



2025

# *Together in Christ*

Contoocook UMC  
24-28 Maple St  
Contoocook NH

Hillside UMC  
82 Center St  
Goffstown NH

Jennifer Savoy, Pastor  
[pastorjensavoy@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjensavoy@gmail.com)  
603 450-0739

**Building Christian Community Within and Beyond the Church**



Greetings beloved saints!!

I want to thank everyone so much for the generous Christmas gifts. My family and I have been so blessed in the three and a half (already?!???) years that we've been

here and I so appreciate all of you. The gifts I have received from both congregations go far beyond anything tangible or monetary. My time here has been filled with so much growth and I credit these two churches with helping me to learn to be a better pastor, Christian and person. I pray I will be doing ministry with you for many years to come! Here's to another year together filled with ministry, joys, testimony and witness that brings glory to our wonderful God.

May your New Year be filled with peace, joy, hope and love and may you continue to know how beloved you are.

In Jesus' name

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Jen

Pastor Jen can be reached at [pastorjensavoy@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjensavoy@gmail.com) or 603 450-0739. If you want to meet in person, she has office hours on Thursdays from 9-2 at CUMC. She is available for meetings by appointment Tues-Friday.

## Mission Opportunities!



Noisy offerings at CUMC! On January 12 we will be collecting change for the Helping Hands fund. This fund is available at the discretion of the pastor to help people with an immediate need. Some things this might be used for are to help fill a gas tank, to buy groceries, to pay a utility bill or to help with an unexpected emergency. This fund enables the church to be the hands and feet of Jesus, obeying his command to care for those who need our help. Jesus said “when you do it for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it for me.”

### **39 BEECH STREET Donations**

**Help us provide stability to homeless adults who stay at our 40 bed emergency shelter and daytime engagement center where we address housing, behavioral health, and basic needs.**



#### **TOP Essentials:**

**Jackets, new socks, underwear and bras, Coffee, Creamer, sugar, disposable hot cups**

**Toilet paper**

Also needed : Feminine hygiene items, toothbrushes and toothpaste, cough drops, hand sanitizer, plastic utensils and paper or plastic plates and bowls, to go cups, laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, trash bags, bandaids, trash bags, hand soap

**Questions?** [Jake@eastcoastevolutionleadership.com](mailto:Jake@eastcoastevolutionleadership.com)

#### **Department of Housing Stability:**

**Adrienne Beloin, Director:**  
[ABeloin@manchesternh.gov](mailto:ABeloin@manchesternh.gov)

**Owen Westover, Project Assistant:**  
[Westover@manchesternh.gov](mailto:Westover@manchesternh.gov)

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS!



Both HUMC and CUMC would welcome more members in their choirs!

Do you love to sing? Do you play an instrument? Even if you can't commit to every week, we would love to have you as part of the choir!

**Choir rehearsal...**HUMC Mondays 4pm...CUMC Fridays 1pm, Sundays 10am

There is a Steps to Recovery AA (women's meeting) on Tuesdays at 7pm at CUMC. This is an open meeting so all women can attend.

They meet downstairs in the vestry.

The AA meets on Sundays at 7pm in the vestry.



Join us as we worship our Lord and Savior, in the sanctuary and in the community! May God's peace fill you, may God's love surround you and may you be blessed and be a blessing to those around you.

Hillside UMC 82 Center St. Goffstown 9am

Contoocook UMC 24 Maple St. Contoocook 11am

<https://www.youtube.com/@contoocookunitedmethodistc2605/streams>

\*if you or anyone you know is unable to attend church in person and would like to receive communion, please contact Pastor Jen at 603 450-0739

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Now that the holidays are behind us, things will be quiet for a while. Let's use this time deliberately to reach out to neighbors that can't get out, to spend time with family and friends, to help those who are struggling. How can we be Jesus' hands and feet in the world this month?

# For the learner in each of us!



Each Tuesday, a group of people from Hillside and Contoocook gather on zoom to discuss Bible verses that they have studied over the course of the previous week. Each week's verses have a common theme (humility, leadership, grace, love etc). Please join us and deepen your engagement in God's Holy Word! If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Jen or Tom or Becky Andrew. The

link can also be found in the weekly newsletter from CUMC. This link: <https://www.contoocookumc.org/> will take you to the CUMC page, if you click on "Devotions" you will find the daily readings and responses from some of our members. You can also add your own responses and join in the discussion. Looking forward to seeing some new faces on Tuesdays at 7pm!

## WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE???

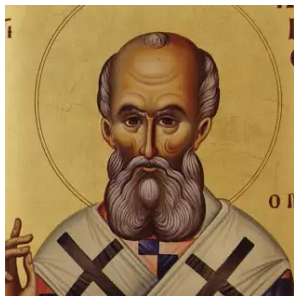


Is there a Bible subject you have always wanted to learn about? Is there a person in the Bible you wish you knew more about? Let's brainstorm new ways to study God's

Holy Scriptures together and start something new in the New Year. If you have an idea, talk to Pastor Jen and we'll see if we can make it happen!

## Influential Figures in Christianity

Many people over the centuries since Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection have had a great deal of influence on Christianity as a religious movement. Who were they and what were their beliefs? How did they change the way we see God, Jesus and faith? Each month this year we will look at an influential person in Christianity and reflect on what their contributions mean for us today. This month we will look at Athanasius.



From Britannica.com

<https://www.britannica.com>

[/biography/Saint-Athanasius](#)

St. Athanasius (born *c.* 293, Alexandria—died May 2, 373, Alexandria; feast day May 2) was a theologian, [ecclesiastical](#) statesman, and Egyptian national leader. He was the chief defender of Christian orthodoxy in the 4th-century battle against [Arianism](#), the [heresy](#) that the Son of God was a creature of like, but not of the same, substance as God the Father. His important works include *The Life of St. Antony*, *On the Incarnation*, and *Four Orations Against the Arians*.

### Life and major works

Athanasius received his philosophical and theological training at [Alexandria](#). In 325 he attended Bishop Alexander of Alexandria as [deacon](#) at the [Council of Nicaea](#). A recognized theologian and [ascetic](#), Athanasius was the obvious candidate to succeed Alexander when the latter died in 328. The first years of his episcopate were devoted to visitation of his [extensive](#) patriarchate, which included all of [Egypt](#) and [Libya](#). During this time he established important contacts with the [Coptic](#) monks of [Upper Egypt](#) and their leader [St.](#)

[Pachomius](#). Soon began the struggle with imperialist and Arian churchmen that occupied much of his life. He used political influence against the Meletians, followers of the schismatic [bishop Meletius of Lycopolis](#), who had gone back on the plans made at Nicaea for their reunion with the church, but he refuted specific charges of mistreatment of Arians and Meletians before a hostile gathering of bishops at [Tyre](#) (in modern Lebanon) in 335, which he refused to recognize as a general council of the church. When both parties met the emperor [Constantine](#) at Constantinople in 336, Athanasius was accused of threatening to interfere with the grain supply from Egypt, and without any formal trial Constantine [exiled](#) him to the [Rhineland](#).

The emperor's death in 337 allowed Athanasius to return to Alexandria, but Constantine's son [Constantius](#), emperor in the East, renewed the order of banishment in 338. Athanasius took refuge at [Rome](#) under the protection of Constantius's brother [Constans](#), emperor in the West. An Arian bishop, Gregory, was installed at Alexandria. Athanasius, however, kept in touch with his flock through the annual *Festal Letters* announcing the date of [Easter](#). Pope [Julius I](#) wrote in vain on his behalf, and the general council called for 343 was no more successful—only Western and Egyptian bishops met at Serdica (modern Sofia, Bulgaria), and their appeal for Athanasius was not accepted in the East. In 346, however, Constans's influence secured his return to Egypt, where he was welcomed as a popular hero.

Athanasius's "golden decade" of peace and [prosperity](#) followed, during which he assembled documents relating to his exiles and returns in the *Apology Against the Arians*. Nevertheless, after the death of Constans in 350 and the following civil war, Constantius, as sole emperor, resumed his pro-Arian policy. Again political charges were brought against Athanasius, his banishment was repeated, and in 356 an attempt was made to arrest him during a vigil service. This time he withdrew to Upper Egypt, where he was protected in monasteries or friendly houses. In exile he completed his massive theological work [Four Orations Against the Arians](#) and defended his conduct in the *Apology to Constantius* and *Apology for His Flight*. The emperor's persistence and reports of persecution at Alexandria under the new Arian bishop George led him, in the more violent *History of the Arians*, to treat Constantius as a [precursor](#) of [Antichrist](#).

