

# First Church

## CONNECTION

First Congregational Church, UCC  
Hopkinton, NH

April 2023  
Vol. 64 • Issue 4

### Small Talk

Imagine an Easter basket. Many individual strips are woven together. They vary in size, shape, and flexibility and when they are bound together, they become a vehicle for carrying lots of good things.

At first, the basket may hold symbols of holiday bounty. There may be pink grass, blue eggs, chocolate bunnies, and fuzzy ducklings. It's a basket of Easter joy.

How much more joy is available to us when that basket is filled with friendship, ideas and ideals, cherished traditions and unique experience. When individual faith perspective and journey is woven into worshipping community, our basket and our joy overflows!

First Congregational Church of Hopkinton UCC weaves worship, education, outreach, and fellowship into the basket of faith, hope, and love that allows us to make a difference here in this community and beyond.

**Come to worship on April 9<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the Festival of the Resurrection at 10:00 a.m.** We'll weave together special decoration, instrumental and choral music, singing some favorite Easter hymns, hear the witness of Scripture, and reflect on living today as a resurrection people. Come with family, friends and neighbors, or join us as one who brings what only you can: yourself.

You make a difference here; you are an essential part of weaving together the basket that holds FCCH's mission and ministry. I invite you to offer your time, talent, and yes, your treasure to continue living into our call to discipleship. Together, we make a difference here.

May you be filled with joy, grace, and the peace of God's renewed and enlivening presence this Easter and always.

Peace,

*Jill*

The Reverend Dr. Jill H. Small

APRIL

**Growing Deeper in FAITH  
Looking up in HOPE  
Reaching out in LOVE**



# SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE, APRIL 2023

The Settled Pastor Search Committee is continuing its ongoing work of reviewing candidate profiles and scheduling and holding Zoom interviews as appropriate. The interview questions that we drafted some months ago seem to work well to engage and with candidates. We are aware that excellent preaching is a high priority for First Church congregants so we find that seeing and hearing candidates preach through various online video options is extremely helpful in the discernment process.

As we had been warned, the pool of potential applicants is not vast. We take comfort from the reality that we only need to find the one interested candidate with the right array of skills, talents and interests to be the best possible fit for us at First Church.

Thank you for your support through prayer, participation in church activities and engagement with the stewardship process. Your interest and engagement make it easier for us on the Search Committee to maintain the necessary level of energy for the extensive ongoing process.

Shalom,

*Dijit Taylor*

*For the Search Committee of Louise Dartnell, Paula Demers, Jenny Foster, Charlie Head, Heather Hearne, Jim Lewis, Nan McNicholas, Mike Metcalf, Brenda Quinn, Ruth Sanchez, Eric Schleppehorst and Dijit Taylor*



## Contribution Contacts

If you would like to help or contribute to any of the following regular activities, here are the people you need to contact:

### Family Promise

Dawn Berry

746-5033

[dcbnh@comcast.net](mailto:dcbnh@comcast.net)

### Friendly Kitchen

Charles and Maxine Petruccelli

[MaxinePet@gmail.com](mailto:MaxinePet@gmail.com)

203-313-3893

### Head Usher

Sue Mitchell

746-3685

[spmitchell43@gmail.com](mailto:spmitchell43@gmail.com)

### Sanctuary Flowers

#### Coordinator

Carol Howard

[caroldawson640@comcast.net](mailto:caroldawson640@comcast.net)

(preferred)

603-496-5365

# ON THE WAY TO HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



**March 31** Loaves and Fish Annual Giving Campaign ends. If you need a pledge card, please call 603.726.4235 We will announce the results of the campaign during worship on Palm Sunday.



**April 2** Palm Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m. in person and online

**April 3-7** Morning Meditation at 7:30 a.m.

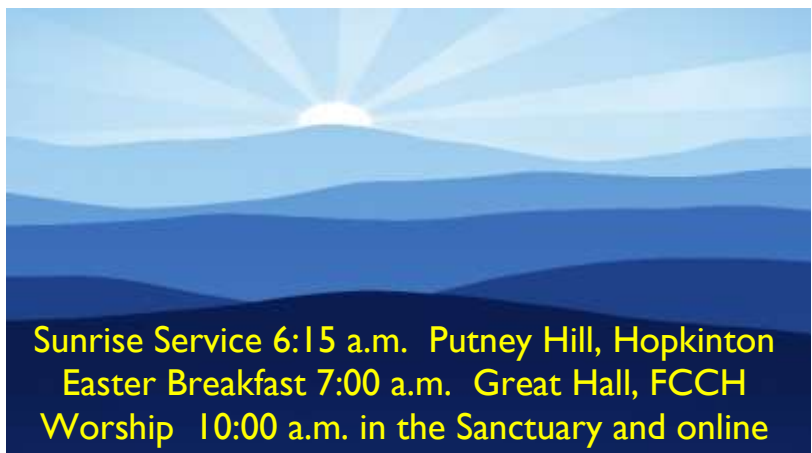
A brief devotion led by one of the Deacons and time for personal reflection

