

Mason Congregational Church September 2018

Please visit: www.masoncongregationalchurch.org or call us 878-1684

Mercy

by Mary Luti

"Jesus showed himself again to his disciples by the sea [where they had gone fishing]. When they came ashore, they saw a charcoal fire, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.'" - John 21:1,9,12

Maybe you followed the recent story of twelve boys and a coach trapped in a cave. First it was a story about whether they'd be found. Then about whether they'd make it out. Then, thankfully, about heroic rescue, triumphant success.

But for me, it was first a story about tempting fate. About a failure of responsibility. Why did they go in there with monsoons looming? How could the coach have allowed it, much less led them in? If they died in that lightless underworld, Ekapol Chanthawong would be to blame.

One of the waiting mothers saw it differently: "If he didn't go with them, what would have happened to my child? My dear Ek, I could never blame you." Then she added, "When he comes out, we have to heal his heart." When someone emerges from a cave (any cave—we trap ourselves in so many), awash in guilt, expecting reprisal, knowing they deserve reproach, you could pile on, rub their noses in their recklessness, strap shame to their back, make them carry it forever.

Especially if they were careless with you, betrayed you or left you to suffer alone, you could tell them they don't deserve you, that you don't love them now. Or you could build a fire while they're still lost and ashamed. You could lay on fish and bread. And when they approach, aiming to kneel, wanting to own the damage and pain, you could tell them to wait until you feed them. You could say, "Come and have breakfast."

You could make someone pay. Or you could heal their heart. And your own.

Prayer Heal my heart, good Jesus. It defaults to blame. Make it all mercy. Like your own.

Upcoming Events

- **Community Supper October 11th 5:30 to 7** September 13, 2018 was a great supper. Don't miss this monthly chance to build your "social capital" in your very own town. 5:30 to 7 pm
- **October 28 (Sunday, 5:30 pm) "The Conversation: End-of-Life Concerns"**
Beginning with a bread-and-soup supper, join in a discussion and information-gathering session for grownups of all ages. "The Conversation" refers to what we all hesitate to bring up to our loved ones—our own death, or, even harder, their end-of-life concerns. We will discuss all the delicate issues about the differences between palliative care and hospice care, about how to choose someone to make healthcare decisions when you are not able to, either temporarily or indefinitely, and about not denying that life does come to an end! Going beyond the issues covered by a living

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will, we'll use the booklet "Five Wishes," which can guide you and/or a loved one through the decisions that you will need to make somewhere along the line. You check off the criteria for each wish, then sign, have a witness sign it, and give copies to your family members, doctor, lawyer, best friends, etc. There will be a follow-up meeting on November 2 at 5:30 for a potluck, followed by continued discussion and sharing of stories that may be helpful to others, beginning about 6:30. Contact Michelle at miscott39@gmail.com or txt 603 801-9140, if you are interested or want more information.

- Remember, as the old saying goes, **Life: no one ever gets out of it alive....**
- **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, and more. 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: <https://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/rideshare/index.htm>.
- **Conversations with Women on September 21 from 2 to 4 pm.** Resuming this fall, we will begin by 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 or 603-878-1680 for info.
- **NEW! AED now at Mason Church** An **automated external defibrillator (AED)** is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia, and is able to treat them through defibrillation, the application of electricity which stops the arrhythmia. The device can be used by nearly anyone who can read the instructions which are VERY simple. Come, learn how to use it, you may save a life. These devices are in many public places now, and it would be a great blessing if we all can operate it with confidence.
- **Bystander CPR** In April we had 11 people sign up for Bystander CPR, and they 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
- **Sept 28 at 6:30 pm NEW "Bystander First Aid"** Our instructor for the Bystander CPR has agreed to teach a **"more than bandaids"** first aid class if there is interest. 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 by Sept 20th if you are interested in this class, or one in the future

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Living Room Coffee House September 15 was our latest one. **New Coffee House host, Gloria was off to a great start! Don't miss the next one on October 20th 6:30 to 9 or so**

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 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?

- ♥ **Jean Randle** fell on July 7 while visiting with Don in Canada. She had surgery on her hip, and is now convalescing with her daughter Ellen Randle 192 Millbrook Drive, East Long Meadow, MA 01028 Phone is 413-525-9885 She is expecting to be home sometime in September. Give her a call, she's missing us, and Ellen is taking great care of her. Nothing like being in your own home, as we all know!
- ♥ **Curt Dunn** is back in his house on Hurricane Hill and as you all know, he loves company! Call him at his home phone 878-2392 and/or visit 120 Hurricane Hill Rd. Mason, NH 03048
- ♥ **Karin Eisenhaure** has been having a lot of pain which began to really impact her activities, including care for Curt. So she has had a major knee rebuilding by the experts up in Lebanon, NH and is now in re-hab at the Elliot Hospital. Call her at 650-7044. She asks that you NOT use her cell phone right now. Karin Eisenhaure, Room 752 Elliot Hospital, One Elliot Way, Manchester, NH 03103
- ♥ **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! Bring soup, or a casserole, or a nice salad!
- ♥ **Jen Schongar** Our neighbor and friend, was diagnosed in April with ovarian cancer. Very sadly, she died on August 18, 2018. You can send cards to **923 Wilton Rd, Mason.** Bill, 15 year old Daniel, and 10 year old Thomas would appreciate your thoughts and support, now, and in the times to come. Keep them in prayer, and reach out to them.
- ♥ **David Ahern died unexpectedly on April 16, 2018.** It's not too late to send a card of encouragement, or stop by if you know Peggy. He is remembered as a long time active member of our community. He was always so very

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Please visit: www.masoncongregationalchurch.org or call us 878-1684 helpful to his wife Peggy who suffered a stroke some years ago. Please send condolences to: Margaret Ahern (Peg/Peggy) at 61 Townsend Rd, Mason, NH. If you missed this announcement earlier, it is not too late to send "thinking of you" kinds of cards.

- ♥ **Laila Washburn Did you see our own Laila at the 250th celebration?** 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



♥
Laila Washburn, at 99 years young, dressed for the 250th celebration in Mason