**The Easter Season continues…**

John Paul II, 20th century
"Do not abandon yourselves to despair....We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."
Arundhati Roy, 21st century
"Not only is another world possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."
Frederick Buechner, 20th century
"It has always struck me as remarkable that when the writers of the four Gospels come to the most important part of the story they have to tell, they tell it in whispers. The part I mean, of course, is the part about the resurrection."

**Sunrise Service at Gretchen and Wally’s home was spectacular, with woodpeckers drumming in the rising! Thank you to Wally and Gretchen for sharing their perfect sunrise spot.**

**Search Committee News:** The church profile is done, the recruitment brochure is beautifully done, and a meeting is set with Gary Schulte of the UCC to have these approved and the interviewing can commence once the information is out to the candidates. More work lies ahead, but we are progressing.

**May 8 Community Supper** Enjoy a meal with your friends, and neighbors—and meet new friends and neighbors. 5:30 to 7pm

Coffee House May 17 Neptunes Car are the featured performers. This pair of talented performers will mesmerize you—we guarantee it! As always, there are open mike spots for local performers who share a few songs and show us that talent is all around us. **Come at 6:45 to get on the open mike list**, or just enjoy some coffee and snacks before the music starts **at 7:30pm til about 9:30**. For more info: <http://thelivingroomcoffeehouse.wordpress.com/>

**Adult Study groups** Reverend Robert has led a Tuesday morning study group and a corresponding one after worship on Sundays. The book we used was Saving Jesus from the Church: How to stop worshiping Christ and start following Jesus by Robin R. Meyers. Michelle’s take on this interesting book: Religions have molded the events of the life of Jesus, but the essence of his message is still viable, precious, and current. If you would like a copy of this book there is one available. Please contact Michelle 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com

Blogs are a way to share your thoughts with a wider audience, and they are offered at random times. Check out Reverend Robert’s blog at: [robertvodra.blogspot.org](http://robertvodra.blogspot.org/)

**Earth Day** It’s really every day, so it is not too late to take a walk on your road and collect the trash. Please recycle what you can. Write a poem about what you find! It’s truly amazing what you find, and the best poem will be published in our next newsletter. Caring for the earth is a part of our stewardship work of the church and the world.
Thank you Steve Tamalonis for Movie Night. More than 20 big and little children gathered on April 26 to view “Frozen.” Steve and helpers provided popcorn and drinks, for this wonderful story of love and adventure.

**Help! Calling all knitters**: Want to knit a prayer shawl? There is yarn at church for the knitting, and the pattern for nice shawls to wrap around with love is at: <http://www.shawlministry.com/instructions.html> Prayer Shawls are not only a gift of love, the power comes in the knitting, see below from the website:.

“The making of a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice which embodies our thoughts and prayers for the receiver. It is a gift freely given with no strings attached. Made in prayer, as prayer, for prayer, the shawls are passed on hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart…” Blessings, *Janet and Vicky*  Email or call Susan Suokko if you have any questions. Usercat2@comcast.net or 941-920-0270 If you know of someone needing a prayer shawl, call Linda Lannin at 878-2470.

**Make a note:**

* Welcome home to the Suokkos!
* Arthur Rafter is recuperating from a fall last winter, and is at his son’s house: 22 N.River Lake Rd, Nottingham, NH 03290 Phone number: 942-5181
* Prayers for the Milkovits family as they continue healing, and welcome Barbara back to work! Prayers for Cindy Tibbitts as she continues with testing and treatment. Prayers for Curt Dunn, as he continues his healing—and is doing a great job of it! Continued prayers for Jacob Halbrook’s sister in NC, she has breast cancer. Keep Ellen Schimke, Doug, and her family in your prayers. Doug has been diagnosed with cancer, and is choosing not to receive treatment.
* Changes in our Church Family: Linda Busse’s house is for sale. Lupe and Judy are selling as well and moving to Milford. Blessings on your new adventures but keep us close to your heart.
* **Happy Birthday:** A year of birthday greetings to Nancy Richards who begins her 9th decade!
* **Cans of Nothing:** Over the summer the Food Bank has a special summer feeding program for children who normally receive free lunch at school. This is helpful for so many children who will receive a balance meal, at least once a day. **Help us fill our cans of Nothing for this program.**
* **Help keep the coffee in our coffee hour…**  We use fair trade coffee, and support our coffee hour by selling coffee to you for your home use. Mason Church RUNS on FAIR TRADE coffee! Please contact Mark Stroms, 603 305-0023.
* We miss Laila at Sunday services but she is always in our thoughts. Send mail to Laila Washburn, c/o Brett Kivela, Will Road, New Ipswich 03071. Visitors are welcome, it would be good to call first. 878-3065
* 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 at 603-878-1684

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

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**Good-Bye**
**by Martin B. Copenhaver from** dailydevotional@ucc.org  from our UCC Daily Devotionals

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." - John 14:27

One of the reasons parting is so difficult is that, in parting, we confront our limits. We cannot be both here and there. We cannot be with all the people we care about. We cannot lay hold of what is ahead without in some way letting go of what is past.
So over and over again in scripture we read of people who, in parting, remind one another of the promises of God. And what other way are we to part, in what other way can we? How else can we leave those we care about, unless we entrust them to the care of God?
That is, after all, what the word good-bye means—"God be with you." What else can we say in parting that does not simply whither and fall at our feet as soon as it is said?
God be with you, because I can no longer be with you.
God be with you, because though now we will have limited ways of expressing care for one another, we are still—all of us—in need of care.
God be with you, because if God is with you and with me, somehow still we will be together.
God be with you, because though none of our lives is much more than a collection of fragments, some of them with jagged edges, God promises to make them complete and make us whole, in God's time.
Indeed, there may be no way to part from those we love without either kidding ourselves or being drawn into the shadow of despair—unless we say, "Good-bye."
**Prayer** God be with those who are dear to me and hold them close while we are absent one from another.