



# THE MEETINGHOUSE

Nelson Congregational Church  
830 Nelson Rd.  
Nelson, NH 03457

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FAILURES OF KINDNESS  
By Eliot Fay

Within a few weeks of the start of middle school, most everyone knew David. David was a bit socially awkward and had arrived with the unfortunate reputation of picking his nose in class. Whether these claims were true or not was unimportant; what mattered was that everyone believed them. As a result, David quickly found himself a social outsider. Some of the kids at school would overtly pick on him – purposely bump into him in the hall or shut his locker door as they walked by. But most of us, particularly those of us who knew that we were only a few rungs higher up on the social food chain, just ignored him. I was among this group. I never picked on David. I never played keep-away with his shoes in gym class or called him names or snickered as he walked by. But I also never talked to him. I never helped him recover his shoes in gym class or sat with him at lunch or held his books when he had to reopen his locker after someone had shut it. Though I was never actively mean to David, I also was never kind to him.

Several years ago, I signed up on Facebook and, out of curiosity, looked up some of the folks whose names I remembered from my middle and high school years. When I looked up David, I found that he was married with kids and was working in the tech industry. I thought for a moment about sending him a “friend request”, but I didn't. I had not been a friend to him when it mattered years before and had failed to show an interest in him during that time when he needed it most. Sending such a request years after the fact felt like adding insult to injury.

In his convocation speech to the graduating class at Syracuse University, George Sanders says that of the many moments in life he looks back on with regret, those that he would most like to redo are what he calls “failures of kindness”. He describes these as “those moments when another human being was there, in front of me, suffering, and I responded...sensibly. Reservedly. Mildly.” His suggested remedy for this unwanted self-interest is to *proactively* seek to live in such a way that selflessness is cultivated instead.

This prescription brings to mind the Apostle Paul's admonition in Galatians 5 that we not be content to allow our lives to be ruled by sinful inclinations. Rather, we are to strive to be guided by God's Spirit and to invite the Spirit to foster within us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – virtues that will not only be a blessing in others lives, but enrich our lives as well. May the words of George Sanders remind us that every step we take that brings us closer to building this kind of character is a good and worthwhile step. And may we be encouraged by the words of the Apostle Paul who assures us that in this lifelong pursuit of building character, we do not strive alone but are aided by the very Spirit of God working in us. Blessings to you all as we head into the Holiday season!

## STANDING ZOOM LINK FOR SUNDAY SERVICE

We have established a standing Zoom link for Sunday services. This means that the link (and phone number and meeting ID) will remain the same from week to week! I will still plan to send out the link weekly, and the link is also now available on the church website:

[www.nelsonchurch.org/worship](http://www.nelsonchurch.org/worship)



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

## FOOD PANTRY

Our food shelf in the Library/Town Hall entry has been used frequently and now our stock at the church is low and we are in need of replenishing the shelves. Below is a list of suggested items. You may leave any donations at the church Sundays 9-1 Wednesdays 9-3.

Granola bars  
Canned albacore tuna  
Rice  
Noodles  
Campbells chicken noodle soup (low sodium is probably best)  
Dried fruit  
Raisins in individual small boxes  
Pasta sauce  
Boxed stuffing  
Packets of cocoa  
Seltzer water  
Canned tomatoes



ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

## ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting will be after worship on November 13. We will be voting on the budget and making any other decisions necessary. All are invited to attend though only members may vote.

## CHOIR

The church choir has started meeting and singing again! All who are interested are welcome to participate when you are able. The choir will meet on Sunday mornings at 9am to practice before the service. For more information, speak with Deanna.

## BOOK STUDY WITH LEBANON UCC

We are invited to join Lebanon Congregational for a 7 week study of the book *Reading While Black* by Esau McCaulley. The group will meet virtually over Zoom. The study will meet Wednesday from 7-8pm. Contact Eliot or the church office for the zoom link.

## BELL RINGING UKRAINE



Join us Wednesdays at 4:30pm as we prayerfully ring the church bell for peace in Ukraine.

