# Reverend Veronica Don 603-878-1684 [www.masoncongregatioalchurch.org](http://www.masoncongregatioalchurch.org)

November 2020 Greetings Mason Church Friends, near and far. After a summer of worship under the honorable maple tree, with our small congregation, our large worship heart, and Deborah Smith and choir’s inspiring music, we are now online on Zoom. That’s live, not recorded, every Sunday at 10:00 am. Come early as the Zoom Church is live by 9:40 am, and we hang out afterwards to share news, reflections, and just to see each other for at least the next 30 minutes.

**Zoom is easy!** You can simply click on the blue link we send out, and a window will open that you say yes, “launch Zoom,” and you are in. If it is your first time on Zoom, it will ask you to download Zoom onto your device then it will give you the launch window.

When you enter zoom, the host will let you in from the ‘waiting room’ and you will be muted when you enter. Simply hover your cursor arrow over the bottom (or sometimes it’s on the top) of your screen, over the little picture of the microphone. If it has a red line, you are muted. Click on it, and you are unmuted! You can stay unmuted until the service begins, then as usual we are all silent, so you will be muted by the host until the service is over.

Any questions, please call Michelle at 603 801-9140 for help! Hope to see you on Sundays.

Join Zoom Meeting.   Click on the link below, or copy and paste the link into your search engine, or Google Search.   
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82121212979> Call if you have any questions

**Meditation for you… from Parker Palmer, writer, Quaker, and theologian** His book is **On the Brink of Everything**

“…since suffering as well as joy comes with being human, I urge you to remember this: *violence is what happens when we don’t know what else to do with our suffering.*  Sometimes we aim that violence at ourselves—as in overwork that leads to burnout or various forms of substance abuse. Sometimes we aim that violence at other people: racism, sexism, and homophobia often come from people trying to relieve their suffering by claiming superiority over others.

The good news is that suffering can be transformed into something that brings life, not death. It happens every day. At my age, I know many people who’ve suffered the loss of the dearest person in their lives. At first, they go into deep grief, certain that their lives will never again be worth living. But then they slowly awaken to the fact that—not in spite of their loss but *because* of it—they’ve become bigger, more compassionate people, with more capacity of heart to take in other people’s sorrows and joys.

These are brokenhearted people, but their hearts have been broken open rather than broken apart. So every day, exercise your heart by taking in life’s pains and joys. That kind of exercise will make our heart supple, so that when it breaks—which it surely will—it will break not into a fragmented grenade but into a greater capacity for love.

Finally, I quote Saint Benedict, who said, ‘Daily keep your death before your eyes.’ That may sound like a morbid practice, but I assure you it isn’t. If you hold a healthy awareness of your own mortality, your eyes will be opened to the glory and grandeur of life. And that will evoke all of the virtues I’ve named, as well as those I haven’t, such as hope, generosity and gratitude.”

A Hasidic Tale, from Colman Barks The Essential Rumi 2004 “A disciple asks the rabbi: ‘Why does Torah tell us to place these words upon your hearts? Why does it not tell us to place these holy words in our hearts?’ The rabbi answers: ‘It is because as we are, our hearts are closed, and we cannot place the holy words in our hearts. So we place them on top of our hearts. And there they stay until, one day, the heart breaks and the words fall in.’

**Upcoming Events**

* **Stefani Stroms** With blessings from Mason Church, Allison, a certified Doula, will support Stefani in the birth of Damon whose estimated birthdate is December 5. Stefani seems well prepared, and looking forward to this new journey in her life. She can be reached at 509 Old County Rd, Mason, NH 03048
* **Community Supper –** Did you enjoy our community suppers? The faithful cooks, cleaners, and bottle washers are lurking in the eves, just waiting to get back to work! In the meantime, they stay in touch and look out for each other as well, due to the outreach/caring of Dee Mitchell and Barbara Devore!
* **Nashua Soup Kitchen** . Share your love and energy in this outreach mission of our community. Contact Kathy Chapman, [chapman.kathygmail.com](mailto:chapman.kathy@gmail.com) or 878-4993 if you need information. You can check their website to see what’s going on, and what the needs are:[**www.nsks.org**](http://www.nsks.org) **603 889-7770**
* **St Vincent DePaul Food Pantry** Maureen reports that they are doing Thanksgiving baskets this year, so Mason Church has sponsored their ice cream dessert, plus some extra funds which the Community Supper group designated for that purpose earlier this year. **Call 878-0518 or direct to Maureen 291-0022**
* **Winter Coats Collection by Kiwanis Club** You will find a box in the carriage shed with a label on it for collecting winter coats. Please check your closet for items that you may not have worn recently, or just have one too many. Wash them if possible before bringing. Thank you. If you notice the box is full, Michele Siegmann’s phone number is on the box, call her to let her know, and she will pick up.
* **Local News:** There is a website, www.masonnhenergy.org that you can access for finding out how to save energy in your home by tapping into Ever Source’s energy savings ideas, by find out how to solarize your house thru a “barn raising” kind of idea that will save you about 30% of the costs of adding solar. Check out the videos of local solar arrays. The 26% return on your investment by the Federal Government, makes your investment in the future a real savings now,. The energy grid is richer and more stable, the more solar arrays NH has!
* **More local news:** Mason Conservation Commission has trails for you to explore! Try the newly trimmed up Bronson Potter Trails off Greenville Rd, or the Florence Roberts Trail off Valley Road. Go to the Town website, and find more info under the Conservation Commission tab. This is a way to refresh your soul in nature, and to energize your body.

