

# VILLAGE SPIRE

November 2020



## We Can't Live in Fear

Rev. Maureen Frescott, Senior Pastor  
November 2020

We now have a Plexiglas shield surrounding our pulpit.

In the 279-year history of our congregation, no one likely ever imagined a time when we would need to install a barrier in our sanctuary to ensure that we are worshipping together safely. Our colonial ancestors who tamed the wilds of New Hampshire might have snickered at our attempt to hold the "enemy" at bay with a see-through shield that is less than a half an inch thick. Some in our own time may elicit snickers of their own, because they believe the foe we're fighting is either not as fearsome as it's made out to be, or they believe it's much worse than we imagine and will not be thwarted by a plastic barrier that is open to the air that we all breathe.

The level of danger is so much easier to gauge when one's "enemy" can be seen. With a visible foe we know when to dodge and parry to avoid being pricked, and we know when it's safe to advance and when it's best to retreat. But even with a visible enemy we don't always correctly assess the danger – when we label a friend as a foe because of appearance or prejudice, or label a foe as a friend because they've charmed us into thinking they have our best interests at heart.

With our planned November 15<sup>th</sup> in-person worship just weeks away, we continue to wrestle with the precautions we'll need to take to make worshipping in our sanctuary "safer" (because nothing is guaranteed to make it completely safe). And as each of us weighs the potential risk of gathering versus our desire to be back in our sanctuary, it's to be expected that the members of our congregation are feeling and expressing varying levels of comfort with the plan.

Many of you have told us, "I don't feel safe coming back," or "I feel safe coming back, but my spouse does not," or "I want to be back but I have my elderly parents/grandchildren/health compromised spouse to think of."

Continued on page 3

## How Do They Do It?

### Behind the Scenes at Our Online Services

Interview by Jeanne Neverisky

*"How do they do it?" you may have wondered as you watch our new online video church services. "They," being our own Pastors Maureen and Kate: pastors, preachers, teachers, service leaders, counsels, and now-videographers. You may be curious about some technical details, as I was; about how they make these services happen on Facebook and YouTube. And you may just as well wonder, "How do they do all they do?" Here is a peek into that new world, from the view behind the online pulpit.*

The primary worship recording and editing duties fall on whichever pastor is preaching that week. For Pastor Maureen, the process to create a worship service begins early in the week with study, reflection, the creation of the bulletin, and coordinating with Kate, Sara, Michael, Marilyn and the liturgist. Sermon writing happens on Fridays. "Friday used to be my day off, but now it is my sermon writing day," Maureen told me over our Zoom connection. "I write from about noon to midnight and then get up at 5:00 a.m. on Saturday to put the finishing touches on the sermon and the other parts of the service."

Continued on page 6



**SLEIGH BELL  
MARKETPLACE**

An online auction sponsored  
by the Woman's Association

**November 10–30**

Access through the church website  
[www.ccamherst.org](http://www.ccamherst.org)

See back cover for more info.

## Creative Worship

Sunday, November 15, 10:00 a.m.

### Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources

Mark your calendars! "Creative Worship" happens on the THIRD SUNDAY of every month. We'll come together as the community of Christ to worship God with special music, an engaging message presented in a creative way, and a focus theme to frame our worship. This year our overarching theme is BE THE CHURCH – the bold statements issued by the United Church of Christ to inspire us to live our faith in the world. In November, our worship theme is *Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources*. As we prepare to celebrate the annual Thanksgiving holiday, we'll lift up the "giving" that we're called to do in addition to offering our prayers of gratitude. We hope you can join us online! Note: a shortened version of this service will take place in our sanctuary if we gather for in-person worship on Nov. 15. Stay tuned!

## VILLAGE SPIRE

A Parish Newsletter  
Editor, Andrea Cyr

The Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
11 Church Street  
Amherst, NH 03031

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Church school available.

How to reach us:  
Office Phone (603) 673-3231,  
(603) 673-6848  
[www.ccamherst.org](http://www.ccamherst.org)  
[Facebook.com/ccamherst](https://www.facebook.com/ccamherst)

The church office is available  
by phone and email Monday–Friday,  
from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Send in all news by the  
fifteenth of the month.

