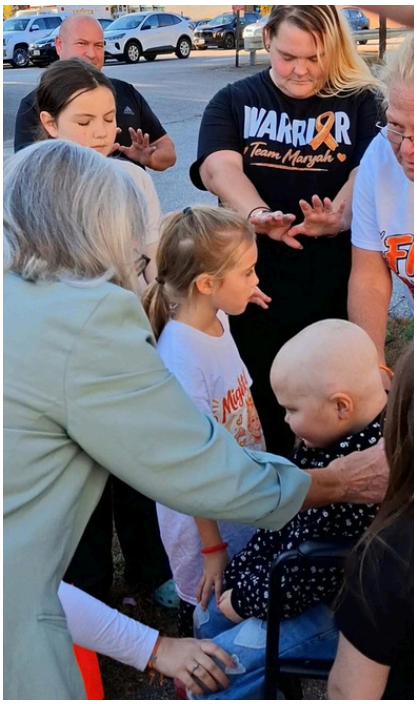
Submitted by Karey Caldwell

# News Around the Community

## Prayer Requests Do Make a Difference

A couple of months ago (and periodically since then), I put in a prayer request for a little girl named Maryah. She is a 7 year old girl who lives in Laconia. She has leukemia and has had to receive a variety of tough treatments from the Boston Children's Hospital. She's had many complications and set backs, but FINALLY on Thursday, September 24th, she was released from the hospital to come home! I had the honor of being able to participate in her Welcome Home gathering with her family, and literally dozens of other people from the area community! And our very own Pastor Louise Bastille was present to lead a beautiful prayer and blessing over sweet little Maryah, and all joined in with a resounding "AMEN!" at the end.








Thank you Pastor Louise!

Submitted by Karey Caldwell



# Puzzle & Riddle Page

Try **OCTOBER's** WORD SEARCH
Try to get as many smaller words out of **Halloween** OR **All Saints Day** as you can. You may not use duplicate letters UNLESS their are duplicates existing in these words.

For example in: **Halloween**

1. hall (you may use 2 L's because there are 2 L's in our key word)
2. hello
3. howl
4. allow
5. ?
6. ?
7. ?

For example in: **All Saint's Day**

1. sandy
2. sadly
3. distal
4. Latin
5. ?
6. ?
7. ?
8. ?

Take a sheet of lined paper and start a column of numbers down the side. See how many YOU can come up with for each ???

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## WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters on the left to make a Biblical word or person's name in the Bible.

suntailoppet _____

majurseal _____

tholgia _____

bornwia _____

inkderogh _____

somes _____

whatmet _____

stresschuji _____

What's a great way to to break the ice at a gathering, entertain some friends or get kids to sit for a few minutes and really start thinking ?
Well, riddles of course. Try these !

1. Pronounced as one letter, but written with three, two letters are there, only in me. I'm double, I'm single, I'm black, blue and gray. I'm read from both ends, but the same either way. What am I?

2. I have pointed fangs, and I sit and I wait. I have piercing force, and I "crunch" with weight. I grab my victims, but they do not fight. I join them each with a single quick bite! What am I ?

3. What three numbers give the same result whether you multiply them together or add them together ?

4. If I add 5 to 9 and get 2 as the correct answer, what am I ?

5. If 2 is company and 3 is a crowd, what are 4 and 5?

6. I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?

7. Forward, I am heavy, backward I am not. What am I ?

8. What do the letter t and an island have in common?

Answers can be found on another page.

# *What could it be?*



While cleaning up in the office space on the top floor of the church, I looked up and saw this curiosity on the ceiling!

The rope reminds me of the rope used to ring the bell every Sunday but this one is much smaller and very out of reach!

Any guesses what it's for?

Our Minister of Music recalls some history that might point us in the right direction.

Does anyone else have any thoughts?
Let us know!

*Sue L.*

Well Sue, I for one, can not think of an answer for this item above but Karey, our Historian, might be a good place to start! And speaking of answers to "riddles", if you are looking for previous page riddle answers, find 'em below on the upside-down Post-It Note.



