PASTOR VERONICA’S MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR 2017:

 “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* John 1:1

 We delineate our days into neatly separated days, months and years. When we turn the page on the annual calendar we see a fresh start, a new beginning.

 But, as Christians, after all the fuss and flurry of Christmas, let us remember that verse from the beginning of John's Gospel.

 That first verse is a reminder, to those who pay attention, that our big days and circled calendars do not define God. God is...before time itself.

 We may lift up one day or another. We may make merry at certain times and downplay other days...BUT,

 God is present in each day.

 God is the constancy before we ever count the days.

 Our calendars say a new beginning.

 Perhaps as you look at the new January you can give thanks for the beautiful love and reality offered by God to us.

 We have just celebrated our understanding of the Incarnation.

 And we, who are the church, the Body of Christ, cannot stop there.

 Love each other well as we travel forward through 2017. Because, as John says it so well in chapter 4 of that same Gospel:

 “*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God...if we love another, God remains in us, and God's love is brought to perfection in us.”* John 4:7-12

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As Mason Community Church-UCC let us make this visible in 2017.

**Upcoming Events**

* **Community Supper January 12 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.
* **Nashua Soup Kitchen, January 14** We will meet at church at 3:30pm. This isa mission of love and energy, as we help prepare and serve the evening meal. To help call Kathy Chapman 878-4993.
* **Conversations with Women Friday, January 20th 2pm to 4pm**  This is a casual group of local community women who will have coffee/tea and more as they converse. No particular agenda has been developed but ideas are floating around. Come, share, and float your own idea!
* **Living Room Coffee House** January 21 Doors open at 6:30, Music begins at 7. There are warm drinks, food, and music lovers: just mix and enjoy. *Wendy Kieth*is our feature performer. Wendy has been playing music in the Monadnock Region since the ‘70s and has performed original, Americana, Blues and Gospel with her band, Wendy Kieth and Her Alleged Band. She has played the Folkway, the Colonial, Peterborough Players and has opened for Jesse Colin Young and the band, America. Vance Gilbert said, “What a Voice! Hubba Hubba!” Greg Brown said, “Sounds just like an Angel.”
* **Mason Church Annual Meeting Feb 5th 11:15** Get your committee reports in to Dotsie as soon as you can. Email her at Dotsie24@gmail.com
* **Veronica’s installation and celebration is on February 12th**  There will be a special service of installation at 3pm, and we will have refreshments afterwards. Please plan to come to this special event.
* **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.
* **Spend some of the dark winter hours knitting Yarn into Prayer Shawls!**  Join the knitters of Mason Church in prayerful knitting. 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



* **Reverend Veronica Don** Pastor Veronica’s husband, Reverend Richard Don died on Dec 26 in a car accident in Mt Dora, FL. We extend our sympathies to Rev. Veronica and her family. Our prayers and thoughts are with her during this time of grieving. Her address is: 135 Elm St. #64, Milford, NH 03055 H# 213-6368 or c 554-0170 or email: Revpalvwd50@aol.com
* **Curt Dunn** and Karin Eisenhaure. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. We always count on seeing them for the Coffee House, as well as each Sunday. We thank them for their support, and urge them to call on us to support them.
* **Dotsie Millbrandt** Please keep the family in prayer. Wolfgang died on Saturday, Dec 3. His celebration of life was Dec 10th. Emails and cards are welcome. She will let us know how else we can assist her and Gisela, Wolfgang’s mother. Dotsie24@gmail.com or 1322 Starch Mill Rd, Mason, NH 03048.
* **Joe and Jennie Walsh** and Joshua, Jonathan and Joseph are always in our hearts and thoughts. Update as of 11/7: Joe is doing much better after having his tonsils removed which was causing his idiopathic angioedema. He hopes to go back to work soon. Jenny is working in the daycare center that her mother runs, and the boys love their school, and activities. Call, write, or email them with your news! Their address is: 50 Clinton Ave, Chelmsford, MA 01824 978-256-6700 Jwalsh13197@gmail.com (NOTE: new email for Jennie)
* **Arthur Rafter**. Arthur Rafter’s celebration of life service was November19, 2016. At memorial services people always say nice things, but few are raised as high as “hero, role model for us all,” and more along those lines. Arthur’s quiet ways did not go unnoticed in his community, or with his family. Send family condolences to Jane and Gary Goodhart, 19 Meadow Ln, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569.
* **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. New Address: Cahill Place, 486 Nashua St. Milford 03055
* **Laila Washburn**  We had such fun going caroling at Laila’s house on Dec 18th. 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, but also has other limitations. Please call Michelle if you need help with 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.

**Our Sustainability Mission:**    Mason Conservation Committee provides special blue plastic bags for roadside trash collection which you can leave on the side of the road for town pickup. Pick up the blue bags at Charlie’s Auto Shop on Jackson Rd, or we will have a supply at church. Please put recyclable items into a separate bag you can take to the Wilton Recycling Center, or put them into our recycling bins in our church kitchen. . **Please bring only paper products (no Styrofoam) for church events, avoid plastic water bottles, and use the dishware/dishwasher whenever you can. Recycle paper, cardboard, #1 plastics, and milk bottle plastic, as well as all glass and cans. Large ‘trash’ cans for these are in the kitchen.**

Any news items, comments, or things you would like to share: contact Michelle at 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com

 **"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."** Kahlil Gibran, 20th century (other source says Rabindranath Tagore)