**A**

**nd Covid continues…**

We are all a little, or a lot, tired of the restrictions, the masks, the “virtual” life we are leading just now. And I am late with the newsletter, as I feel quite disconnected from our usual community. Putting together the newsletter-of-little-news leaves me uninspired. I switched the Community Caring to before the Upcoming Events, since it seems it should come first. The change in weather is not as welcome as I usually find it, as it will decrease my interactions when it will be too cold for visiting outside, or outdoor church services.

Here are some of the things I am grateful for today: the tree frog living on our deck who sits on the bottom of the planter sunning herself/himself as we dine, the gathering of little songbirds who seem to be discussing their southern travel plans, Stefani Stroms’ new baby who will arrive in November into our church community, the blessing of excellent weather for outdoor church services, the bounty of gardens/generosity of the gardeners, and for the technology magic which connects families.

Inspire us all by sharing your story, here in our Mason Church Newsletter (email: [miscott39@gmail.com](mailto:miscott39@gmail.com)) or on our Mason Congregational Church Facebook Page, or with us at worship service on Sunday. We are all in need of stories of caring, kindness, and wonder.

### [Galatians 6:9-10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+6%3A9-10&version=ESV)

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone…*

### [1 Thessalonians 5:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thessalonians+5%3A11&version=ESV)

*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

 **Remember our church family in your prayers. Attached to this email is a list of members and friends at our church. Make a plan to keep in touch by a quick call, or email. Talk about things that will be uplifting, there’s no point in re-hashing the many news bulletins! Some topics might be crafts, closet and file cleanings, yard/plants plans, favorite stories from their past history, ask about anything they might need if they are over 60 and are staying out of any stores. If you suffer from “I don’t know what to say” go to** <https://storycorps.org/participate/great-questions/> **to find a list of some wonderful questions. In fact you may want to interview someone in your house that you think you know! Find out more today. Reach out to neighbors by phone, or even have a chat, outside and 6-10 feet apart!**

* **Our Halbrooks family** are now at 279 Mountain Road, Jaffrey, NH 03452. Meanwhile you can send a message telling them we are keeping their pew reserved. Call or email: Jacob c: 321-2397 Beth c: 321-2527 [Jhalbroo@gmail.com](mailto:Jhalbroo@gmail.com) [mehalbrooks@gmail.com](mailto:mehalbrooks@gmail.com)
* **Susan and Jim Suokko**  Susan and Jim are in the area, and plan to stay until at least December. We have seen them in our outdoor services, and it is always a blessing. Their address is: 50 Brooks Pond Rd, Apt 104, Leominster, MA 01453. Their Florida address is Florida: 8814 28th Ave. Palmetto, FL 34221. [Usercat2@comcast.net](mailto:Usercat2@comcast.net) for email or call 941-920-0270
* **Laila Washburn** Get out those cards, and send one to Laila. When are memories are not at their best, Covid really does not make any sense at all. So anything that seems normal, like getting a greeting card, is a blessing. Laila lives at Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. Laila Washburn, Summer Hill, 183 Old Dublin Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458. If you need to call: 603-924-6238
* **Gretchen and Wally Brown** Occasionally, and not often enough, I stop by Gretchen and Wally’s to drop off something, and quite often Gretchen is dozing in her chair. But last week, she was smiling and waving to me! It lifted my heart to see the real Gretchen enthusiasm. To come by and wave, bring the “fruits” of summer, or just your smile—outside without a mask! Cards to: 421 Meetinghouse Hill Rd, Mason, NH 03048 phone: 878-1481

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Pastoral help: You can leave a message at the church for Reverend Veronica, 878-1684, [Revpalvwd50@aol.com](mailto:Revpalvwd50@aol.com) or reach her at home, 213-6368 or reach out to a Deacon, listed below.

Share a story, or a creative way you are passing this time in our lives, and we can share these via the Mason Congregation Facebook page, or perhaps the newsletter, all with your permission. Please let a Deacon know if you know someone who needs a prayer shawl, or a new baby who needs a Welcome Baby Hedgehog. See list below.

**Deacons:** Ann Moser 878-3826 [amoser@earthlink.net](mailto:amoser@earthlink.net) Nancy Richards 878-2190 [windywych@aol.com](mailto:windywych@aol.com) Kathy Chapman 878-4993 [Chapman.kathy@gmail.com](mailto:Chapman.kathy@gmail.com) Michelle Scott 878-1680 miscott39@gmail.com

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**Upcoming Events**

* **Church Services with Covid considerations:** The services are outside, so bad weather cancels. Please bring your own chair or if you can’t, or you forget, we will find you a chair! Everyone wears a mask. Music and choir are performing without a mask, but at a 6 foot distance from each other, and more than that from worshipers. Bulletins and hymnals are distributed by a masked and freshly hand sanitized person. No coffee hour. Church is open for restroom use as needed. There is no child care at this time.
* **Tips on Mask Wearing Wear it** whenever you are within 6-8 feet of anyone, and always when inside.
* Wear it! Always when around other people—to protect them and yourself
* Don’t touch the outside of the mask which is designed to pick up the virus. The outside is the

contaminated part!