Announcements  
for the Sunday bulletins  
are due Thursday morning.

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### OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott  
*Senior Pastor*  
[pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org)

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy  
*Associate Pastor*  
[pastorkate@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastorkate@ccamherst.org)

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[kalben1@comcast.net](mailto:kalben1@comcast.net)

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Wendy Valeri  
*Bell Choir Director*  
[wendylazott@tds.net](mailto:wendylazott@tds.net)

Marilyn Gibson  
*Church School Coordinator*  
[mgibson@ccamherst.org](mailto:mgibson@ccamherst.org)

## Christmas Gift Drives



The holiday season is fast approaching and World Service will be hosting our annual Christmas Gift drives again this year, with some definite twists! Due to this crazy pandemic, all of the signups for our Christmas Drives will be virtual, using SignUp genius. There are several ways you can help, both with gift cards and personal shopping. We are hosting drives for the following organizations. When you signup for a gift/gift card on our online SignUp Genius tool, you will receive a confirmation email with specific instructions for shopping, wrapping, and drop-off locations. Each drive has their own requirements so we will make sure you have all the information you need.

**SHARE:** Our first program is the SHARE Gift Drive for children (and some single adults). Last year SHARE served 422 children and many single adults through their Christmas drive – we are excited to help them again this year! SHARE is only requesting donations of gift cards this year, rather than specific gift items. The gift cards will then be used by the families to purchase the specific gifts. The World Service team has pre-purchased these gift cards through our SUCCESS program, to help both SHARE and the church at the same time! This drive ends on November 12 to allow SHARE the time to get the gift cards to the families so they can do their own holiday shopping this year.

We have several “hands on” drives that will be taking place starting in early November and will end in early December. These drives will provide you the opportunity to shop for specific gifts, either on-line or in stores of your choosing:

**Crestwood Nursing Home:** As we do every year, we will be purchasing gifts for residents from their wish lists.

**Operation Christmas Joy:** Bethany Christian Services is providing ‘Family Gift Boxes’ to foster families. We are hoping to fill 20 of these boxes for deserving foster kids and their families.

**Anne-Marie House:** We have a special item for each child currently being housed by Anne-Marie House. If you like purchasing something specific for a child, this is the drive for you!

Details can be found on our Christmas Gift Drive website page: <https://www.ccamherst.org/christmasgifts/>

## Access to the Sunday Bulletin

### Online Access:

If you would like to download or print the weekly Sunday bulletin prior to watching the sermon, you can view it on the website. It is available the Friday afternoon prior to the Sunday online worship at <https://www.ccamherst.org/weekly-bulletin/>

### Sundays in Print:

Would you like to receive printed copies of Sunday’s sermons via US Mail? If you’re unable to access our online worship services and would like to receive a weekly packet of our printed Sunday bulletin, scripture, sermon and prayer concerns, let us know! Contact Andrea in the church office and we’ll add you to our weekly mailing list!

## Reopening Information

Our ad hoc Reopening Team has been hard at work thinking through and putting in place plans for our congregation to regather in person for worship and small group meetings.

Are you wondering where things stand? Through the members section on our website, we have a page dedicated to communicating with our church family on both current policies and procedures for use of the building during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the progress of our ad hoc Reopening Team. Documents will be posted as they are made available. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this information, please reach out to any member of the team: Pastor Maureen Frescott, Jessica Greer, Pastor Kate Kennedy, Keith Lammers, Susan Manchester, Kathy Skoglund, Paul Spiess, Kate Thompson, Doug Topliffe, Sue Werst, Tom Werst.

## *We Can't Live in Fear*, continued from page 1

Others have said, "I'll be back, but not right away, maybe after a few weeks," which is another way of saying, "I don't feel comfortable, not yet."

Others have said, "I understand the risks and that it won't be worship as we knew it, but I NEED to be back...for my mental and spiritual health I need to experience 'church' in person. The online worship is not worship for me."

I want you to know that your pastors and those on our Reopening Team hear all of you. We hear your concern that we're gathering too soon, your frustration that we haven't gathered sooner, your contrasting levels of excitement and wariness as we move closer to being back in our sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.