**April 6** Maundy Thursday Tenebrae & Communion Service 7:00 p.m.



**April 8** Holy Saturday Sanctuary open for personal meditation

**April 9** EASTER



Sunrise Service 6:15 a.m. Putney Hill, Hopkinton  
Easter Breakfast 7:00 a.m. Great Hall, FCCH  
Worship 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and online

# MUSIC & ARTS BOARD



March has been a busy month, and we are so grateful for all who have shared their talents! Thank you to David Almond for composing our hymn, "Loaves and Fishes." A huge thank you to Judy Dibble for putting together our Loaves and Fishes display and to those who contributed: Aimee Gangel, Marie Martell, Heather Hearne, Rob Hearne, Dijit Taylor, Barb Shaltis, Paula Demers, Ingrid Dinter, and Judy Dibble (hope I didn't forget anyone). To all of the artistically creative people in our congregation: We hope to plan future art displays, so please volunteer your creative pieces!

We would like to give a huge thank-you to Sarah for her flexibility as she kept our choir singing beautifully in spite of absences. Dan Dustin and Barb Shaltis played a prelude at the combined worship service, and Dan, Barb, Larry Shaltis and David Almond joined their voices with the St. Andrews choir on March 26.

At this time, the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir, and Sacred Dance are preparing for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. We will continue to make a joyful noise to the Lord! New members are always welcome, and both choirs will be providing music for our services until June. For this summer, consider sharing your musical talent during one of our services.



*Barb Shaltis,*  
Music and Arts Board Chairperson

## Happy 103rd Birthday Jane Lewellen!!

On March 19, 2023, Jane Lewellen turned 103 years old!! I enjoyed visiting her two days before her "big day" and took this picture of her (she told me I could post it in the newsletter). Jane is in good spirits and loves to hear about our church. She asks about the pastoral search, our worship services, and our children and youth ministries as well as other programs. She has many fond memories of her time actively participating in church activities. Jane would love to hear from you and reads all her mail daily. Her address is in the church office and in the church directory. We wish you a wonderful year ahead, Jane!







GIVE HOPE  
THIS SPRING.

Give blood.



## Blood Drive

### St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

354 Main St. Hopkinton, NH 03229 - Great Hall

**Wednesday, April 19, 2023**

**1:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.**

Sponsored by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and  
the First Congregational Church of Hopkinton UCC.

**Maximize your donation. Help more patients.**

**If you are an eligible type O, B-, or A- donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most transfused blood component.**

### Give Something That Means Something

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)  
and enter: HOPKINTONNH to schedule an appointment.



Be cool. Give blood. Come give April 1-23 for an  
exclusive American Red Cross and PEANUTS T-shirt  
featuring Snoopy as the coolest beagle in town, Joe  
Cool! Get yours, while supplies last - then show off your  
cool, kind spirit.



Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | 1 800 733 2767

To sign up to volunteer at the drive go to

<https://standrewshopkinton.org/blood-drive> and click on the volunteer link

#### American Red Cross Blood Drive

**April 19, 2023**

St. Andrew's and the First Congregational Church of Hopkinton  
sponsor a Red Cross Blood drive every other month.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Set-up the Great Hall
- Greet and Register blood donors at the Registration Desk
- Provide hospitality and a watchful eye in the Canteen Area
- Serve as Volunteer Supervisor (fill in volunteer jobs as necessary and interact with the Red Cross team leader)
- Restore the Great Hall space after the drive is completed.

Jesus gave his blood for our life and salvation.

What an honor it is to serve people as they freely give their blood  
to save others.