## CALENDAR

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

**NOV 2,9,16,23,30 Bell Ringing for Ukraine 4:30**

**NOV 6 Worship 9:30 Communion Southwest Assn. Annual Meeting 1pm via Zoom**

**NOV 13 Worship / Stewardship moment ANNUAL Meeting after worship.**

**NOV 17 Operations Meeting 7pm zoom**

**NOV 20 Worship Stewardship Sunday**

**NOV 27 Worship 9:30 Hanging of the Greens Lighting of the Christmas Tree 3:30-5pm**



## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Don't forget to turn your clocks Back for November 6!

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Each fall, church members and attenders are asked to pledge their contributions for the coming year, both financial and in terms of service and participation. A letter and pledge card will go out in mid November. We will devote time during worship on November 13 and 20 for personal stories of the ways we are connected to the church. How have we become stronger, and how can we grow?

Please let Eliot know if you are willing to speak for 3 to 5 minutes during worship on either Sunday., November 13 or 20.

We will dedicate our pledges on November 20.

## COUNCIL NOTES

Meeting Notes

Council 10-9-22

Clerk

Moderator

Treas – no

Trsur – Ron

UCC rep – no

CL – becky, susan, charott, judy Walton

CC – Lew

Ops – me, Matt, Ron, Hope Community Campaign, Bush Removal.

Historian – no

Minutes yes

Minister: Lovely end of summer – IC Social, Priscilla's service, one year anniversary for Eliot. Week to week office hours on Wed throughout week emails, ct. Kate holding down fort great. Can visit one person each Wednesday.

Treasurers Report.

Ops report - walkway

CL – meeting monthly. Coffee hour will be in sanctuary, worked well today. Bi-

ble Study class with Lebanon now. In Jan/Feb may do something just with our congregation. Thinking of doing an Xmas giving catalog – places local – give in someone's name – give names to Eliot. Movie night in December, a fun way to gather. Hanging of the Greens Nov 27, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. 3 pm, Xmas music 4:30 go outside and light tree. Team will go through Xmas decorations. Keep it simple. Betsy to check with Mike on light strings. Flowers for Xmas – do people want to sponsor a poinsettia in memory of someone? Fund them that way. Questions – what is going on with kitchen committee. Committee Susan will convene – Lew, Hope, Ralph, Eliot, Bob/Sue, Ron. Stewardship Campaign too

CC - meeting at end of month. Spec Events over 8K with 1500 in expenses. Budget drafted – Need to add Spec Event. Chick BBQ had generous donations, sold out of chicken first time ever. Tremendous support. To do: Chaplaincy no longer needs support, will find replacement. Decide Xmas offering. IC socials no expenses, everything donated. Over 1300

Judi – NH conf annual mtg – Oct 15 – Zoom or in-person. Judi going, can take others. Camps retreats social justice work, let he know if you want anything picked up. Sara Marean to be new conference minister. More available at link. Zeph Marean will be recognized for putting together national document to help camps go green.

Clerk – 2021 Annual Report finally in progress.

Budget – 5% increase for Eliot for overall cash compensation, which includes a contribution to health benefits. PD – budget the same even though didn't use much this year.

Kate – \$16.50 for 10-12 hours a week – will take on bookkeeping and mtg-house and servantkeeper. Music – add two tunings a year @ \$150 part of facility expenses. Music Custodian doing a little less, so dropped to match actuals.

Pulpit supply - \$200/Sunday.

Missions flat

Looked at 2022 actuals and projected next year.

Utilities – propane will be about the same. Electric contract goes through 2024 about .097ish per kWh. What uses so much electricity. Lift heat plus some operational mistakes. Insurance – new rates not yet out. Will know in 30 days.

Building repairs includes inside and outside repairs.

Telephone – more options are available now. Will investigate telephone internet options

Copier – contract cost includes lease cost plus maintenance, year to year contract.

Income – mostly the same.

Contributions has a big gap which we will close as needed from investments. Even if we need 7% we will be okay.