One sentiment that we've all heard in the wider discussion of this virus is this: "We can't live in fear." Some churches cite this as a reason to gather while taking few if any precautions because, "God will protect us" and "Jesus didn't hide from the sick and contagious." But while I disagree with taking the sentiment to this extreme, I do understand why some see the precautions we've all been taking as "giving in to our fear." After all, aren't we as Christians supposed to face our fears and seek connection despite the challenges before us? Aren't we a people of love, and light, and resurrection who are meant to live into hope and focus on the "good news" rather than hide away in fear of something that may or may not be a danger to us?

I would respond "yes" to all of this, in situations where our focus on our own need is overshadowing our neighbor's need. When it comes to addressing issues of poverty, injustice and oppression, it's often our instinct to shrink back and not speak or act, to protect ourselves or those we love at the expense of others. But in the face of a virus that we don't yet understand, that is deadly and debilitating to some and seemingly harmless to others, that seems to not affect some gatherings yet spreads like wildfire through others, I believe taking precautions to protect the most vulnerable among us is not "living in fear" but rather "living in love." While many of us have donned masks or isolated ourselves from others because we have a legitimate concern for our own health, or the health of our loved ones, just as many have done so not out of a personal concern but out of an overarching concern for the whole community, and particular concern for those most at risk. A virus that strikes randomly with sometimes deadly results should be feared, but it is not fear of infection that drives many of us to take the precautions we do, but love of our neighbor.

On flip side of this, if you are one who feels anxious when someone says, "We need to be in our sanctuary, we can't live in fear," I urge you not to hear this as a dismissal of the danger but rather as a desire for connection, a longing for relationship. Some of us are suffering in this time of disconnection and that should not be dismissed or overlooked. And if in a few weeks time we determine that it's still not yet safe to gather in our sanctuary, those who are feeling overtly disconnected will be feeling it even more so, especially as we move into the holiday season.

As your pastor, I wish I could wave a magic wand or lift up a lamenting prayer to God and make this all go away, so we could gather in our sanctuary together and sing in anticipation of the joy that this coming season usually brings. But as we know, none of us has such power. What we do have within our power is to continue to be the church together even if we have to do so at a distance a little while longer. To continue to love our neighbor and do what we can to protect the most vulnerable among us, even if it means putting the needs of others above our own. To continue to offer one another mercy and grace, even if we struggle to understand how others see things so differently than we do. And through it all, to know that it's not our fear that's driving us, but our desire to be together, all of us, as this community of Christ, with none of us missing.

Peace and blessings,

*Pastor Maureen*

## Levi Sunday

November 8

11:30 to 1:00 p.m.



## Pastoral Care Concerns

If you have a pastoral care concern and need to get in touch with Pastor Maureen or Pastor Kate the best way to do so is to call their office phones or send an email:

Pastor Maureen Frescott  
673-3231, extension 11  
[pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org)

Pastor Kate Kennedy  
673-3231, extension 14  
[pastorkate@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastorkate@ccamherst.org)

If you leave a voicemail your recorded message is sent to our pastors via email, so they will receive it even if they're out of the office.

*Note:* Because of schedule changes during this time, both of our pastors are now taking MONDAY as their day off and won't be checking email or phone messages.

If you have an immediate pastoral care concern on a MONDAY please contact Andrea in our church office (673-3231) or Sara Phelps at [kalben1@comcast.net](mailto:kalben1@comcast.net). They will reach out to our pastors to notify them as needed.

## Our Back Lot, A Peaceful Refuge

Anne Krantz, Historian

Not only does the church have a beautiful and grand front yard (the common), a lovely and spacious side yard, we also have an astonishing large back yard behind the parking lot.

I remember reading about this land, but where? I stopped by the office to check files and Andrea, who is working from home, happened to stop by. How lucky!! I asked if she could find the property maps and she also pulled out a deed file. The first item in the folder had "Church Back Lot" written across the top. The deed! It says:

*"Know all men by these presents that I, Ashton L. Martin, unmarried widower, of Amherst in the County of Hillsborough, and State of New Hampshire, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and valuable consideration to me in hand, before the delivery hereof, well and truly paid by the Congregational Church of Amherst and its successors of Amherst...the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have given, granted, bargained, sold and by these presents do give...A certain tract or parcel of land situated in Amherst Village in said county..., and bounded as follows <...near a stone bound near a brook...(etc.).*