* Don’t wear it below your nose which is where virus particles will come from!
* Buy extra masks to keep in your car, your pocket, or to give to someone, but do not re-wear the mask until it has baked in the sun, or left alone for 5-7 days, or washed
* Sanitize your hands after removing your mask.
* **Stewardship** In our Christian faith stewardship means caring for our entire environment, people, animals, insects, trees, air, water, and so on. What about an energy audit for your home? First, it can save you money, and, it will reduce the impact of your carbon footprint. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/home-energy-audits-making-homes-more-energy-efficient-and-comfortable> If you have a little more time during this Covid time, take a look at [www.NHSaves.org](http://www.NHSaves.org) it’s a great place to start. Check it out.
* **Register to Vote, and get an absentee ballot so nothing can keep you from this right and responsibility to support our Democracy.** Information: [www.voteinnh.org](http://www.voteinnh.org) or [www.sos.nh.gov](http://www.sos.nh.gov) Want information about candidates? [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org) for nonpartisan info
* **Church Treasurer** Darrell says thank you to all who continue to mail in pledges. He notes that although we are not meeting, the expenses and work of the church continue. Mail your pledge or donation to Darrell Scott, Treasurer, Mason Congregational Church, 33 Valley Road, Mason, NH 03048
* **Community Supper –** The A-Team of Community Supper workers are all well and ready to go when it’s possible. Still waiting, and at the ready! We have a parking lot lunch meeting at Church on September 17.
* **Prayer Shawl Ministry** Do you know someone who is in need of a prayer shawl? It can be the “hug” that helps. Contact a Deacon to get one delivered with a special prayer and in a gift bag. New baby, loss of any kind, or just loneliness? Let us know, anyone in our world community is eligible to receive a shawl, nearby or far away.
* **Welcome New Baby Ministry** Nancy Richards has been knitting hedgehogs for a long time. I know this because I got my first one at a Mason Church bazaar sale in 1997. About 5 years ago at a Deacon meeting, we were looking for a special way to welcome new babies in Mason, and we unanimously voted to honor them with a special hedgehog. They come with a personalized poem, and often a baby sweater, or blanket from the Prayer Shawl Ministry. (Our most prolific knitter of prayer shawls and sweaters is Susan Suokko.)
* **Greenville Food Pantry**  The food pantry reports that they are in good shape with some extra donations from NH State, but this is running out. So meanwhile, think of writing a check to Greenville Food Pantry, St Vincent DePaul instead of just enjoying a meal, offer a meal! Here is their website: <https://www.foodpantries.org> and the phone number to **get food or give food** is 878-0518. They are open once a week, and by appointment. The address is Sacred Heart Church, Greenville Food Pantry, 15 High Street, Greenville, NH 03048. You can also give money directly to the New Hampshire Food Bank which distributes food all over NH to the many food pantries wherever they are. [www.nhfoodbank.org](http://www.nhfoodbank.org) to donate directly.
* **Nashua Soup Kitchen** Since all our volunteers are over 65, we have put this mission on hold. Understanding that the Soup Kitchen is needed as much and perhaps more than ever **consider a contribution to: Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Inc PO Box 3226, Nashua, NH 03061-3116 or donate at their website** <https://nsks.org/> Remember that their upcoming fundraisers are cancelled! Help where you can
* **Living Room Coffee House** Since no gatherings are taking place, listen to great music on your electronic device, or maybe like us, you also have old things like tapes and CDs, or **even** records that you can pull out and rattle the windows with your favorites. Dancing is great exercise!

**“Watching a Documentary on Polar Bears**

**Trying to Survive on Melting Ice Flows”**

By Mary Oliver

*That God had a plan, I do not doubt.*

*But what if his Plan was, that we could do better.*

Vincent VanGogh *But I always think that the best way to know God, is to love many things.*

**CVTC, the Community Volunteer Transportation** **Company** is still operating, since their services are especially needed at this time. They are a free service, and will take people to medical appointments. They also take people to the grocery store, pharmacy for prescriptions, and to bank and post office. **During this time they are still taking people to appointments and vital services, all done with protective gear and lots of disinfectant, and sanitizers!**



Please spread the word about CVTC. It’s free to riders, and the drivers can be reimbursed for gas! A win-win all around. **Sign up to be a driver, as some drivers can’t drive due to their own health issues.** 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!