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| **I Don't Believe in "Fly Over" States** **Lillian Daniel** | October 5, 2018 | |

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| *Nathanael said to Philip, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."* - John 1:46   From the gothic stone pulpit of Duke University Chapel, in North Carolina, [I introduced myself](http://www.ucc.org/r?u=GQ96LxW7tJscudkL8mlwNzVEKXk7dMDJzwJlfbbiiRYjKfX1l-SJAc9W78o9dSnsbTvKHJyUUMtNIhfvMr4rIpJJgAK7dR5WJ-jnZYDvIO8&e=df56a1bda86047c1d395579da3e47cc2&utm_source=unitedchurchofchrist&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dd_oct5_18&n=3) to the large cathedral-sized congregation: "Greetings from Dubuque, Iowa."And they laughed, hundreds of chuckles and titters bouncing off the stone walls.   It caught me off guard. I went on to make a few jokes, which is what I do when I get nervous, and then we all laughed together.  I've lived in Iowa for three years but I'm still surprised when people react to my home like it's the punch line to a joke. At a hotel in Mexico, a Boston doctor I had been eating breakfast with all week suddenly confessed: "I'm sorry, but I just can't believe that you're from Iowa, and yet, you're *here*." She meant it as a compliment—my quiet island vacation measured up to her own good taste—but what did she think most people from Iowa did on vacation? I do not have a poker face.  "I can't believe I just did that to you," she apologized, catching herself.  "When I moved out East from Ohio, I felt like everyone looked down their nose at me. But I just did that to you!" We ended up speaking deeply about the places we call home, the stereotypes people attach to them, and the unexpected joys those people miss. There's no such thing as a "fly over" state, just places we have yet to land.   Jesus experienced all of that too. He was underestimated, pigeon-holed, even dismissed, all because he was from Nazareth.  So what exactly did people have against Nazareth? Today, I couldn't tell you.  I guess it's the people who make the place and not the other way around.   **Prayer** Dear God, thank you for special and sacred places, especially the ones we don't see coming. Amen.  **Don’t miss worldwide Communion Sunday, October 7 Worship service 10 am Mason, NH** |

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

* **Vote on November 6th**  We are so fortunate to live in a democracy, but only about 1/3 of residents typically vote. Participate! You can register anytime the Town Office is open. You need a picture ID, and proof of residency which is a recent bill with your name and address on it. Find more information at <http://sos.nh.gov/VoteNH.aspx> If your work schedule would not allow you to get to the polls in time, get an absentee ballot, and mail it in. <https://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/AbsenteeBallot.aspx> **Do this today! Your voice counts.**
* **October 13 at 3:15 meetup at Mason Church. Mission: Nashua Soup Kitchen**  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](mailto:chapman.kathy@gmail.com).
* **October 11, 2018 Community Supper Harvest Dinner with Roast Turkey Don’t miss this chance to build your “social capital” in your very own town. 5:30 to 7 pm**
* **CVTC Community Volunteer Transportation Company If you know someone in Mason who needs a ride,** to doctor appointments and more, **call (877) 428-2882**  Meanwhile if you would like to be a **volunteer driver**, **call 1-877-428-2882 ext 5** for information on mileage reimbursement, insurance, etc. You can be a driver once or twice a week, or once a month, you decide on what your schedule allows! Call for more info. For rides contact on line line:  <https://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/rideshare/index.htm>.
* **Living Room Coffee House October 20, from 6:30 to 9ish On stage, Cooper & Kenneally** pump out an assortment of early rock and roll covers and ‘The Good’ country (Jimmie Rodgers/Willie Nelson) that we know and love, all stamped with their unique brand.  Their original folk-pop, a totally different beast, can range from poignant to humorous to rockin’.  The vocal harmonies, blend of guitar/ukulele and tune selection are a lot of fun to listen to.  Wonderfully talented musicians who understand what entertaining a crowd is all about. **Our Coffee House has coffee, some good food, and talented open mic performers.**
* **Conversations with Women on October 26th from 2 to 4 pm.**  We are sharing the book *Active Hope* by Joann Macy and Chris Johnstone. Request it on Library Loan, or purchase a copy at Toadstool. If you want to know who Joanna Macy is go to: https://onbeing.org/programs/joanna-macy-a-wild-love-for-the-world/ This is the site for the podcast, or transcript. You won’t be disappointed! Contact [miscott39@gmail.com](mailto:miscott39@gmail.com) or 603-878-1680 for info.
* **Church Cleanup November 3rd. All hands and rakes needed… Rain date is Nov 10th.**  Starts a 9 am and usually ends at about 12. Come for all or part of the time, every little bit helps. Contact Bettie Goen for more information 878-2374
* **Bystander CPR** In the spring we had two classes for Bystander CPR, and the participants also received the critical instructions on how to 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 contact Kathy Chapman, [chapman.kathy@gmail.com](mailto:chapman.kathy@gmail.com) **We have our AED for Mason Church, and we all should know how**

**to use this simple, lifesaving device! NEW “Bystander First Aid”** Our instructor for the Bystander CPR has agreed to teach a “more than bandaids” first aid class. What can you do to stop bleeding? Stabilize a person until the ambulance gets there, and more. If you have an interest in this class, contact Kathy Chapman [Chapman.kathy@gmail.com](mailto:Chapman.kathy@gmail.com) for more information.

**Lending Library Books and Music, a Blessing.** 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](mailto: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?**

* **Wally and Gretchen Brown**  Since her broken hip last spring, and her rehab, Gretchen has lots of challenges. Call Wally (878-1481) if you want an update on how she’s doing, or better yet, stop by and see Gretchen. This is a time when she needs her friends more than ever!
* **Karin Eisenhaure** Karin has had some major repairs on her knee and is now at home. She’s not able to drive yet, and we all know what that means in Mason! So stop off for a quick or long visit, depending on Karin’s needs and your schedule! She might need some meals but ask first since she got a bit overwhelmed with food when she first came home! Thank you to everyone. She is used to being around people, helping Curt, and doing for herself, and appreciates your offers of help! Phone 878-2675 or cell 732-2191. Give her plenty of time to answer, just call back after 7 or more rings, and also when stopping by—give plenty of time for her to get to the door, or listen for her to tell you to come in.
* **Curt Dunn** Curt is going to a facility in Bedford on October 9th, as our winters make it challenging for people to do homecare! More info coming on how to contact him, and where to visit. Call Rev. Veronica for info at 878-1684
* **Laila Washburn** Laila lives at Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. She loves company, and cards. At 99, everyday is treasured. . Laila Washburn, Summer Hill, 183 Old Dublin Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458. Call ahead if you have questions. 924-6238
* **Do you have new neighbors?** We have baskets we can put together with some special items made in Mason, and some info on Town activities and church info. Let me know: Michelle 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com
* If you have news, questions, or corrections to the newsletter, please contact Michelle 878-1680 or [miscott39@gmail.com](mailto:miscott39@gmail.com)