*Also granting to The Congregational Church of Amherst and its successors, a right of way from Jail Avenue across other property formerly of Bertha Shedd, North of the house and stable on said Shedd property; to the above described property; with the right to pass and repass with motor vehicles.*

*This conveyance is given on the express condition that it shall be held by the grantee and its successors in perpetuity and be devoted to such uses as are consistent with the fundamental purposes of the Congregational Church of Amherst, provided, however, that it shall not be subdivided or sold in whole or in part so long as said the Congregational Church of Amherst shall remain a viable entity."*

January 18, 1967

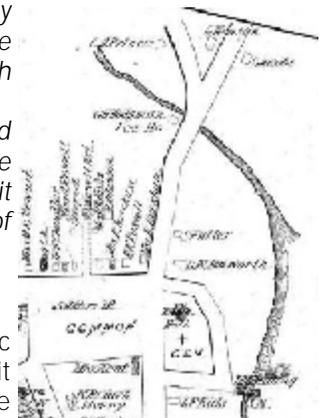
Today it provides a play yard for the preschool, as well as the underground site for the septic system serving the community building. But the most wonderful aspect of this property is that it extends into the pond below. The pond is controlled by a dam across Beaver Brook behind the house at the bottom of Mack Hill on Old Manchester Road. The 1892 map pictured does not show a pond at all, only one downstream behind Town Hall to serve the old saw mill.

The dam was built to create the ice pond, as explained in the Historical Society's invaluable book, *Amherst New Hampshire 1881/1982, A Sleeping Town Awakens*, in the chapter called *Slumbering, 1881 – 1917*, subtitle *Occupations*. By the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century folks were buying food instead of trying to raise everything on their land. Ice chests answered the need for home refrigeration, which spawned the ice industry. G. H. Hodgeman, owner the house next to the brook, was in the business in 1892, as shown on the map pictured. Look for the Ice House next to the brook. The pond was dammed up each fall to create a big enough pond to cut ice. The ice was stored in the barn by the brook and another one behind that burned down (can't pass up the *Fire and Ice* image compliments of Robert Frost). The Iceman with cart and horse delivered ice to local homes.

To store the cut ice, horses pulled winches to haul the blocks of ice up the ramp into the barns where they were covered with sawdust for insulation. A detailed report about the nation's ice business in 1880 was included in the census of that year: [file:///C:/Users/anne/Downloads/digi\\_hudson\\_8559.pdf](file:///C:/Users/anne/Downloads/digi_hudson_8559.pdf): The ice trade of North America was begun by Frederic Tudor of Boston in 1805. He shipped ice to Calcutta! He cut it on near-

by ponds that froze from 9" to 36." Ice was readily available back then—all the ponds were potential ice ponds. Thus the railroad spur to Baboosic Lake, where ice could be loaded onto railroad cars for export. Although it floats on the water it is unbelievably heavy: a square mile 12" thick ice weighs 700,000 tons.

Today the pond remains partially dammed and has become a wildlife refuge. I have never bothered to check it in winter for ice skating possibilities, but I did I stop by for fall photos and was amazed at all the number of birds and ducks. Bruce Beckley appreciated its calming natural beauty and built a sturdy viewing platform at the edge. A path at the back left of the field leads to the peaceful sanctuary. Now it is a place to remember Bruce and all he did for the church over many years. Peace... Bruce B. Beckley: b. July 5, 1931, joined church 1972, d. September 12, 2020.



1892 map





## Capital Campaign Moves Forward



### What is Small Group Ministry?

Small Group Ministry is where 8-10 people meet with the intention of establishing deeper connections with each other and with God.

The groups meet once a month from October to June, and are led by lay members of the congregation.

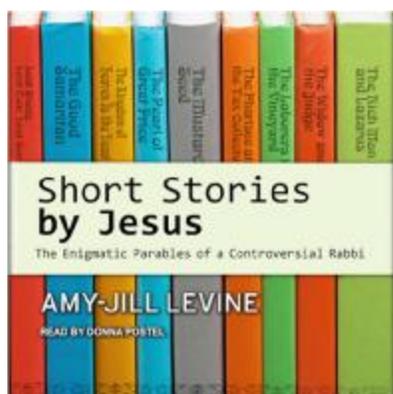
The group meetings run 1.5 hours and include a check-in, a short topic reading, discussion of the topic, and closing prayer.

