

First Congregational Messenger
First Congregational United Church of Christ
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Serving God with love and faith



January 2025

Volume 5, Issue 123



*Undeck
the Halls*

We will take down Christmas decorations after the worship service on January 5. Please stay after worship to help put away the decorations.



**Pastor's
Office Hours**

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12
Afternoons by appointment



Church Secretary

Office Hours
Monday-Friday

8-12

May be gone to the
doctor with Mom

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New Testament word study of the word “new”

New—kaivo’s

I always like the new year because of the idea of being able to start over new and fresh every year. Why? It is a great concept. It reminds me of the movie *Ground Hog Day*. This movie comes on every year on February 1 with the idea of a weather man, Phil Connors in this case, who reassures his viewers that an approaching blizzard will cover Western Pennsylvania. But it does not happen. In the film Phil awakens every morning to the same day. He wakes up every morning to “I Got You Babe” and the same DJ banter on the radio in his room at the Inn. Phil experiences the previous day’s events repeating exactly and believes he is experiencing Deja Vue. Each day he again unsuccessfully attempts to leave the town and retires to bed. Phil gradually realizes that he is trapped in a time loop of which no one else is aware. He confides his situation to Rita, who directs him to a neurologist, who in turn directs him to a psychologist; neither can explain his experiences. Each morning Phil awakens in the Inn once again. Starting over again each day hoping to change his circumstances to his advantage. But it never works; he does many things but is stuck in the loop. One day Phil decides he needs to change to do good for others and his friend Rita changes her heart towards him and, guess what, he finally wakes up and it is Feb 2 and the radio banter has changed and his life has changed. He now has HOPE because things are new!

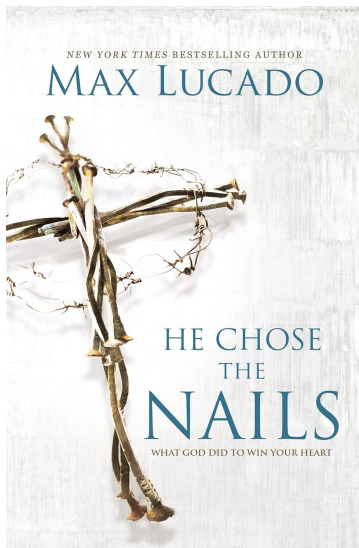
So the Word New is kind of like a chance to change things up in our life. We should be able to do this daily, but it doesn’t seem to always work that way. Every year at New Year’s many people, including me, like to focus on New and try to change things up for the better in our lives.

In the New Testament the word New is spoken of in many ways. Like New wine, New Bottles, New treasure, New Testament, New day, New tomb, New doctrine, New tongues, New garments, New commandment, New creature, all things become New. Wow! Lots of New in the New Testament.

So as you and I enter into a New Year, let’s try to live lives that are New in a way that pleases God is with how we live for Him and have New hope!

Enjoying the New Year,

Pastor Brian High



Sunday School Study

Starting on January 5th the Adult class will start a new series called “He chose the Nails” by Max Lucado. This series will focus on what God did to win your heart. We will linger on the hill of Calvary. These are session titles: He chose to be one of us; He chose to forgive us; He chose to invite us into his presence; He chose to love us forever; He chose to give us victory and He chose to give us

confidence. The study includes video, discussions questions, Bible exploration, personal study and reflection of materials as we study together. We would love to have you join us as we start a new study.

Pastor Brian

Giving to The Well

Giving to continue
until January 5.

Giving to the Food Pantry
in November

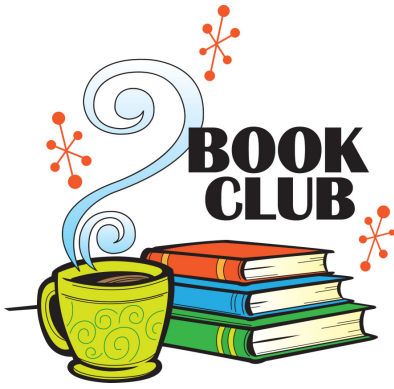


Hanging of the Greens



Christmas Program and Dinner with Linaje Escogido





Book Club will meet January 8 at 10 AM. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell. This month is the Caldecott Award.