The death of Constantius, followed by the murder of the unpopular George in 361, allowed Athanasius to return triumphantly once more to his see. In 362 he [convened](#) the [Synod of Alexandria](#), during which he appealed for unity

among those who held the same faith but differed in terminology. The way was thus prepared for the orthodox doctrine of the [Trinity](#)—“three Persons in one substance”—which stresses distinctions in the Godhead more than Athanasius usually had done. The new emperor, [Julian the Apostate](#), rather petulantly ordered Athanasius to leave Alexandria, and he sailed up the [Nile](#) again, remaining in exile in Upper Egypt until Julian’s death in 363. In 365 the emperor [Valens](#), who favoured Arianism, ordered his exile once more, but this time the popular bishop merely moved to the outskirts of Alexandria for a few months until the local authorities persuaded the emperor to reconsider. Finally, Athanasius spent a few years in peace before his death in 373.

### **Other works**

Athanasius’s two-part work of apologetics, *Against the Heathen* and *The Incarnation of the Word of God*, completed about 335, was the first great classic of developed [Greek Orthodox theology](#). In Athanasius’s system, the Son of God, the eternal [Word](#) through whom God made the world, entered the world in human form to lead men back to the harmony from which they had fallen away. Athanasius reacted vigorously against [Arianism](#), for which the Son was a lesser being, and welcomed the definition of the Son formulated at the [Council of Nicaea](#) in 325: “consubstantial with the Father.” Among Athanasius’s other important works are *The Letters [to Sarapion]* on the divinity of the [Holy Spirit](#) and *The Life of St. Antony*, which was soon translated into [Latin](#) and did much to spread the [ascetic](#) ideal in East and West. Only fragments remain of sermons and biblical commentaries. Several briefer theological [treatises](#) are preserved, however, and a number of letters, mainly administrative and pastoral. Of special interest are the letter to Epictetus (bishop of Corinth), which anticipates future controversies in defending the humanity of Christ, and the letter to Dracontius, which urges a [monk](#) to leave the desert for the active labours of the episcopate. Precision of thought, tireless energy in defense of his [convictions](#) and the freedom of the church, and (within certain limits) breadth of understanding have given Athanasius an important place among the teachers and leaders of the church, and, as an Egyptian patriot, he is also a significant figure in the history of his country.



# Our beloved Church Family!

Is there someone who you haven't seen in church for a while? Or maybe someone you have been wanting to invite to church? January is a great time to reach out to those who haven't been to church in a while or to those who might be looking for a faith connection. Most people who begin to go to church or return to church do so because they received a personal invitation. Who will you reach out to this month?

Both HUMC and CUMC have members who are currently in assisted living and nursing homes. Let's reach out to our members who cannot be with us in worship and remind them that their church family loves them! If you would like to be involved in this ministry, please talk to Pastor Jen or your lay leader (Roz at HUMC or Becky at CUMC)

If you know of anyone who would like a visit, please let Pastor Jen know.

## Committees in the Church

Churches cannot run without committees! This space in our newsletter will review what each committee does.

This month we look at the Worship committee. Although the pastor is the one in charge of planning worship, they often have a team that does things like decorate the sanctuary, arrange for extra music or guest speakers, help gather needed materials for special services and promote the worship services to the community. Often part of the "NOW" committee (Nurture Outreach Worship), those on the worship committee are often creative or have greater experience with worship planning and implementation and their insight can help the church reach more people with new and meaningful ways to worship. Do you have some ideas about worship? Are there things you have seen done at other churches that were meaningful to you that you would like to see happen at our church(es)? Do you just love to put the parts of the worship service together and praise God? Be part of the worship team and help us grow and learn how to praise God in new ways!

Next month...Education!



# Puzzle!

Complete the maze to help people from all directions hear the good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read John 3:16, NIV.



## Bible Quiz

The short Old Testament book of Lamentations is a set of communal laments (sorrowful songs) about the destruction in 587 B.C. of which city, by which people?

- A. Babylon; the Assyrians
- B. Jerusalem; the Babylonians
- C. Rome; the Greeks
- D. Caesarea Philippi; the Romans



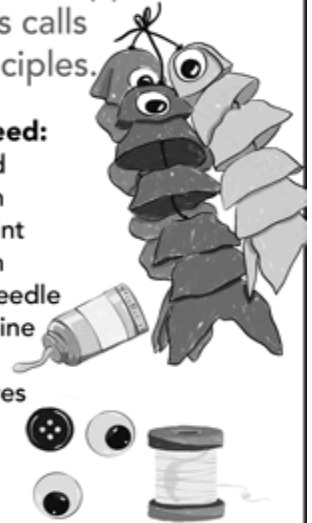
Answer: B (See Bible commentaries.)

# A HUGE CATCH

Make a catch of fish to show what happens when Jesus calls his first disciples.

### What you need:

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue



### What you do:

1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm's length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you've strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.