 **Remember our church family in your prayers, a call, or a card. Loneliness can be relieved by caring and connection, at least temporarily, and price of this “gift” is mostly free!**

* **Jean Randle** fell last week and broke her hip. She is now in re-hab near her daughter in MA. Send hope and love cards to: 192 Millbrook Drive, East Long Meadow, MA 01028 or call her at (413) 575-9838
* **Harry Spears** He had a heart operation and is still healing at a rehab unit, but you can send cards to his home.

Starch Mill Rd, Mason, NH 03048. Harry has been a friend of Mason Church for many years, and

participated in worship this summer under the Maple Tree. A special time for all!

* **Denise Ginzler** Kudos to all the work Denise put into Mason Library for years and years! Now she is retired as of the end of October. If you would like to put some of your thankfulness in a basket, or send directly to her, the Church Deacons are assembling these, along with a few gifts, to honor her service, and celebrate her retirement. Contact Michelle at 878-1680 or [miscott39@gmail.com](mailto:miscott39@gmail.com) for info. Or send cards to 105 Old Mason Center Rd, Greenville, NH 03048
* **Steve Tamulonis** Steve is moving up North to help out with aging family, and we will miss him A LOT. He has been the Mason Musician for over 20 years. If there was music happening somewhere, you were likely to see Steve there. He participated in our choir, our Coffee House, our Praise Band, and organized other musical events in Mason. The youth group benefitted by his leadership and support as well. And the Town of Mason has looked tidy and trimmed due to his mowing, trimming, painting, and repairs. His neighbors benefitted by his thoughtful help in dozens and dozens of ways. He will always be welcome here. **If you have thoughts, momentos, cards, that you would like to share, we are putting these together for him. Call Michelle 878-1680 for pickup or send cards to Mason Church, 33 Valley Road, Mason, NH 03048 c/o Pastor Veronica**
* **Susan and Jim Suokko** are in Leominster, MA and will be attending a church close to their new home. Their new address is: 50 Brooks Pond Rd, Apt 104, Leominster, MA 01453. As usual, they will be leaving for Florida at the end of December. Their Florida address is Florida: 8814 28th Ave. Palmetto, FL 34221. They are a permanent part of our church family, and hope they keep in touch.
* **Laila Washburn at 101 years old,**  is another beloved member of our church community.Laila lives at Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. She loves company and cards, so you can imagine how hard Covid is to understand!. Send cards to: Summer Hill, 183 Old Dublin Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458. Call ahead if you have anything to drop off to her. 924-6238
* **Gretchen and Wally Brown** Always in need of a little cheer, Gretchen needs contact with the outside world, so stop by with a wave through the window, bring a meal, or just to pick up syrup and say hello!

Cards to: 421 Meetinghouse Hill Rd, Mason, NH 03048 phone: 878-1481

* **Our Coffee House friend, Jon Pearson** is very ill and has been on quite the journey since last year. He supported the coffee house, wrote wonderful songs, and also came to our Halloween Trunk and Treat events in full costume. Another member of the community who would welcome cards and love. His address is:  1275 Valley Rd, **Mason**, **NH** 03048
* **Police Chief Kevin Maxwell** has been out of work while under treatment and is now getting stronger each day.!

He will be back to work soon, but it’s not too late to wish him continued healing and celebrate his return to

work. 849 Valley Road, Mason, NH 03048



Please spread the word about CVTC. It’s free to riders, and the drivers can be reimbursed for gas! A win-win all around. 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!

**Due to Covid and the average age of the drivers, they are in need of drivers to serve the community.**