God grant me the serenity to accept everyone as they are, the courage to tell my own story, and the wisdom to trust God to take care of the rest. Amen.

Maren C. Tirabassi is Pastor of Union Congregational UCC of Madbury, NH.

Do you go grocery shopping? At Lou's? At HyVee? **We have an easy way to bump up your donation to the church budget**--use a Lou's or HyVee gift card when you go shopping or get gas. You can buy them **Sundays** in Fellowship Hall. We currently get \$25, \$50 and \$100 gift cards.

See you at the table in Fellowship Hall! Questions? Leave a message for Jane Uzzell at (402) 640-6623.



JANUARY
Birthdays

11th Tom McConnell



January 5

Communion: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Ushers: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Greeters: Tom McConnell and Jane Uzzell

Reader: Grace Uzzell

Leader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

January 12

Ushers: Bonnie Dewell and Darlene Korthals

Greeters: Pat Jenny and Barb Koenig

Reader: Ben Uzzell

Flowers:

January 19

Ushers: Grace and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Mike Synovec and Susan Surber

Reader: Reese Uzzell

Flowers:

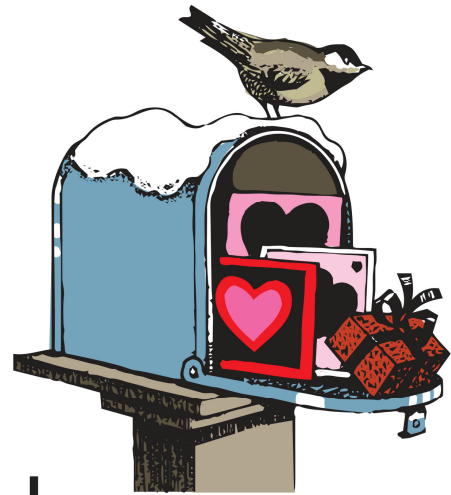
January 26

Ushers: Evonne Burkink and Verletta Olson

Greeters: Randy and Kay Neuharth

Reader: Jane Uzzell

Flowers:



February

February 2

Communion: Verletta Olson and Ben Uzzell

Ushers: Susan Surber and Rita Woodard

Greeters: Ben and Reese Uzzell

Reader: Kay Neuharth

Leader: Randy Neuharth

Flowers:

February 9

Ushers: Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

Greeters: Bonnie Dewell and Rita Woodard

Reader: Tom McConnell

Flowers:

February 16

Ushers: Ben and Stacie Uzzell

Greeters: Evonne Burkink and Verletta Olson

Reader: Scott Williams

Flowers:

February 23

Ushers: Pat Jenny and Mike Synovec

Greeters: Stacie and Grace Uzzell

Reader: Verletta Olson

Flowers:

Please notify the office if you are not able to attend a service.

December

From 12/1/24 through 12/31/24

Some bills may not show on this as the cut-off date was 12/18. They will reflect in January's report.



Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$	6,008.19
Poinsettias	\$	100.50
Good Neighbors	\$	239.25
Food Pantry	\$	25.00
Transfer from Savings	\$	3,555.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>9,647.67</u>
Subtotal	\$	19,575.61
Salary	--\$	6,556.67
Church Maintenance	—\$	919.14
Office Expenses	—\$	336.58
Good Neighbors	—\$	239.25
Substitute Organist	—\$	140.00
Christmas Dinner	—\$	62.93
Insurance	—\$	950.67
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Final Balance	\$	9,870.45

▶ January 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4

OFFICE
CLOSED
Sue on vacation
Pastor on vaca

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
[Undecorate
the sanctuary](#)

GS 6-7:30

[10 Book club](#)

Delphians 12-3

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
[Faith Develop-
ment](#)

GS 5:30-7

[Youth Group
6:30 PM](#) GS 6-7

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship
[Unity Council](#)

GS 6-7:30

26 27 28 29 30 31

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

GS 5:30-7

GS 5-7 FH

▶ February 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 Sunday
School
10:15 Worship

GS 6-7:30

Youth Group
6:30 PM

GS 6-7

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

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