The stairless entryway was in need of some attention. The gap between the walkway and the landing has been getting bigger and bigger each year, creating a STEP! That gap is now bridged with this durable ramp, making the entry much more accessible and once again, **stairless**.

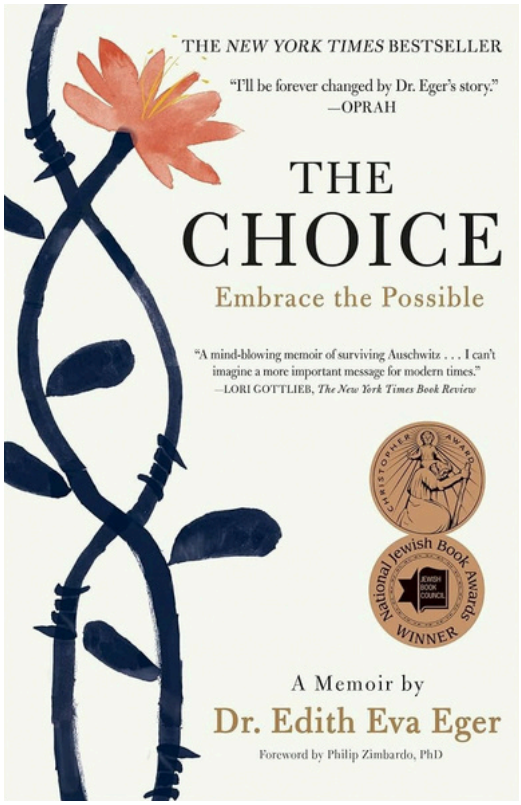
Thank you Clif for coming up with this creative fix.

Riddle Answers

1. Eye
2. Stapler
3. 1, 2, 3 1+2+3=6
   1x2x3+6
4. A clock
5. Nine 4+5=9
6. Seven
7. Ton
8. Both are surrounded by **water**

# Book Reviews / Recommendations

Calling ALL readers, calling ALL readers, recommend / review a book you've read recently (or even a while ago), All I need fromyou, to include the book here, is the **TITLE** of the book, the **AUTHOR**, and briefly what the book is about. If the book is a story, please don't give away the ending. (**Optional**) if you are able, please attach **a photo** of the book cover to your email and then send your brief review w/ or w/o photo to: margaretwhedon9@gmail.com




**The Choice by: Edith Eva Eger**

Josh, our former Tech Support and Belfry Editor suggested this book about a young woman's survival of the WWII German "prisoner" camp, Auschwitz.

*"Dr. Eger's life reveals our capacity to transcend even the greatest of horrors and to use that suffering for the benefit of others. She has found true freedom and forgiveness and shows us how we can as well." --Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate*

*"Dr. Edith Eva Eger is my kind of hero. She survived unspeakable horrors and brutality; but rather than let her painful past destroy her, she chose to transform it into a powerful gift--one she uses to help others heal." --Jeannette Walls, New York Times bestselling author of The Glass Castle*

An important read about a horrific time in our world's history and a survivor's healing journey through life, beyond her rescue by the liberation troops after the war ended - an important read, lest we forget . . . allowing history to repeat itself in such a way, again.

**A Note From Your Belfry Editor:**

Whether it's news that you'd like to share about recent happenings OR announce news about upcoming events, we truly appreciate any article you submit. For November Belfry **please send** your article to us on or before October **25th**. Your articles may be emailed to: **administrator@uccsanbornton.org** OR open up the google link sent to you by Sue and insert articles there OR email me directly : **margaretwhedon9@gmail.com** and ***please*** include any attachments with your submission.

*Don't forget . . .*
*Stewardship pledges turned in by mid-November are very helpful for budget formation.*

**Thank you,** Marg Whedon

Our offering plate is not only a place for financial contributions, but also a place where many folks have donated a book or a roll of stamps. These stamp donations have made it possible for us to continue to send our paper bulletins or The Belfry to folks who can't come to church in-person and even to those who we haven't seen in a while. Thank you for making this kind of connection and outreach possible! If you would like to help with this in any way OR if you want to be added to the snail-mail list, just let us know! Call and leave a message at church (603-286-3018) or send an email to admnistrator@uccsanbornton.org