

february



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!!

What better time than February to remember that God is love? With Valentine's Day on the 14th, many are already in the mindset to proclaim

love this month. But as Christians, we are called on to share God's love with the world every day. Jesus tells us that the two most important commandments are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Nothing is more important than love. Not money, not possessions, not power, not authority. Love.

Let's be deliberate this month (and all months!) in showing the love of God to as many people as we can, in whatever ways we can.

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 February 9 we will be collecting change for the Hopkinton food pantry. The pantry provides food for area families on a bi-weekly basis. The Slusser Center houses the food pantry and the office also helps area families find housing and other resources. Supporting this ministry helps people to get back on their feet and ensures families have access to the food they need to thrive.

### **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

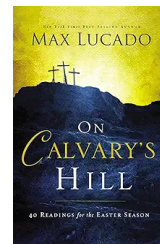
Please continue to watch over your neighbors during these cold days of winter! Perhaps invite them to church or Bible study and the soup and bread suppers during Lent (Thursdays at 6 at CUMC)

# 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!

During Lent, we will be using Max Lucado's On Calvary's Hill Lenten Devotional. We will meet on Tuesdays at 7 via zoom (yes, during Transformers! We are combining the two for Lent) As part of the study, everyone will have access to the online space that the Transformers use each day to reflect on that day's Scripture. In this space you can read the Scripture, Max Lucado's reflection and other participants' reflection as well as post your own reflection. This will be a great way to interact with each other on a daily basis and to come together to discuss the week's devotional messages. Please join us!



During Lent we will again be doing Soup and Bread suppers at CUMC on Thursdays at 6. There will be a sign up for people to make soup and bring bread beginning the end of February (Lent starts on Wednesday March 5) Everyone is welcome, so please come and bring friends!

## 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 Constantine.



Constantine (272-337 AD) was a Roman emperor that was responsible for decriminalizing Christianity and ending the persecution of Christians. He was the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity and called the First Council of Nicaea, from which we get the Nicene Creed. He ordered the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem where it is believed the tomb where Jesus was laid after the crucifixion is located.

## Key events during the life of Constantine:

| Year | Event  |
|------|--|
| 293  | Constantius I appointed <i>Caesar</i> by Diocletian. His son Constantine served in imperial court. |
| 305  | Constantius succeeds to rule the western empire, when Maximian retires.                            |
| 306  | Constantine proclaimed <i>Augustus</i> by the troops, on the death of his father.                  |

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 308 | Won great victories over the Marcomanni and Alamanni German.   |
| 311 | Death of Galerius, co-emperor and persecutor of Christians.  |
| 312 | At Battle of Milvian Bridge, Constantine fought under the sign of the cross.                         |
| 313 | Edict of Milan, assured Christians would be free to worship all over empire.                         |
| 315 | Won a great victory over the Vandals.  |
| 324 | Defeated eastern ruler Licinius, and became sole emperor.  |
| 325 | <i>First Council of Nicaea</i> , condemned the Arian Heresy.   |
| 326 | Executed his son Crispus and second wife Fausta.   |
| 330 | Constantine moved his court to Byzantium (later Constantinople.)                                     |
| 332 | Defeated the Visigoths.  |
| 336 | Reoccupied Dacia, abandoned by the empire since 271.   |
| 337 | Died a natural death, after 30 year reign. Succeeded by sons Constantine, Constantius, and Constans. |

Additional resources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine\\_the\\_Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_the_Great)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Constantine-I-Roman-emperor/Legacy>

# Our beloved Church Family!



Hillside UMC lost a long time and very beloved member in January. Imogene Mae Williams was a member at Hillside from her birth in 1921. Her grandfather owned the building next to the church and used to care for the graveyard, her father grew up there and later owned a farm down the road, where Imogene and her sister grew up. Imogene will be remembered as a spunky and happy woman who was always ready with stories of her family dog and living on the farm. She will be greatly missed by her church family and her family at Bel Air nursing home.

Is there someone who you haven't seen in church for a while? Or maybe someone you have been wanting to invite to church? February 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?

## 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 Education in the church. Although neither church has a Sunday School, we still have education happening! Advent studies, Lenten studies and the ongoing Transformers Bible study all help us to continue learning about God's Word and what it means in our lives. If you are interested in being part of the planning, implementing or participation of any of our studies (or any new ones!) please talk to Pastor Jen.





# 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.

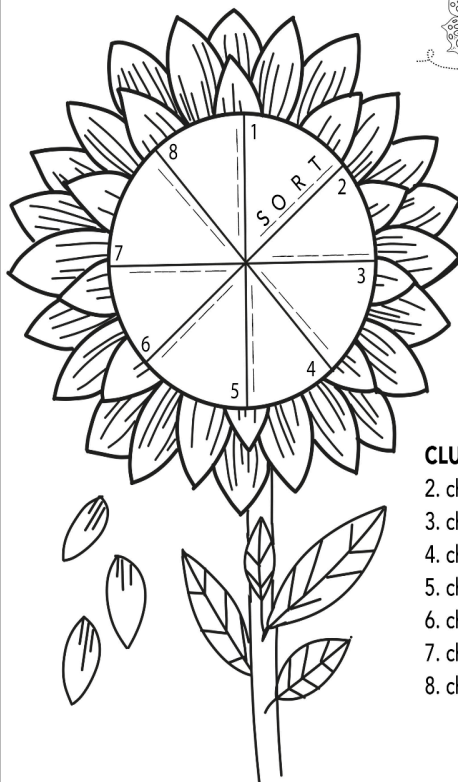
# PUZZLE



## THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.



We \_\_\_\_\_ because [God] first \_\_\_\_\_ d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

**CLUES**

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this (see 1 John 4:16).

## Bible Quiz

Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story: "The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. flowers
- B. sheep
- C. rocks
- D. bones

