

Church of Our Saviour
Episcopal
Milford, New Hampshire

*Forming community through Christ,
serving community in Christ*

Wednesday Notes for April 17, 2024

Dates to remember

Saturday, April 27: SHARE Outreach Collection, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., *Market Basket, Milford*

Wednesday, June 5: Book Group, 6:30 p.m., *Holder Chapel*

Please check our online calendar for upcoming dates and events [HERE](#).

This Sunday's Gospel: **John 10:11-18**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."



Wednesday Group: *Join our Bible discussion*

Today, the Wednesday Group meets at 11 a.m. on Zoom -- as we do on the first and third Wednesdays each month -- to connect with one another and discuss our take on this Sunday's gospel. It's informal; please join us!

Look for the Zoom link in an email each Monday.

Next Wednesday, Father Michael celebrates Holy Eucharist at noon in the Holder Chapel (and on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month). Please join us in the church on these days.

Earth Day coffee hour April 21

At coffee hour on April 21, we will have a display of lifestyle and sustainability changes our households have implemented to be better stewards of God's creation.

What ways have you found to be more energy efficient, to reduce waste, to utilize more eco-friendly products, and to protect the environment? There will be tables set up to display items and photos you bring in, and an easel for you to write out your suggestions. We look forward to learning from one another.



**Take a book.
Share a book.**

Very soon now, Church of Our Saviour will join the ranks of those stewarding a [Little Free Library](#). Dick is wrapping up construction and will set it up on the Grove Street level, to the right of the church and to the left of the steps heading down to Amherst St. The vestry decided last year that ours will have space for some simple snacks/food staples in addition to books for children, teens and adults, and bookmarks.

You can now bring in some great books to stock our library, putting them in a marked donation box in the Narthex. What types of books do we want to offer? Diverse types of good reads you'd be proud to have Church of Our Saviour's name inside. In addition to promoting reading, we think our Little Free Library will be another fun way to increase our visibility within and connection to our community.





Messy Church!

In the old days at a community newspaper, local clubs and organizations submitted reports of their activities for publication, often concluding with the sentence “A good time was had by all.” Almost always, the editors, unable to confirm the veracity of the statement, would take it out.

On Saturday, we held the fourth session of Messy Church, where, we are almost certain, a good time was held by all. This month’s theme, close to Earth Day, was *Caring for God’s Creation*, and the theme was reflected in the activities, table decorations, music and worship.

Participants planted seeds in egg cartons to take home and watch grow. Butterfly houses took shape as young people – and some not so young – hammered nails into wood. Budding artists decorated reusable cloth bags, and boxes for recycling. Plastic scraps became bright flowers, decorated with appropriate creation sayings and “planted” in the gardens outside the church where they are visible to passersby. A games room offered more energetic activities, with a God’s creation twist on old favorites.

During the worship/celebration in the Holder Chapel, the group joined their voices in song, and compiled an impressive list of ways they could help protect God’s creation. They heard two priests, one living in 2024 and the other in 2124, communicating through a temporary hole in the space-time continuum and sharing their perspectives on the way we treat the Earth today, and the effect our action – or inaction – will have on those who will follow. Entertaining? Yes. Funny? Yes. Thought-provoking? Absolutely.

Messy Church holds up five fundamental values. We shared intergenerational, Christ-centered, and creative activities; we celebrated in worship together. And hospitality! Pizza and make-your-own sundaes!

In the background, Louis Armstong played *What a Wonderful World*, as people perused a collection of library books and took home Earth-shaped cards imbedded with seeds for planting.

Forty people showed up. A good time was had by all!

New England Voices in Harmony

New England Voices in Harmony, a Nashua-based women's a cappella chorus, to which church member Lynn (peeking out from behind the photographer) belongs, was thrilled this past weekend to be ranked #1 out of 12 choruses from the northeastern U.S. and Canada at the organization's area contest. The group also qualified to participate in the International (U.S. and Canada) contest in November 2024.