We have a weekday group, an evening group, and a weekend group to allow members to pick a time that best fits their schedule.

This year we're focusing on  
**Short Stories by Jesus**

Using the book by Amy-Jill Levine as a guide, we'll explore the parables of Jesus and the many ways they have to guide, comfort, inspire, provoke, and change us!

There's no need to purchase the book and no prep-time is needed! The readings and discussion questions for each month will be emailed ahead of time and are short enough to be read when the group is gathered.



### Schedule for 2020-2021

November:	The Rich Man
December:	The Persistent Widow
January:	The Laborers in the Vineyard
February:	The Talents
March:	The Prodigal Son
April:	The Sower
May:	The Mustard Seed
June:	The Lost Sheep

### Choose a Group!

First Tuesday  
1:30–3:00 p.m.

Second Wednesday  
6:30–8:00 p.m.

First Sunday  
12:00 –1:30 p.m.

All groups will meet on Zoom in November. Plans for in-person meetings may be arranged after that point if possible!

### How To Get Involved

You may join a group at any time of the year as long as your choice is still open. Each group is limited to ten members.

Sign up online at [ccamherst.org](http://ccamherst.org) or contact Pastor Maureen at 603-673-3231 x11

[pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org)

The Capital Campaign continues to move forward! Despite some setbacks, including the COVID-19 virus, the team is still making progress.

The kitchen design effort continued in October. The independent kitchen review team went over the design and Request for Proposal (RFP) package and provided some good suggestions and comments that have been incorporated into the overall design. The kitchen RFP is now going out for bids from numerous contractors.

As you learned from the recent letter sent to the congregation, the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) has informed us that they will be unable to fund our application for grant funds submitted this June. LCHIP was inundated with requests and were able to fund less than 1/3 of this year's applicants. Although a temporary setback, projects will proceed and the Capital Campaign Team will continue to look for other sources of outside funding.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of the church and the Capital Campaign during these challenging times. Your support is greatly appreciated.

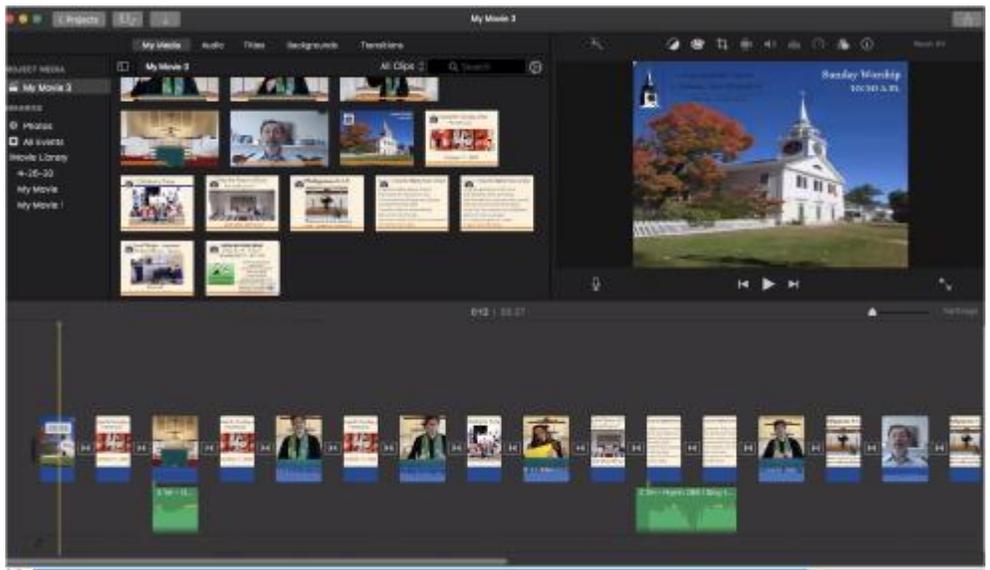
## End 68 Hours of Hunger Food Packing

End 68 Hours of Hunger (Nashua) is now allowing very small groups of people to go in their warehouse, at scheduled times, and pack food for the kids. Packing is done inside with just your group. If you are interested in setting this up for your family or a small group, please contact Melissa ([Nashua@end68hoursofhunger.org](mailto:Nashua@end68hoursofhunger.org)) from End 68 Hours of Hunger directly for arrangements.