Annual Meeting Nov 13.

How are we doing? Matt feels there are more meetings.

Annual Meeting – Nov 13

Budget, Debriefing new structure. Keene mobile food pantry – next year.

Friday newsletter – policy is to list community events unless they seem wildly inappropriate.





## ADVENT

To celebrate the joyful seasons of Advent and Christmas, Congregational Life invites everyone to gather from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 27, to decorate the sanctuary for the holidays. We will set out window candles, put up Christmas decorations, and provide cider and cookies before going outside to sing carols and light the outdoor Christmas tree.

## OPERATIONS

Present: Betsy Street, Ron Ferguson, Bill Waterston, Matt Snow, Hope Lothrop, Bob West

1. Church recycling – remember to pick up recycling when you go to the dump
2. Burning Bush removal – re-opened discussion of whether we wanted to do it at all. Consensus of those present was to instead ask Mike B to prune them way back. Reason: we don't see see BBs popping up everywhere around the church, wonder how invasive these particular bushes actually are. Concern that it will leave the church too bare.
3. Budget- Review feedback from council. Rona and Kelly met by phone and made the following changes: Spec Events income +500. Expenses: SocSec offset is more like \$4400, 7.65% of wages. Spec Events expenses \$1750. Overall increases budget by about \$5500. Propane contract done by Bob, \$2.249/gal,

less than last year by \$0.25 for 800 gallons. We have 1000 gallon tank.

Ops supports the budget as revised, approx. 126K. Advanced for congregational review and vote at annual mtg. We will send it out ahead of time via email if possible.

4. Kate accepted our offer. Those present recommend to move ahead provisionally with new rate and hours immediately, feeling there is room in this year's AA budget to support it due to Kate working less hours than originally planned. Reason to start immediately is key volunteers have immediate need to transfer some responsibilities. Trustees have final say on timing. Will be part of budget at Annual Meeting.

5. Front walkway update (Matt) Matt met John Sandri at the Church. He is willing to level and reset the front walk and landing stones. This will solve the safety issues of the uneven stones whilst maintaining the original design and aesthetic. He will provide an estimate with drainage (recommended) and without drainage. He also can include a railing on the right side of the front entrance. Work will most likely not be completed until spring at the earliest.

Will get estimate within couple weeks.

6. Air purifier update - how is it looking? (Eliot – via email

The purifier is at the church, plugged in and ready to go. Hope also dropped hers off at church so at this point we have two purifiers downstairs should we choose to use the basement in the coming months.

Eliot checked the CO2 detector just before church after the heat had been running for about an hour - it was really high - around 1800 pps (up from a normal 400). Need to know from furnace person when he/she comes why the CO2 levels would be running so high and is it safe.

Betsy found this online after our meeting, and verified general ranges with other sources:

<https://www.kane.co.uk/knowledge-centre/what-are-safe-levels-of-co-and-co2-in-rooms>



## OCTOBER BELATED

- OCT 8 Beth Smith
- OCT 9 Gavin Beeker
- OCT 11 Ranae Beeker
- OCT 13 Eliot Fay
- OCT 25 Steve Cady
- OCT 29 Edie Putnam



- OCT 13 Tim & Brenda McEachern



## NOVEMBER

- NOV 4 Gwyneth Tolman
- NOV 21 Trish Jones
- NOV 28 Judi Lang



- NOV 6 Peter Smith & Joy Birdsey Smith



## SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Southwest Association of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ will gather at the United Church in Acworth, United Church of Christ, to install Ms. Maureen Adams as Pastor and Teacher at 3:00 PM on Sunday, October 30, 2022.

The Southwest Association will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 06, 2022 at 1:00 PM via Zoom. For zoom info contact Judi Lang 603-520-5615 cell.  
SW Assn. website:  
<https://nhcucc.org/resourceslinks/associations/southwest-association>



## UCC CONFERENCE NEWS

### The Results Are In! Rev. Sara Marean Elected as New Associate Conference Minister



Among the highlights of Saturday's Annual Meeting was a unanimous vote to elect and call the Rev. Sara Marean to serve as Associate Conference Minister beginning January 3, 2023.