To sign up to volunteer at the drive please go to

<https://standrewshopkinton.org/blood-drive>

and click on the volunteer link

2023 dates for Red Cross Blood Drives at St. Andrew's:

Wednesday April 19,

Wednesday June 21,

Wednesday August 16

Wednesday October 18

Wednesday December 20

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Pipes for the Parish

In Rogers and Hammerstein's 1951 musical, *The King and I*, the "King" informs "Anna" that the arrival of a "British envoy" and his retinue is imminent, and the "King" is determined that Siam make a good impression. "Anna" lists the many, many things that must be done to bring it all off, including details about organization, material and work - a staggering list. Turning away from her, he raises his arm with his hand in a "stop sign" gesture and ends the discussion. "You fix up," he orders.

So: much work by many hands ensues, but in the finished product none of that frenetic action ever shows.

There are uncountable instances just like this all through the 265 years of First Church life. Fund drives, the Women's Guild's "Harvest Bazaars," "Christmas Concerts" of several years ago, fall and spring cleanups, prep for Communion, prep for "Coffee Hour", flea markets, regular choir rehearsals, organ and choir practice and planning, Sunday School lessons and activities, Variety Shows, the church newsletter, "The Connection" - now in its sixty-third year of publication - let alone monthly meetings and work of the Council, the Trustees, the Diaconate, Christian Ed, the Mission Board, the Music and Arts Board, Memorial Gifts, Stewardship, book group, Open and Affirming, Racial Justice, lightbulb replacement, cleaning of church and parish house, pastoral worship and funeral/memorial service planning, blood drives, altar flowers, care and organization of choral music, telephone calls, communications, management of the church office, Sunday bulletins organized and typed and duplicated, duets, soloists and instrumentalists for worship, the winding of the spire clock; and paid assistance: repair and installing of new windows, grounds care, trees, snow removal, lawn mowing, sanctuary and parish house cleaning, office equipment, furnaces and thermostats, organ and piano repair and tuning, reshingling of roofs, ongoing upkeep of the 183-year-old church building, plumbing systems, — and the generous giving of members and friends every year, the making and fulfilling of our pledges year by year... All that "hidden" work and energy and much more to keep everything smooth sailing across our 265 years - such a compendium of action!

Take, for example, the pipe organ in the sanctuary. Seems it one day just appeared, spontaneously generated, looking just so. The past seems somehow like that - all silent, all asleep, all over, nothin' happenin'.

0But: the first mention of an organ is in the Record book of the First Congregational Society (the "financial arm" of the Church) on the warrant for an April 1, 1872 meeting: "to see what the Society will do in regard to getting a new organ [had a small melodeon]..." At the meeting Joseph Barnard moved and it was voted to purchase a Pipe Organ worth about \$1200. The Society chose a committee of David L. Gage, Joseph Barnard, and Deacon Aaron Smith to purchase the organ, prepare the house for its reception and dispose of the old instruments on hand: "You fix up."

With Mr. Gage as agent, sixty-one contributions were received totaling \$1182, and that, together with 1872 (and 1873) tax levies on members, and a contribution from the Ladies Benevolent Association, netted \$1490.82 (inflates to \$34,046.46 in 2023), well over goal. Reverend John Kimball Young himself, serving as the interim pastor, gave \$50.00 and Reverend Marshall Bullard Angier former pastor 1853 to 1860 (by then supplying pulpits in Massachusetts) contributed \$10.00.

Mr. Gage, Mr. Barnard and Deacon Smith perhaps boarded a Concord and Claremont Railroad passenger car at Contoocook, rode into Concord and there changed to a Boston, Concord, and Montreal passenger car and were off to Boston, taking a jitney from the station to 195 Charles Street, corner of Cambridge (not far from the Charles River and the "West Boston (now the Longfellow) Bridge") to meet with William Benjamin Dearborn Simmons and Company, organ builders.

Subject to Mr. Simmons's visit to the church, they tentatively settled on a single-keyboard, eight-rank (each of 58 pipes) instrument: an Open Diapason, a Stopped Diapason, a Dulciana, an Octave, a Flute, a Mixture (2 ranks), and a Hautboy; with most of the pipes to be enclosed in a "swell box" that could be opened and closed by means of a "hook-down" foot lever to increase and then decrease the volume), a pedal (Sub-bass)

organ of 27 pipes; a hand-pumped bellows, a reservoir (air under pressure) chest, 85 “trackers”(very thin strips) connecting each key on the key- and pedal-boards to the wind channels on each of which were mounted all the pipes of the same pitch, for a total count of 491 individual pipes. The whole to be enclosed in an American black walnut case, holding the visible single manual keyboard with the stop knobs on either side. Mr. Gage signed the contract for \$1350.