If you have ever been curious about what singing in a four-part, unaccompanied harmony in the barbershop style is all about, you are welcome to participate in a six-week Discover Harmony Program. This free program begins on May 7 and culminates in a show on Saturday, June 15, at 2 p.m. The six-week rehearsals will be held at the Nashua Senior Center Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

The group welcomes singers of all ages that identify as women. To RSVP or for more information, talk to Lynn at church or contact her at membership@newenglandvoicesinharmony.org. Come for the first week and give it a try!

Sacred Ally Quilt Display

April 20-28

Unitarian Universalist Church, 20 Elm St. Milford

A display of quilts immortalizing the tragic last words of George Floyd, symbolizing the need for racial justice



Sat & Sun 12-8 pm

Mon, Wed, Fri 10-2 pm

Tues & Thurs 4-8 pm

Featuring the film, *Stitch Speak Breathe*

Quilting for Social Justice Workshop
Wednesday 4/24 10-2

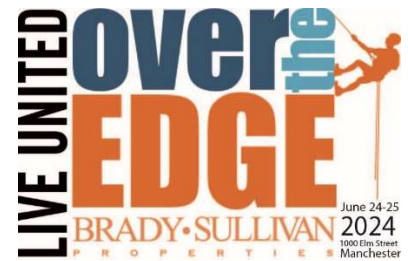
Sacred Conversation with Rev. Koyama
Sunday 4/28 3 pm

Presented by: Granite State Organizing Project; Congregational Church of Amherst; Milford United Methodist Church; Unitarian Universalist Church & Church of Our Saviour, Milford

A powerful exhibit of quilts will be displayed April 20-28 at the Unitarian Universalist Church here in Milford in collaboration with Church of Our Saviour, other area churches, and Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP). As you may recall, in 2020, a Minneapolis police officer murdered George Floyd during an arrest by kneeling on his neck for more than nine minutes. Quilters from nine NH churches stitched Floyd's last words into beautiful quilt panels. Shining a light on racial hatred, their art is a visual prayer calling on us to love each other and to heal the pain of our past.

Admission is for a suggested donation. Look for flyers around the church with dates and times. If you feel called, please click this link to sign up and volunteer for part of the event: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B48A5AA2DA7FAC25-48770956-sacred#/#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B48A5AA2DA7FAC25-48770956-sacred#/)

United Way, Meals Matter fund-raiser with our own Joe

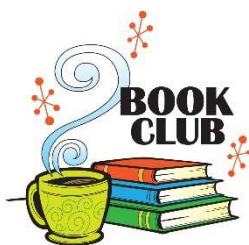


On June 25, our sexton, Joe, will be rappelling 24 stories off the side of the Brady Sullivan Building in Manchester, to raise money for Meals Matter, a United Way sponsored student-led organization.

Meals Matter is committed to eliminating food insecurity in the Nashua School District. The program provides financial support for students who struggle with school lunch debt, whether they are free, reduced or full-pay students. Last year, six students rappelled off the building and raised \$5,000. This year they have a team of six students and a team of six adults. United Way is the fiscal agent, but all funds raised go directly to the Meals Matter program.

Joe has set a goal of raising \$1,500; he will appreciate any amount that you are able to contribute. To donate, click on this link: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/edge2024/JosephAnton>.

Thank you so much for your support! Please share the information with folks who you know would want to support Joe as he supports this amazing program.



Book Group

The book group has selected its next book: *Strength in What Remains: A Journey of Remembrance and Forgiveness* by Tracy Kidder. The Goodreads abbreviated summary calls this “a wonderfully written, inspiring account of one man’s remarkable American journey and of the ordinary people who helped him – a brilliant testament to the power of will and of second chances.”

The group will meet to discuss the book and share some snacks on Wednesday, June 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Holder Chapel. Please invite a neighbor and to join us!

Meet our Outreach recipients

Church of Our Saviour's outreach grants traditionally are made possible thanks to our various fundraisers and in-gatherings, Charitable Trust grants, designated gifts, and allocations by the vestry to outreach from Christmas Fair proceeds and year-end surpluses.

