

Mason Congregational Church August 2018

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

Leviticus 19:33-34

When an alien resides with you in your land,

You shall not oppress the alien.

The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you;

You shall love the alien as yourself,

For you were an alien in the land of Egypt,

I am the Lord your God.

Much is said about aliens these days, and much should be said about how we all belong. The definition of alien is “belonging to another person, place, or thing.” We are all aliens, and yet we are all also belonging. If I attend a Catholic church, I may be considered an alien. But if I join all Christians in opposing the death penalty, then I belong to this group. This paradox is one of the many in our lives.

Our country, unlike some, was founded on providing a safe haven (a belonging) for the persecuted (aliens). Even though, we, the people, have persecuted or ostracized or deported—including the Americans who were here on the land before we arrived, we can learn from history....

In many places, the Bible says that we should offer hospitality whenever we can. When there is persecution in a country, we have always had a policy to take in those who are in danger. In the U.S., there is a lengthy protocol to achieve this status, but it has worked very well for many years. (My daughter-in-law is one of the officers who vet asylum seekers, so I know a little of this process.)

Let all Americans think about this as they remember their roots and the planet we all belong on, and use imaginative, kind, and effective ways to continue to welcome people, and provide safety for families.

Michelle

P.S. I have seven new chickens that were raised together for their first three months. As I watch them (their “family”) I think how secure they were, even during their eight-hour car trip to NH, how secure they are, even when they are in a new environment, mumbling to each other and staying close. But if any one of them is separated, it sounds as if the world is coming to an end.

The children of “aliens” who get separated from their parents must feel so scared and sad.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 25th Celebration in Mason of 250th Anniversary of founding charter

On August 24, 1768, a town father named Obadiah Parker returned from Portsmouth with a Town Charter from Governor Wentworth that officially established the Town of Mason, NH! That was 250 years ago, so this year we are celebrating the town's 250th birthday. While some events have been occurring throughout the year, the main celebration is on **Saturday, August 25, 2018**.

The celebration will kick off with fireworks on **Friday night, August 24**, at dusk. Viewing is from the ball field on Sand Pit Road (corner of Wilton/Sand Pit) There will be music, a first aid station, and even a porta potty! Viewing can also be from the big hill on Greenville Rd, the one with the view of Boston on a clear

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day. The fireworks display will be designed by Atlas Fireworks and will be set off from the town sand pit, which is surprisingly close by as the crow (or rocket) flies.

Saturday, August 25, is the main event, kicked off by a road race at 9 am at the ball field and a pancake breakfast from 8 - 10 am at the church. At 10 am, Obadiah himself (almost) will reenact the presentation of the town charter, and before you know it, there will be word of battles with British troops. Mason will be ready! An encampment of the 6th Middlesex Regiment will be right behind the Mann Store, and it will be called to arms! At this point, the American flag will be raised, and Mason's veterans will be honored at the Pleasant View Cemetery down the road by our own Nancy Richards, a veteran of WWII.

Events after that include an outstanding group of artisans who will be demonstrating crafts: basket weaving, a blacksmith, a cooper, fly tying, honey making, pottery, soap making, wool spinning, stone wall building, weaving and even a maker of wooden spoons! Uncle Sam will roam about, as will Little Red Riding Hood. The Wolf Rock minister will try to find his way home, telling his tale of pursuit by howling wolves. There will be children's games from the past, a petting farm and pony rides.

The church will be hosting events on Saturday and Sunday morning. On Saturday, you can enjoy a Pancake Breakfast between 8 - 10 am in Fellowship Hall. At 1 pm, you'll hear stories and songs telling of Mason's church history, in the church sanctuary. The church has some historical artifacts from decades and centuries past that will be on display. Also at 1 pm, there will be a Tea Room in the church. Come and settle in for light refreshment and tales of yesteryear. Then, on Sunday morning, come to old time church service at 10 am. Do you know who the Tithingman is? Come find out, you'll get a tickle.

Church events: Saturday, August 25.

8 - 10 am - Pancake breakfast and **no** yard sale this year!

1 pm - Church history stories and music, and a display of historical artifacts

1 pm - Tea Served

Church events: Sunday, August 26 Note: NO yard sale this year

10 am - Old Tyme Church Service

Mission: Nashua Soup Kitchen, August 11 at 3:15 meetup at Mason Church. Join in this effort to share our caring for neighbors who need a smile, and the Soup Kitchen staff that needs extra hands. Meet in the parking lot of the church at 3:15 pm for carpooling. This is a mission open to all. Invite a friend or neighbor, and you may open an opportunity for another caring person. Call 878-4993 or email Kathy at chapman.kathy@gmail.com.