Mr. Simmons no doubt visited the church to check the acoustics; he noted the curved ceiling and the arch at the front and incorporated this element in his case design. It seems he also determined the best location for the instrument would be in the balcony, so he constructed a jog in the back of the organ housing to fit around the clock-weight casing and against the back wall; there'd be plenty of room for a choir and for occasional instruments.



The Organ Committee were also charged with “preparing the house for its reception,” and the decision to place the instrument at the front had already been taken. Originally there had been pews on both side of the front platform facing in toward the center; those on the left side were removed as well as a couple pews on the main floor facing where the organ would be placed. A platform at the height of the “chancel” floor, extending out two feet toward the main pews, was built to receive the organ.

Designer-Builder Simmons shipped his finished \$1350 instrument (\$30,830 in 2023) on the BC&M, and then up the C&C line, arriving in Contoocook. The freight bill was \$20.30 (\$456.75) and fares \$1.75 (about \$39.95) for the installers who had come with it. Observing its safe unloading, no doubt Barnard, Gage and Deacon Smith were on hand to follow the ox-drawn wagon to Hopkinton village.

It likely took about two days labor to unload the many crates and boxes, the 491 pipes — the tallest about eight feet, the shortest about ½ inch — bellows mechanism, the reservoir, and the windchest for the pipes, the trackers and the heavy black walnut case (in parts). There were probably two installers working for five or six days (no power tools, of course): the total board (and room) for the installers is recorded at \$5.50 (\$125.91). And, the last Simmons touch: both of the men to tune the instrument.

Finally, in time, a dark, perhaps brown curtain was mounted on the right side to discretely cover the fellow pumping the bellows (difficult to avoid watching when one should be listening or singing), seats for the small

choir set up in front, and all behind a waist-high curtain, with a beadboard front, and newel posts framing the entrance. (The photo is from about 1906.)

Already there were seven church pipe organs in Concord, at the Unitarian (1833), St. Paul's Episcopal (1843), South Congregational (1844), and First Congregational (1845 - this one not without some opposition), the Universalist (1856), and the Methodist (1859). And St. Andrews Episcopal "next door" installed a \$2000 pipe organ in 1874. No one need think Hopkinton village was a backwater now.

John Frederick Gage, older brother of David, first played the Simmons, including for the October 6, 1872 service, at which Reverend Dr. Young preached a dedication sermon.

So much funding, planning, muscle and expertise, way back then, and over the years. Who looks at it and thinks?

*Steve Thomas*

First Church Historian

## RECITAL IN MAY -- PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDARS!

On May 12 at 7:00 p.m., Jesse MacDonald, violinist, and Thuy-Doung Vu, pianist, will be giving a recital in our sanctuary which is open to the community and beyond. Jesse is the son of our church members, Becky and John MacDonald. He is a professional violinist with the Apple Hill String Quartet, the Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra, and Palaver Strings. He is also a violist and arranger of music. Thuy-Doung Vu is a pianist from Toronto, Canada. The couple most recently played special music in our church worship service last July. We look forward to their performance and hope you save this date on your calendars to join this wonderful evening of music. More information will be coming soon. Questions? Contact Barb Shaltis, Music and Arts Board.







**FLEA  
MARKET**

**APRIL  
15TH  
SAT 9-1**

**FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF  
HOPKINTON**

**CASH ONLY PLEASE**

Help raise money for our missions' work by rounding up all those lightly used items that you have been storing for the last couple of years and bringing them to the Parish House.

Donation Drop Off Times:  
Tuesday, April 11 – 10am to 4pm  
Wednesday, April 12 – 10am to 4pm  
Thursday, April 13 – 11am to 7pm

Please Note: We are not accepting electronics, large exercise equipment, or underwear.

**Come Shop at the Flea Market: Saturday, April 15 – 9am to 1pm**

Other ways to help include volunteering to lend a hand during drop off times or during the sale on Saturday OR with the set up or clean up.

Any questions please email Becky Ewing @ [beckyewing@comcast.net](mailto:beckyewing@comcast.net) or call the church office.

Click [here](#) for SignUpGenius.

# DEACON'S BENCH

During the past year I have been giving thought to what makes First Church important to my life. It began with the discussions last spring led by the Transition Team. It was followed by reading the inspiring church profile prepared by the Search Committee. Now, as our church stewardship season begins, I am giving it thought to help inform our family's decision on our annual pledge. I'm sure many of you are giving this thought also.

