**Have you experienced some special kindness recently?**

 We all have worries, and consternations about this Covid Time. And one of the suggestions which keeps popping up, is to reach out with kindness. That is certainly some of what the Christian church stands for! Acceptance and kindness, and so much more. But for now, let’s center on kindness and reaching out. While not singling out anyone, these are some of the kindnesses which are around. Calls to each other take place pretty regularly, but take time to try to increase these if you can. If you need an example, it seems like whenever I chat with someone, Nancy Richards, (super) Deacon has been there or called.

There’s a person in town who is baking, and delivering the goodies also! Homegrown tomatoes, peppers, and morning glories were shared with many. The church garden got planted, watered, etc (Super Deacon, again). Help with appointments, taking care of family in special ways. People who are grieving may find this time hard with limited “face time” with friends. Call, or do a driveway visit! Remember wearing a mask is a kindness for anyone you encounter, since we won’t know til we get sick that we picked up the virus. Pass kindness forward, do pass the virus forward.

 Are you missing a grandchild or friend? A suggestion is make a large photo copy of the face of the child/friend, glue it onto a large cardboard cut out person, and take this along on any excursions around the neighborhood, or to the dinner table, or maybe a board game. Snap a picture of you with this “stand-in” and send it to the child/friend! This may help them miss you a little less! This time is hard on adults, but it’s hard to imagine a childhood with such restrictions on family and friends.

**Please send your story of kindness to** **miscott39@gmail.com** **or call 878-1680 and tell your story!**

**Poem by Naomi Shihab Nye “Kindness”**

*Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,*

*You must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.*

*You must wake up with sorrow.*

*You must speak to it till your voice*

*Catches the thread of all sorrows*

*And you see the size of the cloth.*

*Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,*

*Only kindness that ties your shoes*

*And sends you out into the day to mail letters &*

*Purchase bread.*

*Only kindness that raises its head*

*From the crowd of the world to say*

*It is I you have been looking for,*

*And then goes with you everywhere*

*Like a shadow or a friend.*

**Upcoming Events**

* **Church Services with Covid considerations:** Attached to this newsletter is a summary of the Governor’s requirements for opening and Mason Church Council adaptations: The services are outside, so bad weather cancels. Please bring your own chair or if you can’t or forget, we will find you a chair! Everyone wears a mask. Music and choir are performing without a mask, but at a 6 foot distance from each other, and more than that from worshipers. Bulletins and hymnals are distributed by a masked and freshly hand sanitized person. No coffee hour. Church is open for restroom use as needed. There is no child care at this time.
* **Stewardship:** Energy: did you notice in April that the air was cleaner? That is was quieter? That there was less traffic? What else can we do for using less energy, in our small ways and big ways. These are ways to be kind to the planet! **Mason Energy Commission** is planning a Virtual Solar and other alternative energy tour during the summer. Watch our facebook, and Town website for more information. Meanwhile, go to <http://harei.org> for more information on the Hillsborough County Area Renewable Energy Initiative. This is do-it-yourself alternative energy done as an old fashioned barn raising, by you and these remarkable professional volunteers.
* **Another way of Stewardship** What about an energy audit for your home? First, it can save you money, and, it will reduce the impact of your carbon footprint. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/home-energy-audits-making-homes-more-energy-efficient-and-comfortable> Covid times may delay when they can come to you. [www.NHSaves.org](http://www.NHSaves.org) has a special deal going NOW til the end of August for energy audits. Check it out.
* **Church Treasurer** Darrell says thank you to all who continue to mail in pledges. He notes that although we are not meeting, the expenses and work of the church continue. Mail your pledge or donation to Darrell Scott, Treasurer, Mason Congregational Church, 33 Valley Road, Mason, NH 03048
* **Community Supper –** The A-Team of Community Supper workers are all well and ready to go when it’s possible. Still waiting, and at the ready!
* **Prayer Shawl Ministry** Do you know someone who is in need of a prayer shawl? It can be the “hug” that helps. Contact a Deacon to get one delivered with a special prayer and in a gift bag. New baby, loss of any kind, or just loneliness? Let us know, anyone in our world community is eligible to receive a shawl, nearby or far away.
* **Greenville Food Pantry**  The food pantry reports that they are in good shape with some extra donations from NH State, but this is running out at the end of June. So meanwhile, think of writing a check to Greenville Food Pantry, St Vincent DePaul instead of just enjoying a meal, offer a meal! Here is their website: <https://www.foodpantries.org> and the phone number to **get food or give food** is 878-0518. They are open once a week, and by appointment. The address is Sacred Heart Church, Greenville Food Pantry, 15 High Street, Greenville, NH 03048. You can also give money directly to the New Hampshire Food Bank which distributes food all over NH to the many food pantries wherever they are. [www.nhfoodbank.org](http://www.nhfoodbank.org) to donate directly.
* **Nashua Soup Kitchen** Since all our volunteers are over 65, we have put this mission on hold. Understanding that the Soup Kitchen is needed as much and perhaps more than ever **consider a contribution to: Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Inc PO Box 3226, Nashua, NH 03061-3116 or donate at their website** <https://nsks.org/> Remember that their upcoming fundraisers are cancelled! Help where you can. The Deacons have pledged $100/month from our Diaconate Fund to the Soup Kitchen until the end of December.
* **Living Room Coffee House** Since no gatherings are taking place, listen to great music on your electronic device, or maybe like us, you also have old things like tapes and CDs, or **even** records that you can pull out and rattle the windows with your favorites. Dancing is great exercise!

