



THE MEETINGHOUSE

Nelson Congregational Church
830 Nelson Rd.
Nelson, NH 03457

FEBRUARY 2023

Volume 40 Issue 1



TINTING OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

By Eliot Fay

A couple of months ago Jessie added “paint the bedroom” to the running list of house repairs and improvements we have. This happens to be one of my least favorite home improvement tasks not because I mind the actual painting itself, but because the process of settling on a color always feels harder than it should be. So a few weeks ago I googled “good paint colors” hoping to find some specific color suggestions, but instead found myself stumbling into the world of paint color psychology - how paint color and hue can have a measurable effect on our emotions.

The general overview is as follows (because I know you want to know!): red and orange tend to encourage activity and increase energy level and as such are recommended in living rooms or dining rooms to encourage conversation and interaction in the evening; yellow promotes feelings of openness and happiness; light blue tones tend to encourage feelings of peacefulness and calm and so are commonly suggested as a good option for bedrooms; darker blues tend to induce sadness; and green shades seem to be the most versatile as they promote feelings of warmth and comfort and are therefore suggested as a good choice for any room. I find it interesting that everything in a room can remain the same – the furniture, the flooring, the structure, the lighting – and the purpose or use of the room can remain the same, and yet the way you feel in that room and respond to that room apparently can be changed by a slight adjustment in color.

It is with similar intention that the Apostle Paul reminds the Roman Christians of the depth and breadth of the love of Christ for all of them...

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword...For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:35, 38-39

There is nothing in this verse or any other part of Scripture that tells us that our faith delivers us from the hard moments of life. Financial troubles, health issues, relationship tensions, work or school stresses - these realities do not vanish as we call to mind the love of Christ for us. This reassurance can though, affect the way we perceive and respond to these difficult times by tinting our circumstances in shades of hope and peace and comfort. And so when we find ourselves facing hardship in this new year, let us bring to mind Paul's reminder that there is no situation in which we are alone or unseen or unloved by God.

(Unfortunately, Paul offers no advice on choosing paint colors...)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Looking Toward Lent

Congregational Life committee met January 9 to talk about how the Advent/Christmas season had been, and to look toward Lent and Easter.

We were so pleased that we could hold all of our celebrations in the sanctuary this year. The decorations and the new crèche looked beautiful, and the poinsettias were so festive. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Christmas Eve worship was so well attended that we nearly ran out of candles for the candlelight service! For Christmas 2023 we will be better prepared, and will go back to using the brass candleholders. We will leave the window candles up through February 19.

Ash Wednesday is February 22; we will have a service that evening at 7. This begins the 40 days (not counting Sundays) of Lent. Looking ahead, Easter falls on April 9 this year.

Eliot and Deanna are looking at songbooks that will offer new songs and more gender-inclusive language for hymns, to supplement the blue hymnal. We are also educating ourselves about the UCC's Open and Affirming program.

This spring, we will take a close look at all of our banners and mend or repair those that need it. We will put out a call for people skilled at needlework.

Next meeting is Monday, February 13, 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Peery, note-taker



CHOIR

Please join us at 9 am for choir practice each Sunday. New members always welcome!! For more information please contact Deanna at dezilske@gmail.com

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Join or Switch Committees?

We've been operating with our new three-committee structure for about 18 months now. If you did not choose a committee initially, would like to try a different one, or just want to find out more, please let Eliot know. Your choices are Congregational Life, Community Care, or Operations.

All three committees are important to our church life, and fun and rewarding in different ways. We need all of us working together to keep things humming and move us toward our church vision. Where do you fit best?

For a quick summary of what the committees do, see the Governance page on the church website: <https://www.nelsonchurch.org/governance>

GIVING TREE

A huge thank you to all of those who provided gifts for our Giving Tree Christmas. Thanks to your generosity we helped more than 20 individuals to have a happy and special Christmas.

CALENDAR

All Services are in-person and zoom. Committee Meetings other than Council are all zoom until further notice.

JAN 16-FEB 17
Crying in the Wilderness
immigration photo exhibit 8am—5pm
Harrisville

FEB 5 Worship 9:30
COMMUNION

FEB 9 Operations Meeting via zoom 7pm

FEB 12 Worship
COUNCIL after worship

FEB 13 Congregational Life Mtg 7pm via zoom

FEB 19 Worship 9:30

FEB 22 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm

FEB 25 Prepared to Serve

FEB 26 Worship 9:30

MAR 8 Community Care meeting via zoom



OPERATIONS

The operations committee held their monthly meeting 1/12/23 and discussed the following items:

The furnace replacement at the church is making headway per Kelly and Matt. The contractor has been selected and Matt is in the process of getting the funds released from the Phillips fund to Joy so that the initial deposit can be made to the vendor. Part of the new instillation will include ducting heat to the elevator shaft area so that we will not need the electric heat in the future.

The offering from the Christmas eve service this year was directed to the Community Care committee fuel assistance fund. Information about the process to receive this assistance can be obtained by reaching out to the committee or Pastor Eliot at the church.