Community Supper (No supper in August)

September 13, 2018 is the next Community Supper. Don't miss this chance to build your "social capital" in your very own town. 5:30 to 7 pm

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CVTC Community Volunteer Transportation Company If you know someone in Mason who needs a ride, to doctor appointments and more, call (877) 428-2882. Meanwhile if you would like to be a volunteer driver, call 1-877-428-2882 ext 5 for information on mileage reimbursement, insurance, and more. You can be a driver once or twice a week, or once a month, you decide on what your schedule allows! Call for more info. For rides contact on line: <https://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/rideshare/index.htm>.

Conversations with Women on September 21 from 2 to 4 pm. Resuming in the fall, we will begin by sharing the book *Active Hope* by Joann Macy and Chris Johnstone. Request it on Library Loan, or purchase a copy at Toadstool. If you want to know who Joanna Macy is go to: <https://onbeing.org/programs/joanna-macy-a-wild-love-for-the-world/>. This is the site for the podcast, or transcript. You won't be disappointed! Contact miscott39@gmail.com or 603-878-1680 for info,

Bystander CPR In April we had 11 people sign up for Bystander CPR, and they also received the critical instructions on how to use an AED (automated external defibrillator) Simple instructions, and practice in a 2 hour class. If you are interested, we will be glad to host another class. Please contact Kathy Chapman, chapman.kathy@gmail.com. We will soon have our AED for Mason Church, and we all should know how to use this simple, lifesaving device!

NEW "Bystander First Aid" Our instructor for the Bystander CPR has agreed to teach a "more than band-aids" first aid class if there is interest. What can you do to stop bleeding? Stabilize a person until the ambulance gets there, and more. If you have an interest in this class, contact Kathy Chapman Chapman.kathy@gmail.com for more information.

Living Room Coffee House Thank you, Steve Tamulonis and Mike Damery, for over 10 years of coffee house music. If you miss the coffee house, find other ones. Union Coffee Co, in Milford, A&E Custom Coffee in Amherst, NH, Bonhoeffer's Café in Nashua. Or talk to Steve for more ideas.

Lending Library Books and Music, a Blessing. 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 always needed, free yarn available. Spend some time by joining the knitters of Mason Church in prayerful knitting. Let us know if you need yarn or pattern. If you know of 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

Attention knitters: Go to <http://twillnh.com/calendar-4/> and check out Sandy's website, and the schedule for activities there. It may be one of our Conversations with Women outings!

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Are you listening, caring, sharing?

- ♥ **Wally and Gretchen Brown** Since her broken hip last spring, and her rehab, Gretchen has lots of challenges. Call Wally (878-1481) if you want an update on how she's doing, or better yet, stop by and see Gretchen. This is a time when she needs her friends more than ever!
- ♥ **Jen Schongar** Our neighbor and friend, Jen was diagnosed in April with ovarian cancer. Her husband, Bill and the children, family, and friends, are stepping up to cover for the many things mothers do. If you want to help out with a meal or with barn care, sign up at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/00n0y9>. We will raise them in prayer and into the light, in this challenging time. At this time (8/2), she is not in treatment. You can send cards to **923 Wilton Rd, Mason**. In this day of email, so many of us enjoy the real mail in the mailbox, especially when our days need that real connection. Jen is collecting meaningful quotes and poems. Do you have one?
- ♥ **Amber and Marcus and toddler Luke welcomed baby Noah to Mason on April 18th**. He started out as a robust baby, and he is living up to this healthy look! We love having him at church along with his big brother!
- ♥ **David Ahern died unexpectedly on April 16, 2018**. He is remembered as a long time active member of our community. He was always so very helpful to his wife Peggy who suffered a stroke some years ago. Please send condolences to: Margaret Ahern (Peg/Peggy) at 61 Townsend Rd, Mason, NH. If you missed this announcement earlier, it is not too late to send "thinking of you" kinds of cards.
- ♥ **Laila Washburn** Laila lives at Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. She loves company, and cards. At 99, everyday is treasured. She just had a birthday, and it is not too late to send birthday wishes. Laila Washburn, Summer Hill, 183 Old Dublin Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458. Call ahead if you have questions. 924-6238
- ♥ **Curt Dunn** and his attentive Karin enjoy company and occasional assistance, but check with them first, 878-2675 or eisenhau@aol.com Karin's sister, Judy, is surprising all with her strength after a long illness. She has gained back some of the weight she lost, and is enjoying life!
- ♥ **Do you have new neighbors?** We have baskets we can put together with some special items made in Mason, and some info on Town activities and church info. Let me know: Michelle 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com
- ♥ If you have news, questions, or corrections to the newsletter, please contact Michelle 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com