

Mason Congregational Church April 2017

Please visit: www.masoncongregationalchurch.org or call us 878-1684

Greetings from Mason Church

This past month was party month here at Mason Congregational Church as we celebrated Reverend Veronica's official installation by the United Church of Christ Conference staff, with friends and relatives of Rev. Veronica, and the members of Mason Church. It was a moving ceremony of worship and installation, followed by a reception provided by the members and local Community Supper stalwart cooks and servers.

A week later we had worship service and a double baptism of Judy and Kent Forty's grandchildren, Caroline and Finnley. Caroline is the 5 month old daughter of Meredith and Will Kew. And Finnley is the 3 month old son of Elizabeth and Neil Lambert. These were perfectly behaved babies, and delighted all the 70 or so in attendance. Once again we gathered for further celebration with a delicious luncheon and cakes. Thank you to all who assisted the family in this celebration. Special thanks to Don Macintosh for photography of the event. Family from far and near, as well as relatives and friends were present to share this promise of baptism. We, the congregation, promise spiritual guidance for these babies as they grow and mature into adulthood. **Don't miss out on the events below in April!**

Upcoming Events

- **Nashua Soup Kitchen, April 8.** Meet Kathy Chapman in the parking lot of the church at 3pm for carpooling to the Nashua Soup Kitchen. Usually we are back by 6:30pm. Call 878-4993 or email Kathy at chapman.kathy@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer. We need a minimum of 8 people.
- **Community Supper April 13, 2017 5:30 to 7pm** Good company, warm Fellowship Hall, and of course good food. Know of a neighbor who has just moved in? Invite them to dinner—the easy way! And, offer your help, extra hands are always needed. Washing dishes, picking up the chairs, or preparation. We always meet the following Thursday at 7pm for planning the next supper.
- **April 13th Maundy Thursday worship service at 7 pm** Right after Community Supper, we will gather in the Sanctuary for this service shared with the Brookline UCC church and their minister Rev Catherine Merrill. This is a sober and peaceful service, and ends in darkness and silence. Please exit the sanctuary quietly.
- **April 14th Good Friday** Christians take this day to meditate on the events of the Easter season. Our Sanctuary will be open from 9am to 7pm for contemplation and meditation. There are books of inspiration, music of your choice (or silence), and the beauty of the sanctuary to comfort your heart and soul. Bring a friend, or just come to experience this peace and opportunity for enjoying the beauty of our sanctuary.
- **Easter Sunrise Service April 16** **NOTE: Change of location** We will be watching the sunrise from the top of the hill on Greenville Road, Mason. Park along the road, all wheels off the road. We will gather at the edge of the field for worship and song to bring in the Easter Day. Worship starts at 5:50 am. Following worship will be the "warming up" with coffee/tea and some nibbles at Jenny Greenwood's residence at 773 Greenville Rd—just ¼ mile to the north.
- **Easter Service at Mason Congregational Church** April 16 at 10 am we will gather at church for our traditional, joyous Easter Service, in a church filled with the scent of lilies and tulips, and special music for the occasion. This will be followed by a brunch of Strata, fruit, and hot cross buns. Plenty of coffee and tea in case you got up for the Sunrise service too...

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- **Living Room Coffee House April 15th.** Doors open at 6:30, Music begins at 7. **There are warm drinks, food, and music lovers: just mix and enjoy.** Jim Giddings is a wellspring of Song history and commentary. Typically Jim is unaccompanied, using only his voice. Many times the audience is encouraged to join in, sometimes he breaks out the penny whistle, and sometimes he is accompanied by a friend. What captures the imagination is Jim's willingness to share the world's history of songs. Songs through the years have been used to entertain, energize social movements, to shine a light on injustice, and to celebrate events. You just may sing a song that you sang in elementary school or maybe learn a song from Africa. One thing is for sure. This will be something different.
- **Conversations with Women Friday, April 21 2pm to 4pm Third Friday meeting each month** This is a casual group of local Mason, and nearby community women who will have coffee/tea and more as they converse. No particular agenda has been developed but enjoy the conversation. Let's plan a "field trip", anyone interested? Where would you like to go with a very nice group of women?
- **Reaching out** The Deacons and Rev Veronica have reached out to a Muslim community in Fitchburg to invite them to visit us in Mason. This month the women have been invited to our Conversations with Women which is open to all in our community. The purpose is to find common ground with those who are different from ourselves. The Google Doodle below is from Sarah Harrison, high school student in CT, the winner in the Google contest.



- **Lending Library Books and Music** Notice the fine bookshelf in Fellowship Hall that has books for lending—all nicely organized, and alphabetized by a church angel. Steve Tamulonis has contributed some CDs for lending/listening. Please sign them out, and return in a reasonable time. Enjoy this mission/blessing.
- **Prayer shawls still needed, free yarn available.** Spend some mud season time by joining the knitters of Mason Church in prayerful knitting. Let us know if you need yarn or pattern. If you know someone who needs the warmth and prayers of a shawl please contact: Susan Suokko at Usercat2@comcast.net or 941-920-0270 or Michelle Scott 878-1680

God is still
speaking,

- **Helen Craig and her son Steve** both passed away in March. Our prayers and thoughts are with Nancy, Helen's devoted daughter and Steve's sister. Send a card to Nancy Craig, 220 Brookline Rd, Mason, NH 03048
- **Curt Dunn** and Karin Eisenhaure. Thanks to Karin for faithful fulfillment of church secretary duties of bulletin coping/collating, and other chores. Thanks to Curt for his insightful comments, and conversation.

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- **Joe and Jennie Walsh** and Joshua, Jonathan and Joseph are always in our hearts and thoughts. We were delighted to see Jennie, Joshua, and Jonathan at the Installation. Call, write, or email them with your news! Their address is: 50 Clinton Ave, Chelmsford, MA 01824 [978-256-6700](tel:978-256-6700) jwalsh13197@gmail.com (NOTE: new email for Jennie)
- **Cindy Tibbetts** Cindy and Jim are in Milford, but also in our thoughts! She may need rides to church when Jim or her parents can't do this. Give Cindy a call at 809-2036. Address: Cahill Place, 486 Nashua St. Milford 03055
- **Laila Washburn** We had such fun going caroling at Laila's house, maybe we can have Deborah bring her accordion, and we can sing spring songs. She was very happy to see everyone. Laila Washburn, c/o Brett Kivela, 25 Will Road, New Ipswich 03071. Although visitors are welcome from 10am to 7pm, it is good to call first. 878-3065
- **Gretchen Brown** has limited mobility these days, and loves visitors. You can call ahead 878-1481 or stop by. Gretchen is on a special diet in an effort to alleviate her chronic pain. It is gluten free, and sugar free. Please call Wally and Gretchen at 878-1481 or Michelle if you need help with cooking ideas or details 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com
- **Do you know someone who needs spiritual support or other support, of the pastor and deacons?** Please call, your church family may be able to help. Leave a confidential message for Pastor Veronica Don at 603-878-1684 or on her personal phone at 603-213-6368.

Just wondering? What is "Maundy Thursday?" This is in memory of Jesus' last supper with his disciples when he gave them his last commandment. The word 'maundy' is a shortened form of the Latin, *mandatum*, the word for command. And this is the beautiful commandment. *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another"* ([John 13:34](#)). He washed their feet in a show of humility and love, and asked them to wash each other's feet, before they shared their last meal together.
