

Mason Congregational Church January 2018

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

Reflection: Luke 2:22-40 Watch for the Spirit by being open to the gifts and mystery around you.
by Kate Matthews from UCC Weekly Seeds

The shepherds, the angels and the heavenly hosts are all gone now, and Joseph and Mary have a baby to raise. As devout Jews, they took him first for circumcision and naming and now, after the appropriate time has passed, they've come to the temple in Jerusalem for Mary's purification and Jesus' presentation as a firstborn male to be consecrated to God. There they meet Simeon, who has been assured by the Holy Spirit that he won't die until he sees the Messiah, and when the big moment arrives, Simeon has the insight, the gift of recognizing what he has been waiting for all along. What he holds may be "just" a baby, but he sees the salvation of God, glory for the people of Israel and light for the gentiles, not just long ago but today, not just for himself and his people, but for all the children of God.

Luke often uses "sight" in his Gospel as a metaphor for perceiving the Word of God, for "getting it" when it comes to faith. So this Simeon is a good example for us of someone who sees with his heart and soul and mind; it's as if he stood there and felt the presence of God's promise about to be fulfilled. He was open, as we should be, to what is yet to come. Holding the baby Jesus that day in the temple, Simeon surely did not comprehend the mystery in his arms, but he allowed for the possibilities of God's power to unfold in ways he could not imagine but only hope for.

Upcoming Events

- **Community Supper January 11 5:30 to 7pm** Our best cooks bringing the community warmth to body and spirit. Don't miss out! Ham and beans are on the menu. Bring a friend, or reach out to a new neighbor. Gluten free, dairy free vegetarian alternative available as well. Just ask us when you come.
- **Mission: Nashua Soup Kitchen, January 13 at 3:15 meet at Church.** Call Kathy Chapman to let her know if you plan on coming since we can't bring too many people, but need enough! 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.
- **Conversations with Women Friday January 19th 2-4pm** Join this wisdom circle of women for lively conversations on a variety of topics. Bring your knitting if you like. Open to all women, everywhere.
- **Special Offering! January 19th 7 – 9 pm Bystander CPR** Ever wonder what you would do if someone near you needed CPR? Even if you have a phone at the ready to call 911, you could be instrumental in saving a life, if you knew what to do. So call Kathy Chapman 878-4993 or Michelle Scott 878-1680 to register. Only 16 people can sign up, so call right away. Teenagers (those over 13) and all ages above teens, are eligible. You will get a Red Cross CPR certificate.

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- **Living Room Coffee House January 20th 6:30 to 9 or so. Live Music in Mason!** Doors open at 6:30, signups for open mic, and snacks are available, with coffee. Finger-style guitarist/singer Caleb Wetherbee performs traditional and contemporary folk music with intricate bare-finger accompaniment. Audiences can expect a repertoire of sensitive ballads, country-blues tunes, older songs in the vein of Fats Waller along with many solo guitar favorites and original compositions. With his controlled baritone voice and six-string stylings, Wetherbee's singing and playing are sure to inspire and entertain Livingroomcoffeehouse.wordpress.com
- **Lending Library Books and Music, A Blessing for Wintry Days!** 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 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 our next Conversations with Women outing!



Are you listening?

- ♥ **Wally and Gretchen Brown** Think about a visit, or a meal (gluten free/no dairy), or a card to cheer up Gretchen. 878-1481
- ♥ **Laila Washburn** Since her fall this year, Laila has moved to Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. The transition was hard at first, but Laila has had many changes over her lifetime which she takes in stride, and she is making the most of this one. Her daughter says she has more company than ever! Her kind manner will win over all who meet her there. She loves company, and cards. At 98, everyday is treasured. 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
- ♥ **Neighbors** Keep in touch with your neighbors and friends in this bitter weather when people are staying inside, and may need help with various hardships that arise. Frozen pipes, sluggish cars, and trips to the grocery store may require our physical help, and calls or visits provide help to people's spirits. Some surprising gifts of friendship develop just this way.

Lailah Gifty Akita, 21st century

"Each new day on earth is a sacred moment."

Henry David Thoreau, 19th century

"None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm."