

God is still sleeping Kaji Douša from UCC Daily Devotionals.

Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. - Matthew 8:24-26

The idea of Jesus sleeping seems...bizarre. It is hard to imagine God asleep. With eyes closed. Did Jesus snore? Did he kick in his sleep? Did he zoom about in holy somnambulance? If so, did that make the disciples nervous?

Even asking the questions of what Jesus asleep might look like feels...irreverent. For me, imagining the contours of Jesus' humanity makes him feel more human than my faith has prepared me to consider.

But the Gospel tells us that Jesus slept.

The story of Creation tells us that on the seventh day, God rested and Shabbat, or sabbath, was introduced. The Decalogue made it a commandment: Remember the sabbath and keep it holy.

So if rest is so holy and if God has rested since the dawn of Creation, then why do I have such a hard time letting Jesus sleep?

Could it be because there's always a storm raging somewhere? Could it be that I worry that God will sleep through my own storms and ignore my pleas for help? Might it be all well and good that God rests, but what about when the "waves sweep over" my boat and I fear it will pitch over and take me under? God can rest except when I need my rescue, I feel.

Jesus' words to the anxious disciples in their own "furious storm" are instructively salvific. Rest matters so much that even God does it. But faith means knowing that when we need to be saved:

God will calm the lake. Prayer

Maybe we think, O God, that you are sleeping away our salvation. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us better. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Of Note: The United Church of Christ, Peace and Justice Action Network is asking for prayers and action regarding members of the Maranatha Indonesian UCC in Madbury, and its Pastor, the Rev. Sandra Pontoh. Some 18 members of the Maranatha congregation are scheduled for deportation to Indonesia, leaving behind homes, jobs, and a network of family and friends they have made for themselves since first settling here in the late 80s.

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In light of recent ICE actions in NH, AFSC-NH and the Granite State Organizing Project urge all NH faith Communities to discern how we can make an offering of our many capacities to stand in true solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters. Contact Senators Shaheen and Hassan, Representatives Carol Shea-Porter, and Todd Thurlow, Assistant Field Director of I.C.E., in New England, to express your concern and support for immigrants being allowed to stay. Remember, we are all immigrants, and give thanks for your ancestors.

The next Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Immigrant Justice is Tuesday, September 5 at 8:30 am at the Norris Cotton Federal Bldg. 275 Chestnut St, Manchester, NH All are encouraged to be there.

Upcoming Events

- **Community Supper-- NOT this month! Come on October 12 5:30 to 7:00.**
This month we come to Old Home Days for our community gathering this month.
- **Soup Kitchen mission trip cancelled for September, plan on being there in October.**
- **September 9th 9am to 3pm Church Yard Sale and our Mason "Old Home Days"** Clean that closet or corner of the garage, and save items for the Church Yard Sale. Here's a chance to share your stuff, and enjoy that feeling! Please no baby furniture, take books to the library sale that day, no tech items like phones, computers, etc. Call Bettie Goen 878-2374 or Pauline Bergeron 878-2304 for information or pickup help.
- **Old Home Day Food** There will be Lobster Rolls and Chicken Rolls, and to make sure there are plenty, please reserve yours by calling Karin Eisenhaure at 878-2576
- **September 9th Music at Old Home Day Here's the schedule!**
12:00 Mike Ordway, **playing everybody's favorites**
1:00 Jess and Dean, **local acoustic Duo performing upbeat contemporary hits**
2:00 Decatur Creek, **acoustic trio with great harmonies and musical talent**
3:00 The Town Hollerers, **Rock'n Roll from the 60's and 70's**
- **September 15 at 2pm to 4pm Conversations with Women gathering at Mason Church.** We will gather to catch up by having a sophisticated show and tell time, and make plans for the fall. Maybe an outing to Bedrock Gardens here in NH, or other ideas may surface. All are welcome, any age, any woman!
- **Living Room Coffee House September 16.** Music begins at 7, but doors open at 6:30pm for getting signed up for the Open Mic, or relaxing with coffee or other beverage, and a treat. Decatur Creek We have enjoyed listening to this trio grow. They performed in Mason at the Summer Music on the Green. They Wowed Folks that night. It can be said that Steve Jack and Doug's Friendship is reflected in their performances. The sum of all the parts light up and energize the tapestry of music they perform for the audience. They are quite comfortable sharing the stage together and their friendship and camaraderie spill out onto the audience with wit and warmth. Everyone will enjoy this performance.
- **Reaching out** The Deacons and Reverend Veronica have reached out to a Muslim community in Fitchburg. If you would like to visit them on their Saturday evening "Coffee and Friendship"

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 event, let Pastor Veronica know, and we will arrange to go. We will be looking for a time to invite them to Mason again soon.

- **Lending Library Books and Music** 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 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
- ♥ **Note from the Treasurer** Thru August, pledges and contributions are down 7% from expected. But that is ok. Summer vacationers will soon return, and expenses are also slightly down. If you aren't sure where you stand with your pledge contact me.
- ♥ Also, a reminder. Donations received in the pew envelopes marked Diaconate Fund are set aside for helping people in emergencies. If you want your donation to go to other causes, mark your gift as such. For pledges or contributions to the general fund, please don't use the Diaconate Fund envelopes. The church has specially made envelopes for regular giving, see me if you can't find them. Also, all contributors will receive a year end statement for tax purposes. If you don't itemize and don't want a statement, let me know, so we can save postage.
 Darrell Scott, (scottdarrell39@gmail.com) 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? Listen, share and pray.

- ♥ **Louise Lavoie**, our community supper helper, our Mason selectwoman, and our friend, recently lost her mother. Louise comes from a large family, her mother had 12 children. Louise has much support in her grief, but prayers, cards and thoughts are always kind. You can send a card to her at 35 Brookline Road, Mason, NH 03048.
- ♥ **Gretchen and Wally Brown** If you have time, stop by to visit—it can make her day!. She is still on a gluten free dairy free diet, so bring fruit or something gluten free. It is hard for Gretchen to get out, and often Wally can use someone to help with keeping her company when he has a bus trip, or meeting in the evenings. Call if you can help. Wally's number is 320-9450
- ♥ **Laila Washburn** See Pastor Veronica, or Jean Randle to get an update.
- ♥ **Edie Fallon** Please continue to keep her in your prayers. She is out in New Mexico awaiting the arrival of a grandchild, and this probably makes her miss Tom even more
- ♥ **Deirdre Rohter** Keep her in your prayers as her daughter Amy is quite ill with cancer.

If you have any messages to share, news, or events for newsletter, please email miscott39@gmail.com