The ops committee will be getting volunteers together soon to start a cleaning/reorganization of the kitchen and the storeroom area, more details to come soon.

The next meeting will be 2/9/2023

COMMUNITY CARE

Last meeting (January 11) was only Sandy M., Carol, Eliot & I. We reviewed Thanksgiving Baskets with 4 given out, Giving Tree 25+ gifts given and ways to do better next year. Christmas Offering for fuel assistance raised close to \$3000. More than double last year. Most of the discussion was around how to manage the fuel assistance program. Next Meeting. March 8, 7 pm via zoom. Community Care, Lew Derby, Carol Carlisle, Sandy Mackenzie, Eliot Fay, Martha Collins, Deanna Zilske



Anti-Racism Ministries Group Resources

To assist our pastors and churches, the Anti-Racism Ministries Group of the New Hampshire Conference has developed this [listing of resources](#) to further your efforts in anti-racism work. It will be updated regularly, so please check back often.



We missed January Birthdays—it's never too late to wish our friends and neighbors
Happy Birthday, Belated

JANUARY

- Jan 2 Sam Carlisle
- Jan 4 Brian Putnam
- Jan 6 Laurie Derby
- Jan 10 Wendy Kasper
- Jan 26 Lew Derby
- Jan 31 Marty French

FEBRUARY

- Feb 1 Brenda McEachern
Phoebe Snow
- Feb 5 Oliver Mednick
- Feb 9 Ryan French
- Feb 13 Jessie Fay
- Feb 16 Aolfe Beauregard
- Feb 19 Becky Snow
- Feb 22 William Carlisle
Sadie Fay
- Feb 27 Mike Blandschun
- Feb 28 Susan Peery

A PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Crying in the Wilderness: An Immigrant's Journey in Detention

Powerful photos, words and artwork illustrating the emotional toll of immigrant detention

Spinning Room, The Cheshire Mills Complex
69 Main St., Harrisville, NH

January 16 – February 17

Open weekdays, 8 am – 5 pm



OPENING RECEPTION
Saturday, January 28, 3-5pm

Light refreshments served
All are welcome!

(Severe weather date: Saturday, February 4)

Contact Becky Field, 603-568-3174, fieldworkphotos@gmail.com



Prepared to Serve
February 25, 2023

Connecting & Reconnecting

I want to see you and share with you the same blessings that God's Spirit has given me. Then you will grow stronger in your faith. What I am saying is that we can encourage each other by the faith that is ours. Romans 1:11-12 (CEV)

Here is a link to register for Prepared to Serve:
<https://web.cvent.com/event/0e308bcc-013d-4d4a-9ec3-232c2c380d27/register>

PRAYER REQUESTS

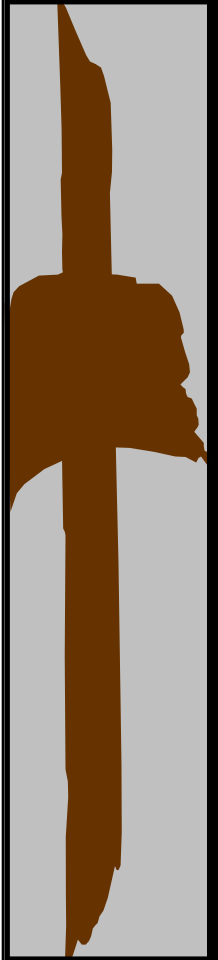
We hold in our prayers: | Pat Steeves receiving treatment for cancer || Tim; Morgan and her family; Brett Richardson; Brenda's dad, brother, and family; Julia Lavalle; Ezra and Ezra's parent Mell; Tim's mother Ellie and brother David and nephew Trevor; Pat's friend Judy struggling with lung cancer; Tricia and Bob Jones; Sue's friend Kaleigh; Dale Carlisle; Mike's sister-in-law, Pat; Linda Scanlan; Stephanie; Ruth LeMay; Jane's sister, Joyce; Sue's friends, Helen, Patty and

Ralph; Heather's brother; Vangie McCormick and family; Peter Smith; Mike Blaudschun and family; Deb Bowls-Rand; Judy Walton and family; Nancy Oldershaw's sister Linda; Sharon Beatty's nephew Scott; Gordon Peery's family.

We also pray for families and friends seeking to heal divisions, those in our community struggling with addiction and mental health, our service men and women, and front-line workers.

Meetinghouse

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Article deadline: 20th of the month
Editor: Hope Lothrop
email: ncuccnews3@gmail.com
phone: 603-847-9045
Pastor: Rev. Eliot Fay
email: nelsonchurchucc@gmail.com
phone: 603-847-3280 c978-473-2577
Worship: 9:30 AM
Sunday School/Nursery care 9:45 AM
Website: <https://www.nelsonchurch.org>
Church Office: nelsonchurchoffice@gmail.com



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NELSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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NELSON NH 03457
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