## How Do They Do It? continued from page 1

By 10:00 a.m. on Saturday Maureen is in the sanctuary setting up the camera and whatever the service requires—such as communion. Kate records her segments first (children’s sermon, readings, prayers) and then leaves the sanctuary for Maureen to do her sections (sermon, lesson, etc). Because it can take several hours to record the entire service, the recordings are done separately so our two pastors are not in the same space together for an extended period of time. Kate and Maureen also had to “get over the desire for perfection,” Maureen says. Both would initially re-record sections several times if they made small mistakes that, in an in-person service, they would just continue past. Now they go with the flow as much as they can.



Still, recording and editing of the service can be an all-day affair. If we consider a movie we watch, though it’s only 1.5 hours to view, we know that many weeks or months have gone into the process to create that enjoyable film. The 60-minute worship service is similar: editing of the entire service—including all of Kate and Maureen’s parts, the musical recordings sent by Michael, Sara and Wendy, the recording made by the liturgist, the transition slides, and any additional pieces – typically takes 1.5 to 2 hours!

As you can see from the screen shot above, there are separate tracks for each aspect of the video: one for the video, one for its audio, and one for the music. All aspects need to be considered—volume, the timing of the hymns, as well as fading in and out of the transition slides.

Thankfully, the last step in the process has gotten easier. Uploading the final content was taking 2 - 3 hours, but now with a higher bandwidth from Xfinity Maureen is very happy to report that it now takes only 20 minutes to upload to Facebook and YouTube. Nancy Protzmann then links the YouTube video to our website on Sunday morning.

On Sunday, as the service goes live, Pastors Maureen and Kate each watch along with us, respond to comments, and attend Coffee Hour afterward on Zoom.

Although the process of producing online worship is time consuming, and we may wonder if someone else could take on some of these tasks, Maureen admits she likes the control she has over the video creation. Her goal is to create the atmosphere of a real service without technology getting in the way of our ability to worship, and she is happy that those watching our recorded worship have described it as being “seamless.”

The recording and editing process has also allowed our pastors to think outside the box in their presentation of the various parts of the service, especially for our Creative Worship services. Most importantly, Maureen is happy that the recorded services are being watched by many who weren’t able to be with us in-person on Sundays before the pandemic hit, and now, thanks to technology, they’re able to worship with us.

Kate, Sara, Michael, Wendy, Marilyn and Maureen work well together as a connected and in-sync team. When they meet to prepare for a service, Maureen says she can give the theme they will focus on and the readings, and “they’ll just run with it.” Kate or Marilyn comes up with the children’s sermon, Kate reflects the theme in the Pastoral Prayer, Sara chooses and records the anthems and hymns, and Michael and Wendy always seem to come up with the perfect Prelude, Postlude, or bell piece; it all fits! Maureen appreciates the gifts and creativity of this wonderful team, especially now.

As you watch the next service at home, you may not think about the behind-the-scenes work and the creativity to produce it—that serves to allow you to feel the connection and meaningful inspiration that help fuel us in our days and challenges. Our community is truly blessed with the gifts, innovation and energy of these leaders! And the technology that helps bring us together instead of apart.

### SHARE Food Pantry

The SHARE Food Pantry continues to be busy. Please know your donations are needed and truly appreciated.

- November Pantry Requests:
- pancake mix and syrup,
  - condiments, cooking
  - saucers and seasonings,
  - cooking oils, jelly,
  - cold cereal



Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford. Thank you for your continuous support!

Adult Ed Series  
**A NEW Look at  
 the OLD Testament**

**Wednesdays, November 4 and November 18  
 10:00—11:30 a.m. on Zoom**



Is the OLD Testament still relevant today? Who wrote it and why? From the Creation story to the Exodus, the stories of the great Kings and Judges, the writing of the prophets, the poetry of the Psalms, the wisdom of Proverbs, and the suffering of Job, the Old Testament is familiar yet mysterious to many of us. We'll take a NEW look at the OLD Testament through this 2019 video lecture series produced by the Great Courses. These dynamic lectures, given by Robert D. Miller II, Professor of Old Testament at The Catholic University of America, give us a new look at this seminal text with a fresh perspective, rich visual aids and fascinating examination of the original context, shedding light on one of the world's most beloved books.