I am always surprised that so many people in the country are "unchurched". Apparently New England has the highest rate of unchurched people in the country, with New Hampshire and Massachusetts tied for first place, followed by Vermont and Maine (according to World Population Review). Although many people find meaning in being "spiritual" without identifying with a religious faith or being part of a religious community, so many of our traditions and teachings lead us to be in community. In Matthew 18:20 scripture teach us: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." I Corinthians 12:27 states "Now you are the body of Christ and individually the members of it". Romans 12:5 teaches "so we who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."

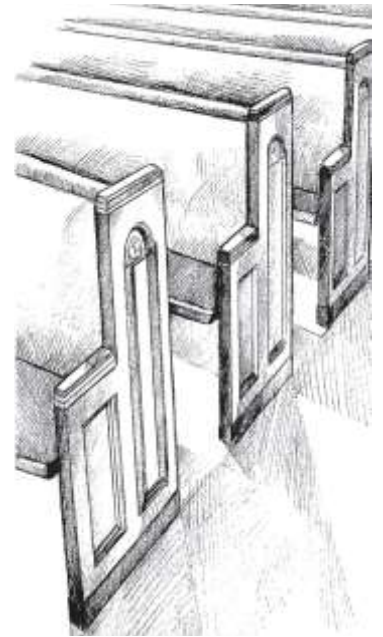
One of my spiritual practices is to start the day by reading daily devotionals. One of these is the UCC's Daily Devotional. I was particularly moved recently by Vicki Kemper's devotion on Oct 12, 2022, based on Psalm 121:1-2. "I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the lord....". She then went on to describe the experience of God coming to her in the form of various people while she was stranded by a broken-down car in a remote area.

This devotional brought to mind all the times that God has come into my life, and my faith has come to life by interactions and experiences at First Church. When I have felt isolated during Covid, I was still able to "connect" with others through church committees, services and groups. When I see the way that Trish and others minister to our children and youth I see God's love shining through them. The musicians and choir share the message of the Spirit in ways that words alone cannot accomplish. The Sunday services and those who lead and serve inspire me. I see the Mission board, mission trips, racial justice team and others doing God's work in the world. When members of my family had recent health issues, having church family members reach out with kind words, prayers, offers of support and understanding, soothed my anxiety. I feel the love and nurture of God in this community. We are blessed to have each other!

We have much to share with each other and with our community. The work we do is important for ourselves and for our world. If you have not yet read our Church Profile, I encourage you to do so. I am confident that First Church will survive the trend toward being "unchurched", even as it changes and evolves.

With Blessings and Thanks,

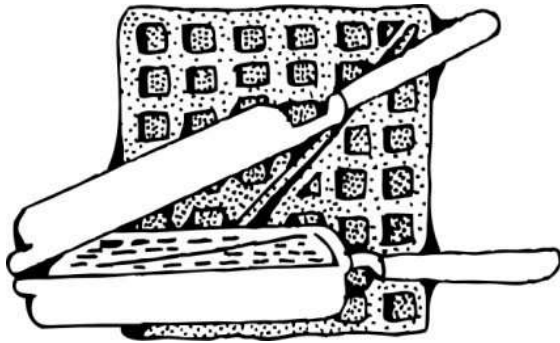
*Carol Howard*



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Easter Egg Hunt

Children are invited to join in on an Easter egg hunt during church on Easter Sunday! Any youth who would like to stuff and hide eggs are invited to help out on Saturday, April 8. Contact Trish Walton at [Trishwalton65@gmail.com](mailto:Trishwalton65@gmail.com) to sign up to help.



## Waffle Church

Come on out for waffles and fellowship the first Sunday of each month, 8:30 am. Upcoming waffle church dates:

April 2

May 7

June 4



## Youth Summer Mission Trip

Save the date: Youth are invited to join Mrs. Walton for a week of service projects in NH during the first week of August.

# FROM THE TRUSTEES

Once again, water has caused damage in the Parish House, this time in the basement. After the heavy snow from the March 14<sup>th</sup> storm, Margaret discovered puddles of water in the youth room and saturated carpet in the nursery, Steve Thomas's office, and the basement hallway. Trustees are currently working to address the problem. In the meantime, Christian Education has moved the nursery out of the basement and will not use the youth room until assured that the air quality is safe. We are exploring a new location for the historian's office and archival storage.

Many thanks to Cleve Kapala for pruning the crabapple tree next to the Parish House walkway.

1548 Hopkinton Rd.  
Hopkinton, NH 03229

*Address Service Requested*

# First Church

NEWSLETTER

APRIL

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**Deadline for May newsletter: Wednesday, April 19**

