



## First Congregational Church of Wilmot, UCC

An Open and Affirming, Racial Justice Church

### November 11, 2022 Newsletter

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## Reflection from Rev. Sara

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the many things that weigh on our hearts and minds these days, it feels appropriate that we turn our attention, and our hearts, to prayer. The following Daily Devotional from the UCC lifted my spirit and reminded me that prayer is more of a conversation, a way of relating intimately and without walls or barriers, with God.

*God is renowned in Judah; in Israel his name is great. His tent is in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion. There he broke the flashing arrows, the shields and the swords, the weapons of war.* - Psalm 76:1-3 (NIV)

When I pray, I sometimes feel like a newscaster listing off serious events going on in the world. "God, there is catastrophic climate change all around," I might call out to the Divine. When I catch myself doing this, it always breaks me out of my prayerful mode.

A voice in my head snidely points out that God is, in fact, already aware of what is going on in the world. There is not a sparrow that falls to the earth but that God knows about it. So why am I playing the role of an evening news anchor informing the Almighty of the day's goings on? This bothers me about my prayer life; it makes me feel somehow frivolous.

But then I saw this passage from the Book of Psalms. And here in the prayer book *par excellence*, we see the psalmist informing God about all sorts of things that God already knows. God's renown in Judah? Yeah, God is already aware of that.

Maybe I need to cut myself some slack in regard to my prayer life. Maybe I need to let the prayers flow from my spirit in whatever form they take, not worrying about gussying them up before bringing them to the Almighty's attention.

If you're like me, and you beat yourself up over your prayer life, take a lesson from the Book of Psalms. Just pray. Because even if your prayer life isn't perfect, God is already aware of that.

**Prayer**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Edgerton is Lead Pastor at First United Church of Oak Park, Illinois.

# Sunday, November 13, 2022

## Sunday Worship

10:00 am

**Worship - In Person or On-line**

**Rev. Sara Marean, Preaching**

**Isa Rex, Visiting Musician**

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88243169266>  
Meeting ID: 882 4316 9266  
One tap mobile  
+19292056099,,88243169266# US

**Download Order of Worship**

Assisting with Worship Kin Group V, Marie MacDonald, Deacon

## Sunday School Gratitude Walk



### Sunday School Gratitude Hike

Sunday, November 13 at 10 am

Research shows that a gratitude walk increases happiness, calms us and re-centers us on good things in our lives, helps us break free of negative thoughts and emotions and opens us to inspiration.

We will take a fall hike on the trails by the Spring Ledge strawberry field, stopping along the way to name the people and things in our lives that we're thankful for!

Sunday, November 13

10:00 am - Worship in Person and Zoom

10:00 am - Sunday School Gratitude Walk

**Tuesday, Nov. 15**

11:00 am - Pastor Parish Relations Committee

5:30 pm - Religious Education Committee

Thursday, November 17

12:30 pm - Kearsarge Area Senior Luncheon

6:30 pm - AA Beginners Step

**Saturday, November 19**

7:30 pm - AA Meeting

**Sunday, November 20  
Stewardship Sunday**

10:00 am - Worship in Person and Zoom

10:00 Sunday School

## Stewardship Pledge and Time and Talent!

It's that time of year when we start thinking about how we want to steward our resources and support our church! You should have received a letter in the mail asking you to prayerfully consider your contribution this year. If not, you can click on the tab below to read it. You will also see a pledge form. This can be downloaded here or paper copies are available at church.

Time and Talent sheets, the form that helps our Nominating and other committees know how you would like to be involved with our church community, are available in church and in another tab below. (You can download them here or fill them out online)

**Sunday, Nov. 20 is Stewardship Sunday** when your pledge form will be collected during worship. If you can't make it to church that Sunday, feel free to mail your pledge or bring it in any time! We thank you for all the many ways you continue to make FCCW the very special place it is!

[Stewardship Letter](#)[Time and Talent Form](#)[Pledge Form](#)

*[If you wish to fill out your Time and Talent form electronically, click here](#)*



### ...And Justice for All

## Supporting the NH Council of Churches

This week the Justice and Witness Committee voted to donate funds to the NH Council of Churches which is made up of nearly 400 congregations affiliated with 9 diverse denominations: American Baptist, Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Greek Orthodox, Religious Society of Friends, Presbyterian (USA), Unitarian Universalist, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church. The NH Council of Churches has policy statements regard such important issues as the death penalty, expanded gambling, immigration, the state budget,

You can read more about this organization by visiting their [website](#).

## Conversations We should Be Having



### **The Conversations We Should Be Having**

**November 16th at 7 PM at North Church, Portsmouth (UCC)**

**Co-Sponsored by the NH and Maine Councils of Churches**

Her: *Tanisha Johnson, Co-Founder of Seacoast Black Lives Matter, Empowered Activist, and Community Leader*

Him: *Chief Elliot Moya, Elliot Police Department, Unassuming Leader, and Proponent of Community Policing*

Together, they are engaging hard truths, staying in the room, and forging deeper connection while talking honestly about race and justice.