Your Outreach Committee thought parishioners would find it interesting to learn more about recipients of our outreach grants. You no doubt know that SHARE is a long-standing beneficiary, but do you know that there are more than 10 other worthy charities we support as we seek to extend God's love to those in need? In the coming months, we'll briefly highlight a different recipient each week.

Dismas Home of New Hampshire is a Manchester non-profit which we support annually. Their motto is "A Second Chance at Life." Dismas Home is a women's residential recovery home with a family-like environment serving NH women "who need additional resources and strategies after involvement in the justice system in order to restore their sense of security and develop new skills to build better lives for themselves and their children." Their two-phase strategy includes:

- An initial 90-day program "designed to treat the trauma behind the substance misuse and restore their physical, emotional and mental health," followed by
- A transitional living program combining "workforce education, life skills, ongoing therapeutic support and case management to prepare them for the next step in independent living".

Take a look at this [YouTube testimonial](#) by former resident Angela to get a better of idea of the healing power and impact of Dismas Home.

SHARE's food donations 'down to a trickle'

Please continue to keep SHARE in mind each week as you shop. Right now, their food donations are down to a trickle says Executive Director Chris Janson, and they are having to purchase food to provide groceries to their more than 100 clients each week.

In response, Outreach has re-started the "reverse offering" where slips of paper with a category of item needed by SHARE are handed out with the Sunday bulletin; you bring that item in the next time you're at church.

In the meantime, please consider donating the following items:

- Meat and proteins: Beef stew, chicken stew, chili, tuna, lentil soup, peanut butter, nutritional drinks for seniors (e.g. Ensure)
- Dried goods and canned goods: All canned fruits and vegetables, pastas and pasta sauce, canned and bottled juices, macaroni and cheese, dried beans and peas, rice,



breakfast cereals and oatmeal, bread, tortillas, crackers, soups, flour, sugar, cooking oils

- Dairy: Powdered and canned milk (unsweetened)
- Healthy snacks
- Baby items: Baby foods
- Dog and cat food

Leave these items in the basket in the church narthex, take items directly to SHARE (1 Columbus Ave., Milford, Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30), leave them in barrels at Shaw's or Market Basket in Milford, or Bar Harbor Bank & Trust (32 Elm St., Milford), or donate online via their [Amazon Wishlist](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support to this vital community organization providing food, clothing and emergency financial assistance to area families in need.

Our Prayer List this week

Please keep these loved ones in your prayers for healing and support: **Patricia, Brenda, Betty, Joanne, Deirin, Mabel, Cathy, Carrie, Erika, Cheryl, Susan, Ben, Diana, Carole, Joe, Forrest, Brian, David, Valerie, Terry, Peggy, Jeff, Sharon, Paul, Amanda, Stephanie, Dick, Andrew, Fr. Jack, Fred, and Lu.** May God's grace and the healing love of Jesus Christ be with them each day.

Please call or email the office to add names to the prayer list. When the time comes that a name could be removed, please let the office know that, too.

Altar flowers/Sanctuary lamp

Altar flowers are given this week to the glory of God.

The sanctuary lamp burns in honor of the Lord's presence with us, given this week by Mabel in thanksgiving for her daughter, Jennie; and by Dave and Audrey in memory of the 25th anniversary of the passing of Audrey's father, William, and in memory of David's father, John, on the first birthday since he passed in September.



To donate for the lamp or flowers, sign upon the calendar in the Narthex (to the left of the Memorials Book) and fill out one of the forms there; or simply contact the church office (mail, email or phone) with your name and those to be honored.

The suggested donation is \$10 for the lamp and \$35 for flowers.

ENews: Follow The Episcopal Church of NH

A regular e-newsletter is sent to church members, clergy and lay leaders, delegates, wardens, and retired clergy. To join the mailing list, email a request to officeassistant@nhepiscopal.org.

Website: www.nhepiscopal.org

YouTube: NHEpiscopal

Facebook: Episcopal Church of NH

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