We'll watch the video together as a group and then have a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. This series has 24 episodes, which we'll watch from October to June, meeting every first and third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. We'll meet on Zoom in the fall and move to meeting in-person at the church if possible at a later date. All are welcome! Please RSVP to [pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org) to receive the Zoom link, or access the link on our church website in the Members Section under "Wednesday Adult Ed."

## Church School

Marilyn Gibson, Church School Coordinator

**Brown Bag Lessons:** Our church school strongly commits to the nurturing of our children foremost with faith formation lessons. Thank you to our Pre-K through Grade 4 teachers, Sue Werst, Rebekah Bolin, Gretchen Davis, Larissa Riley and Lyndsay Curtis, for their dedication to our church school children's faith formation in a very creative new form. All children are invited to participate in our Brown Bag Lessons. Parents and guardians can sign up their families through our website [www.ccamherst.org](http://www.ccamherst.org): go to *Learn, Pre-K-7th Grade*, and use the SignUp Genius link to record your family name. The comments section should contain your email address.

**Bibles for Third Grade Children:** Traditionally our church school children in grade 3 are presented a Bible of their own. The Bible – from *Spark* – is provided to support the lessons in the curriculum. Any third grade child, or any other church school-aged youngster is able to be a recipient. The plan to deliver the Bibles is still being constructed due to social distancing. Please email [mgibson@ccamherst.org](mailto:mgibson@ccamherst.org) if your child should be included.

Youngsters who received their Bibles in October 2019 will have an opportunity to present their Bible phrases to the congregation when a plan is in place (hopefully, in the very near future).

**Thanksgiving Luncheon:** Tradition is a vital base for serving neighbors near and far. The Christian Ed team, under the direction of Vicky Leknes, is working on how to preserve our tradition of preparing and serving a turkey soup lunch with dessert for the residents of Milford's Mill Apartments, while maintaining social distancing. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks through the Sunday bulletin and emails.

Middle High Youth in grades 5, 6 and 7 are very much a part of our church school family. Pastor Kate, Mr. Hagerstrom and Mrs. Cashins are very excited to nurture the faith and spiritual growth of these children.

## Thank You

*Dear Wonderful Church,  
 Thank you so much for the beautiful booklet of notes of appreciation written by so many of you. What a wonderful surprise! This generous outpouring of love and gratitude that you shared is so meaningful, especially during this time when we are apart. Maureen and I have missed seeing you on Sunday mornings and being a part of your lives on a weekly basis so very much. As I read your notes, I can hear your voices behind them and feel the warmth of this community. And so, as you have shared your appreciation for us—let me share my appreciation for you: I am so grateful to be serving a congregation that, even during a pandemic, seeks to grow, strives to connect, and continues to be committed to serving God and loving Jesus. I appreciate the way you have shown up on Facebook and Zoom and chilly outdoor gatherings. And I know that when all of this is over, we will be transformed by this time, and more deeply grounded in the love of community that we share. That to say, the feeling is mutual, beloved community!*

*Peace and blessings,  
 Pastor Kate*

## Middle High Youth Group

**November 15, 1:00-2:30 p.m.**

MHYG is a monthly youth group that welcomes all 5-8<sup>th</sup> graders, whether they go to this church or any church or none at all! All are welcome to attend this gathering focused on fun, fellowship and faith.

MHYG is moving to a different time! As we head into the colder seasons, MHYG is going to meet while the sun is up! This month, MHYG is meeting on Sunday, November 15 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Wear your warm clothes and get ready to run around and have some fun!

Email Pastor Kate for more details on how to sign your child up for MHYG, our new MHYG time, or anything at all!



# Announcing **Sleigh Bell Marketplace**

**New WA Online Auction, Nov. 10 - 30**

***Christmas shopping  
at your fingertips***

Holiday & home decor,  
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