Other business items of note were affirmative votes passing: the Bylaws Amendment to Allow Authorization to Conduct Meetings by Electronic Means

The Resolution of Witness Free from Plastic Pollution (as amended during the meeting) the Mission Income & Spending Plan

The Resolution of Witness Affirming the Rights of All People to Access the Full Range of Reproductive Healthcare, Including Abortion, Within Society.

Please take a few minutes to review the meeting. There are connecting sessions recorded so that you can better understand the conference resolutions. Go to [nhcucc.org](http://nhcucc.org)



## New England Environmental Justice Youth+ Summit FREE WEBINAR OPEN TO ALL

Sponsored by the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Co-sponsor: SNEUCC (Southern New England)  
Register Now at: [https://act2earth.com/online/register/WH\\_3828x7aGmsh62f02e](https://act2earth.com/online/register/WH_3828x7aGmsh62f02e)  
\*\*Registration is good for both sessions\*\*

**November 17, 2022 ~ 7-9 PM**

*"Use What You've Got" - in the Fight for Community and the Cosmos*  
Rev. Michael Malcom - Executive Director of the People's Justice Council and AIPL  
*"Confronting Fossil Fuel Company's Lies and Destruction from the Front Line"*  
Rev. Gretchen Eisenhoff - Pastor of East Westmouth Congregational Church, MA  
*"Uprooting Racism, Seeding Sovereignty"*  
Leah Perriman - Co-Director and Farm Manager of Soul Fire Farm

**November 19, 2022 ~ 9AM-Noon**

*"Mni Wacipi: Cries for Justice at Standing Rock"*  
Rev. Gordon Rankin - Conference Minister of the SNEUCC  
*"Indigenous Sovereignty"*  
Leola Lakota Poirier - Earth Guardian  
*"Rights of Nature Movement"*  
Rev. Dr. Bob Shore-Goss - Environmental Justice Council, UCC; EJ Team Chair PEUCC  
*"Nature as Property and the Nature of Property: Earth Encompassion is the Solution"*  
Ben Price - Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF)  
*"Toppennish Farms, WA - Sustainability and Regenerative Agriculture"*  
April Mullins & Youth Missions, Shrewsbury Congregational Church with 2 Youth Mission Trippers - Sophie Lane and Meredith Sainsbury  
*"Climate Justice Fellowship"*  
Lydia Hamberry - UCC National Climate Justice Council Award



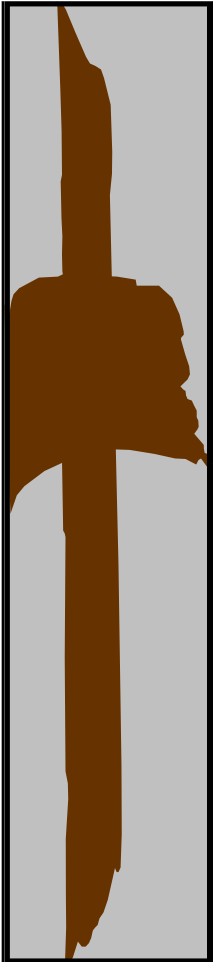
# PRAYER REQUESTS

We hold in our prayers: Tim; the family and friends of Bud Owens; Morgan and her family; Brett Richardson; Brenda's dad, brother, and family; Julia Lavalley; 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; Martha Hollister; Linda Scanlan;

Stephanie; Ruth LeMay; Jane's sister, Joyce; Sue's friends, Helen, Patty and Ralph; Heather's brother; Lew's sister; Vangie McCormick and family; Peter Smith; Mike Blaudschun and family; Deb Bows-Rand; Judy Walton and family; Nancy Oldershaw's sister Linda; Sharon Beaty's nephew Scott; Pat Steeves; Gordon Peary's family; families seeking to heal divisions; our service men and women and front-line workers.

## *Meetinghouse*

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