



First Congregational Church of Wilmot, UCC

An Open and Affirming, Racial Justice Church

September 2, 2022 Newsletter

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Reflection from Rev. Sara

Dear Friends,

Sometimes we get the impression that the Bible is a static document, a grouping of books put in place over a thousand years ago, existing without change throughout the ages. It can be really exciting to hear that that's not the case, that there continues to be new biblical research and discoveries that change the way we understand, not only scripture, but also the communities that formed biblical texts.

Last week I came across **a video by Diana Butler Bass who's book 'Freeing Jesus'** we read last winter. Using new research she tells the story of the disciple, and tower of the church, Mary Magdalene. By seeing the places ancient editors changed biblical stories researchers have uncovered new understandings of her leadership in early Christianity. In the following video Butler Bass discusses what has been lost, and how much there is to gain by a reexamination of those texts.

Here's the video

I hope you enjoy it as much as I did, and I look forward to discussing it with you all!

In God's love,

Rev. Sara

Sunday, September 4, 2022

Sunday Worship with Communion

9:30 am

Rev. Sara Marean Preaching

Worship - In Person or On-line

Meeting ID: 882 4316 9266
One tap mobile
+19292056099,,88243169266# US (New York)

Download Bulletin here

Assisting with Worship Kin Group III, Michiko Yamaguchi, Deacon

This Week's Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 4

9:30 am - Worship and Communion
in Person and Zoom

Tuesday, September 6

9:30 - Church Council

4:00 - Deacons

5:30 pm - Religious Education

Thursday, September 8

6:00 pm - AA Beginners Step

Saturday, September 3

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Sunday, September 11 Rally Day

10:00 am - Worship
in Person and Zoom

Rev. Sara Marean Preaching

Sunday School will kick-off with Rally Day

**After Church- Cook Out at Lucy Mueller's
House!**



Rally Day Cookout After Worship

**After church please join us at the home of
Lucy Mueller for a cookout!**

Deacons will provide hamburgers/ veggie
burgers, and hot dogs. You're invited to bring a
side to share.

Bring your bathing suits and join us on the
shores of Lake Sunapee!

Lucy's address is 10 Birch Point Rd, Sunapee.



New Course About our Faith and Denomination!

This year we will be offering a course we're loosely calling 'Confirmation Class for Adults!'

Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month we will explore individually and through group sessions some of the major themes and ideas in our religion and denomination. Sessions will focus on: God in Three Persons, The Bible, Christian History, UCC History, Polity, Theology, Worship, The Church in the World, and Other Faith Traditions.

If you are interested in participating please contact [Rev. Sara](#) and let her know if morning, afternoon or evening work best for you.

Flower Arranging Workshop



Are you looking at your gardens and wanting to bring some of those glorious blooms inside?

Claire and I think it would be fun to get together for a flower arranging workshop on Wednesday, September 14th at 9:30am at the church to get creative.

Simply bring a container and some cuttings from your garden- we will bring some greens and blooms from our own gardens as well as some oasis and ideas to share.

If you're interested in attending please let me know by texting me at **978-857-7747** or email me at bethanybalford@comcast.net. You can also call the house at **603-526-2346**.

Let's get creative and have fun together.

Claire Moseley and Beth Balford

Yard Sale Follow-up

Last Saturday's Yard Sale was another successful event. We made about \$3260 plus whatever has been received this week. I lost count of the number of people involved in ways large and small but roughly 30 folks were engaged one way or another.

There are lots of free left-overs in the horse sheds looking for forever homes that will be disposed of after Sunday, so help yourself !

Our gratitude to all who played a part!

Jane Norman and the Growth and Outreach Committee



Reflections and Updates from Our Head of Deacons *

The Deacon's committee is made up of six church members and Rev. Sara. Currently, we have a vacant spot. Paul Wentworth is the chair, Bethany Balford represents the Deacons on Church Council, Marie MacDonald is the deacon rep to Justice and Witness, Lucy Mueller is our minute taker and is the deacon rep to Growth and Outreach and organizes flowers, and Michiko Yamaguchi will serve on the Budget Committee. Each Deacon is assigned 2 months where, with their KIN Group, they are responsible for: altar flowers, setting up communion, setting up coffee hour and arranging food and drinks, finding ushers, readers, collectors, candle lighters, and a bell ringer. We are a point of contact for our KIN groups, which includes receiving member concerns, e-mails, phone calls, making visits, and arranging meals for sick, recovering and shut ins.

*The new church By-Laws were voted into place at the annual meeting in January. This is our Seventh reflection and update from our newly formed committees.



...And Justice for All

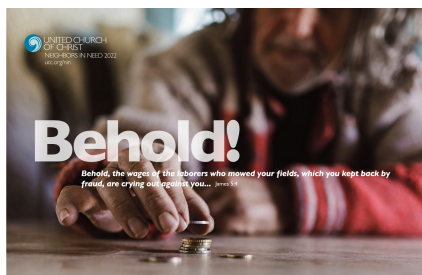
Sacred Ally Quilt Program

They're coming!!

After many weeks of discussion, arrangements have finally been made for our church to exhibit 10 extraordinary quilts created by NH churches following the death of George Floyd. Based on Floyd's final words, these magnificent quilts have been displayed at several locations within NH and even in NYC, where they were displayed at the Positive Exposure 109 Gallery and Riverside Church. These quilts reflect eight stages of George Floyd's final moments, from discomfort and pain to death. The last two quilts in the exhibit are titled "Beginning" and "Ending." One pastor in NH has said that these quilts promote knowledge that "...art has a place in bringing us common ground in the area of racial justice."

Our church will display the quilts during the final week in October. Stay tuned for lots more information about the quilts and about how you can assist with the exhibit.

Neighbors in Need



The Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through our national **Justice and Local Church Ministries office**, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues.

Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Our Neighbors in Need offering will be in several weeks, but feel free to donate before then if that works better for you. Please write "NIN" on your check made out to The First Congregational Church of Wilmot. You can also make a [donation on-line](#).

Rev. Sara's Office Hours

Church Office Hours

September 8 and available via email or phone at other times.

the church office on Fridays, 9 - 11 am

Links to UCC, NHCUCC and Wilmot UCC Resources

[Online Giving](#)



[Document Library for Members and Friends](#)

[Pictorial Directory](#)

[Log into Password Protected Document Library](#)



[UCC | NEWS](#)

[The Pollinator:
UCC Environmental
Justice Blog](#)

[Join the Movement
UCC - Stories about Reality](#)

Church emails: revsara@wilmotucc.org; office@wilmotucc.org; news@wilmotucc.org; trustees@wilmotucc.org; treasurer@wilmotucc.org; collector@wilmotucc.org

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