

Mason Congregational Church February 2018

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

Lenten Prayer

Loving God,
You create us from the stardust of the universe
All the elements of creation reside within us
From the ashes that begin this season
To the hosannas that wave new palms
Be for us a sign
Of our beauty and our fragility, our mortality
And a reminder of our connectedness to All
A reminder of your unconditional Love
Amen



Photo by David Marin

Gracious God,
*During this season of fasting make us keenly aware of
the feasting you offer.
Gift us with your presence, so we can be gift to others
in carrying out your work. Amen.*

Upcoming Events

- **Community Supper March 8 5:30 to 7pm** Our best cooks bringing the community warmth to body and spirit. Bring a friend, or reach out to a new neighbor. Gluten free, dairy free vegetarian alternative available. Just ask us when you come.
- **Mission: Nashua Soup Kitchen, March 10th at 3:15 meet at 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.
- **Ride Share in Mason** It has come to the attention of the Mason Church Council, Diaconate, and the community, that there is often a need for rides (think 'public transportation') here in Mason. Communities around us have this service, and we have found a way to be included. **If you know someone who needs a ride**, to doctor appointments, events, please leave a message on the church phone 878-1684, or speak to Rev Veronica, a Deacon, or a Trustee, and we will put you on an interested list. 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 and find out more.

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- **Maundy Thursday Service at Brookline Church March 29th 7 pm** Reverend Catherine Merrill and Reverend Veronica Don will lead the Mason and Brookline congregations in this special service with readers from both churches participating.
- **Coming Soon! Easter Services on April 1st. Greenville Road view of sunrise.** We gather at 6:15 am, for our worship service and watch the sun rise. Afterwards we will walk or drive ¼ mile to be welcomed to Jennie Greenwood's home for hot coffee and her tasty treats. **Worship Service at Mason Congregational Church is at 10 am.** A traditional Easter service followed by our traditional breakfast.
- **Conversations with Women Friday March 23 2-4pm** Join this circle of women for lively conversations on a variety of topics. This month we will be exploring what "belonging" means, and how not having that feeling can lead to loneliness. Brene Brown's work is key to this discussion. You can read the transcript of her interview on www.OnBeing.org or listen at <https://onbeing.org/programs/brene-brown-the-courage-to-be-vulnerable-jan2015/> Bring your knitting if you like. Open to all women, everywhere.
- **Bystander CPR** In January we had 13 people sign up for Bystander CPR, and they received the critical instructions needed to maintain a heart rhythm and 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 let Kathy Chapman, Nancy Richards, or Michelle Scott know if you are interested.
- **Living Room Coffee House March 17 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. Our feature performer, Jerry Wile, is an accomplished banjo and guitar player who has performed regularly at festivals and bluegrass venues in the New England area for over 35 years. During that time Jerry has played with several bluegrass bands and is currently a member of the bands Granite Grass and Hurricane Hill. <http://thelivingroomcoffeehouse.wordpress.com> for more information
- **Puerto Rico and hurricane damage** In January, Jahdiel Torres-Caba, a community organizer for Civix, working for families in NH, and the environment, spoke at our Sunday worship gathering about the continuing disaster in Puerto Rico. He was born and raised there, and came 5 years ago to Antioch to do his graduate work. He gave us a list of organizations that could use assistance. <https://isercaribe.org> is one of those that is building water treatment on a small scale so communities have clean water. We will be collecting for this organization. If you wish to contribute, send a check to Mason Church with Puerto Rico in the memo line, and we will make sure it gets there.
For more: <https://www.sierraclub.org/compass/2017/11/puerto-rico-after-hurricane-maria>
- **"Prepare to Serve" happened on February 24 Workshops on Spiritual Direction, active participation in your church, immigration issues, looking for inspiration and joy, etc.** And it was all there, and so much more. Three members of Mason Congregational Church attended, rubbing elbows with 500 parishioners from all over NH. It is an energizing, uplifting experience. And...we have much to share from our workshops. Look forward to a worship service of this sharing.

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- **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 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!



Are you listening, caring, sharing?

- ♥ **Liz Fletcher** is doing well recuperating from her injury. It is still a long recovery due to damage to the kneecap. Ouch. The Town and the church are so grateful for her work on the Conservation Committee, and now the new Energy Commission, and this injury appears to have hardly slowed her down!
- ♥ **Dierdre Rohter** Continue to keep Dierdre in your prayers. After Amy died, she sent out the very thoughtful words you see below.

"Amy's employer was the U.S. Government, Civil Service, GS 12. Her Department was Pacific Command, Joint Intelligence Operations Center. She as a J2X Staff Officer. When I asked her co-worker what Amy's duties were she replied "Amy made everything work from budget to fine details of conferences.

I think Amy was born with this mind set. At about 6 she would organize our pantry. All the beans, canned tomatoes, common denominator foods together, expired foods thrown out. Amy, Eric and I took skiing vacations during their elementary school years. At about 8, I'd let Amy know it was time to pack. She would say, I'm ready. And she was. Right down to goggles. She absolutely amazed me with her "executive skills" at an early age.

I guess all I can update at this time is that Ed and I are forced to use our executive skills. We are taking care of all those things that go with last details of someone's life.

We wonder if she's laughing at us, looking for certain info that she could put her finger on. Or is she sensing how missed she is by Ed and me, her doggies and everyone else who knew her. Even the two visiting kind Jehovah Witnesses are crying over Amy. She took the time to listen to their message though contrary to her own beliefs.

Amy looked back with no regrets. She told me she was most proud of her military service. She said she had been to all the places in the world that she wanted to see. She said she took every walk with Abby, letting chores slide. She adored Ed and nurtured him and wanted him to be happy. She appreciated who Ed is and forgave or understood their minor differences.

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For me, the saddest part of losing her, is knowing what a happy, hard earned, deserving life she had. It should have continued. Really cut short. I am trying to be grateful for the family, friends, accomplishments, and happiness that was in her life of 43 years." Dierdre's address is 18 Patricia Ln, Amherst, NH 03031

- ♥ **Wally and Gretchen Brown** Think about a visit, or a meal (gluten free/no dairy), or a card to cheer up Gretchen, and Wally, too. 878-1481
- ♥ **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 seen 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 but is still fragile so keep her in prayer.
- ♥ **Neighbors** Keep in touch with your neighbors and friends in this winter 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.
- ♥ If you have news, questions, or corrections to the newsletter, please contact Michelle 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com

Thomas Merton, 20th century

"There is not an act of kindness or generosity, not an act of sacrifice done, or a word of peace and gentleness spoken, not a child's prayer uttered, that does not sing hymns to God."