 **Remember our church family in your prayers. Attached to this email is a list of members and friends at our church. Make a plan to keep in touch by a quick call, or email. Talk about things that will be uplifting, there’s no point in re-hashing the many news bulletins! Some topics might be crafts, closet and file cleanings, yard/plants plans, favorite stories from their past history, ask about anything they might need if they are over 60 and are staying out of any stores. If you suffer from “I don’t know what to say” go to** <https://storycorps.org/participate/great-questions/> **to find a list of some wonderful questions. In fact you may want to interview someone in your house that you think you know! Find out more today. Reach out to neighbors by phone, or even have a chat, outside and 6-10 feet apart!**

* **Our Halbrooks family** are now at 279 Mountain Road, Jaffrey, NH 03452. Meanwhile you can send a message telling them we are keeping their pew reserved. Call or email: Jacob c: 321-2397 Beth c: 321-2527 Jhalbroo@gmail.com mehalbrooks@gmail.com
* **Susan and Jim Suokko**  Susan and Jim are in the area, but plan to make Florida their permanent home after this summer. They moved to Leominster, MA last fall to an apartment. If you know someone who needs some furniture, they need to empty their apartment quickly this summer. Their address is: 50 Brooks Pond Rd, Apt 104, Leominster, MA 01453. Their Florida address is Florida: 8814 28th Ave. Palmetto, FL 34221. We miss them, and hope they will visit us this summer. Usercat2@comcast.net for email or call 941-920-0270
* **Laila Washburn** Kristen reports that her grandmother is very sad and really does not understand why no one is coming to see her. Send her a card with a picture of yourself or your family! It may help ease her loneliness. Laila lives at Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. Laila Washburn, Summer Hill, 183 Old Dublin Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458. Call: 603-924-6238
* **Gretchen and Wally Brown** This is a hard time for them. Wally can still go to work since he is usually socially distant as he works! They still have their caretaker who comes to stay with Gretchen. We can’t stop by but you can in the evening when Wally is home, just to check in from the driveway. Ask if there are any ways to help. Cards to: 421 Meetinghouse Hill Rd, Mason, NH 03048 phone: 878-1481

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Pastoral help: You can leave a message at the church for Reverend Veronica, 878-1684, Revpalvwd50@aol.com or reach her at home, 213-6368 or reach out to a Deacon, listed below.

Share a story, or a creative way you are passing this time in our lives, and we can share these via the Mason Congregation Facebook page, or perhaps the newsletter, all with your permission. Please let a Deacon know if you know someone who needs a prayer shawl, or a new baby who needs a Welcome Baby Hedgehog. See list below.

**Deacons:** Ann Moser 878-3826 amoser@earthlink.net Nancy Richards 878-2190 windywych@aol.com Kathy Chapman 878-4993 Chapman.kathy@gmail.com Michelle Scott 878-1680 miscott39@gmail.com

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CVTC, the Community Volunteer Transportation Company is still operating, since their services are especially needed at this time. They are a free service, and will take people to medical appointments (routine appointments have mostly been cancelled) but cancer treatments continue for some. They also take people to the grocery store, pharmacy for prescriptions, and to bank and post office. **During this time they are still taking people to appointments and vital services, all done with protective gear and lots of disinfectant/and sanitizers!**

Please spread the word about CVTC. It’s free to riders, and the drivers can be reimbursed for gas! A win-win all around. Sign up to be a driver. It’s so simple to pick up a trip, give the ride, (make a new friend or two), and the CVTC administration is efficient and kind. Really kind!