- What lessons do they have for communities of faith, and congregations?
- What does "unity" really mean?
- How does coming from a place of empathy change the conversation?
- What does Love require of those of us trying to do this work in our own faith communities?

This event will be hybrid! Live stream will happen on North Church's Facebook page.

No pre-registration required. We hope to see you there.

## New England Environmental Justice Youth+ Summit

**November 17, 2022 7-9 pm**

**November 19, 2022 9 am - Noon**

Topics include:

- "Use What You've Got - in the Fight for Community and the Cosmos"
- "Confronting Fossil Fuel Company's lies and destruction from the Front Line"
- "Uprooting Racism, Seeding Sovereignty"
- "Mni Waconi: Cries for Justice at Standing Rock"
- "Indigenous Sovereignty"
- "Rights of Nature Movement"
- "Nature as Property and Nature of Proper"
- Toppenish Farms, WA - Sustainability and Regenerative Agriculture"
- Climate Justive Fellowship"

[For more information click here](#)    [To register now Click here](#)

## Calendars for Prisoners

The first box of 90 calendars has been mailed to the inmates at the Phoenix Facility outside of Philadelphia.

Do you have 2023 Calendars you aren't using? Bring them to the church and place in the collection boxes at the rear of the sanctuary or downstairs by Fellowship Hall. **(Calendars cannot have a spiral binding or pictures of children or weapons.)**

Inmates are extremely grateful to have a calendar of their choosing on which to mark the passing of their days during the coming year. Calendars and pocket calendars (very popular!)

## Religious Education

### Next Session on the Adult Course About our Faith and Denomination!

# Faith and Denomination

Our next "Confirmation Class for Adults" session will take place at church on

**Tuesday, November 22 at 6 p.m.**



You are welcome to come even if you were not able to attend the first session.

Throughout the year, these sessions will explore 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 have any questions, please contact Rev. Sara at [revsara@wilmotucc.org](mailto:revsara@wilmotucc.org)

To see a reading list for the course **[click here!](#)**

## From the NHUCC Conference

### A Note from Our Conference Minister

Two weeks ago, the Westmoreland United Church of Christ put up a beautiful rainbow sign in front of their church. Tuesday night it was vandalized. Someone spraypainted on the plexiglass cover of the sign a Confederate flag and the number 1488 which is a white supremacist code. There is nothing about the incident which ties it with any particular group. As a matter of fact, it may have been a more random act by someone leaving the election polling location right down the road Tuesday night.

to do when experiencing such an incident.) They are working with the original sign maker to fix the damage.

It goes without saying that this incident is disturbing to the folk at Westmoreland UCC. I would ask that you hold their community in your prayers.

Peace,

Rev. Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister

## Retirement Celebration for the Rev. Richard Slater

**The New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ invites your presence at the retirement celebration for Associate Conference Minister, the Rev. Richard Slater, as we bless him as he moves into retirement.**

Date: Saturday, November 19th  
Time: 2:00 PM

Place: South Congregational Church in Concord

Safety Protocols – We ask that everyone mask for this event.

Participation by Zoom:

Rev. Richard Slater - Worship Service and Liturgy of Farewell

Time: Nov 19, 2022 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81883605099>

Parking is available in the church parking lot (several spots are marked for handicap access), in Riverbend's parking lot directly across from the church, and on the street.

## In Our Community

### Planning Board Meeting Tuesday, November 15th for Long Meadow Commons

**6:30 pm at Whipple Hall**

Many of you attended the first Planning Board meeting, which was very positive. I understand that within the attendees at that meeting there may have been a group of less enthusiastic people who were perhaps embarrassed to speak. While I hope they do speak, I still want the Planning Board to sense the overwhelming support for this project. Long Meadow Commons is by no means a done deal. We still need to receive state and federal funding, for which various projects compete. The more public support the higher the score of our project.

I know that it might not be what you want to do on the night of November 15th, but if you are a New London resident and you could show up, it would be wonderful!

Thanks

Steve Allenby

# REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

## Celebration XI



register online  
[www.UCCWC.org](http://www.UCCWC.org)

[Register Here](#)

### Rev. Sara's Office Hours

Rev. Sara will be in the office Tuesday and Wednesday this week, and available via email or phone.

### Church Office Hours

Janet Howe and Michiko Yamaguchi are in 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](mailto:revsara@wilmotucc.org); [office@wilmotucc.org](mailto:office@wilmotucc.org); [news@wilmotucc.org](mailto:news@wilmotucc.org); [trustees@wilmotucc.org](mailto:trustees@wilmotucc.org); [treasurer@wilmotucc.org](mailto:treasurer@wilmotucc.org); [collector@wilmotucc.org](mailto:collector@wilmotucc.org)

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