

Spring 2017



NEWFIELDS COMMUNITY CHURCH

*United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church
Unitarian Universalist Association*

PASTOR'S NOTE

When we think of Easter many of us think of pastel colors, chocolate bunnies, bright white lilies, Easter egg hunts, and a big meal with our family and friends. It's the time we celebrate with joy Christ's resurrection. In truth, some of that joy can't be fully experienced unless we also go through Holy Week. Much as we prefer to move straight from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, we would be remiss if we skipped the difficult services in between, those services where we re-tell and re-live those final painful days of Jesus' life. They afford us an opportunity to recognize our own humanity and Christ's true forgiveness.



Holy Week Services:

April 9, Palm Sunday, 9:30am – Come wave the palms in joy of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem

April 12, Maundy Thursday (The Last Night) 7:00pm, – A somber service when we remember Jesus' final meal with his disciples, the one that is the foundation of the Holy Communion sacrament

April 13, Good Friday 7:00pm – A service that commemorates Jesus' crucifixion.

April 16, Easter Sunrise, gather at 6:00am on Conner's Hill (behind the bottling plant on Rt. 85) to witness the dawning of light and celebrate our risen Christ!

April 16, Easter Service 9:30am, we come together to celebrate with joy and wonder the risen Christ!! Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Holly



Rejoice and Remember with Easter Flowers



We invite all members of our community to join in NCC's celebration of Christ's resurrection, the triumph of life over death and the return of spring! You select beautiful blooming plants (Easter lilies, pots of spring bulbs, etc.) and bring them to the church on Saturday 4/15 or early Easter Sunday morning before the 9:30 service. We love to have the sanctuary full of the scent and colors of spring. The church looks lovely, and you have a chance to remember loved ones, to honor family and friends, or to offer special thanks. You can place a small dedication card in the flowerpot, and we will print a list of all the donors and those they are honoring in the church bulletin.

After the service, some choose to take their flowers home with them, bringing a bit of the Easter blessing with them to decorate their table or to deliver to others. Some leave their flowers to decorate the church though Eastertide. Some ask that the Church pass the blessing on to folks we know of who could use a little extra beauty in their lives.

In order to be listed in the bulletin, please return the form below to Pastor Holly by April 12th, the Wednesday before Easter Sunday. (Mail to Newfields Community Church, PO Box 87, Newfields NH 03856)

Dedication of Easter Flower(s)

Flowers given by _____

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

In gratitude for _____

After the service I will (please circle) **Take them away** OR **Leave at Church for**

(please circle one)

for decoration

for donation

YOGA classes beginning in May!!

Yoga instructor Aimee DeRoehn will be offering two Yoga classes a week at the church. Classes will be held on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-10:45am and Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:45pm. Classes are \$10 each.



Budget Update

At our annual meeting in January, we approved a budget that included \$63,105 in income and \$80,850 in expenses. Our income, through mid-March, is on target, as are our expenses. We have withdrawn \$20,000 from our invested funds to cover this year's shortfall.

“For it is
in
giving
that
we
receive.”

- St. Francis of Assisi

How to Support the Church

If you want to support the church financially, but aren't able to make it to worship, banks have made it much easier for all of us. Individuals can set up automatic payments through their banks that will ensure the church receives one's monetary gift on a regular basis. Our pastor has done this and says it's made life much easier. It's one less thing to have to remember because the bank simply sends her check to the church.

Background Checks

Our property and casualty insurance company provides subsidized rates on background checks for church volunteers and employees. At a recent meeting of the trustees, we discussed the need to get background checks for anyone who works, unsupervised, with the young people of our church. For others who are interested in working with our youngsters, we recommend having a background check on file. There'll be more to come on this important topic in the coming months, but if you have any questions or comments in the meantime, please contact Mary Terwiske at met901907@aol.com

Men's Coffee

All men are welcome to join us on the first Monday each month at 8:30am for coffee and conversation.



Women's Group

Each month women gather together in the Fellowship Hall. We've done a bit of kitchen organizing, made cards to send to those whose days could use a little brightening, and mostly shared conversation, laughter, and snacks. We meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month, at 1 PM. Come join us!

Project Group is coming!!

Watch your emails for an announcement of some upcoming project days, open to everyone. Work on a project or simply drop by to see what others are working on. Are you a scrapbooker? A jewelry maker? A woodworker? An artist? A knitter? Sometimes having a place to go to, away from whatever's going on at home, helps you accomplish the creative goals you set for yourself! Join us if you're able.



Bible Study for Adults

We are midway through our Bible study of Genesis. Be on the lookout for an announcement about our next study. Next gathering will be on Sunday April 22nd at 1pm. All are welcome!

Sunday School

Our Bible memory verse for this unit is "Glory to God in the highest heaven," and we are enjoying an exploration of the Christmas story. While it's a little out of season, it removes the hustle and bustle of the holidays from our studies. Our lessons reinforce the beauty and wonder of the Christmas story. The creativity of our students is evident in the craft and art projects that we undertake each week. As well as the thoughts they share with Pastor Holly in the Children's Time during worship. Contact Mary Terwiske (met901907@aol.com) or Pastor Holly (newfieldscommchurch@gmail.com) if you'd like to register your child for Sunday School.

Open and Affirming Committee Announcement

At the annual meeting it was decided, by ballot, that we would explore the idea of our church joining over 1000 other UCC churches who declare themselves to be Open and Affirming.

What is Open and Affirming? it is a recognition of a church to affirm and further the advancement of LGBTQ people. Simply, that we go beyond tolerance or mere acceptance of the LGBTQ members in our community. If decided upon, our church would become a beacon of support for members of the LGBTQ community. This support includes being a haven for teens and their parents struggling with harassment and bullying to perhaps being the first church an LGBTQ senior citizen can finally call home. The UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns provides materials to guide us and the NH Conference UCC's ONA group will provide speakers who can help with questions during this process.

This will be a process where the journey is as important as the destination. We will undergo a long period of discussion, prayer and discernment where we will examine our own attitudes and what we feel our church's position should be. We will discuss biblical teachings, our personal beliefs, the role of our church and the impact upon our church. It is hoped that this will be seen as an opportunity for growth through a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by these members of our own families and community. Following this open-ended discussion period, the congregation will vote on whether or not we should join the Open and Affirming community of churches.

It is hoped that our church, which is filled with loving and compassionate members, will come together around this discussion and further the lessons of love and acceptance taught to us by Jesus.

More information can be found at www.openandaffirming.org. If you would like to be a member of the organizing committee or would like to have further discussion please contact me, Paul LeBrun, at nconagroup@yahoo.com.

(Please note: this email address is to be used specifically for all questions and discussion to the Open and Affirming group during this process.)

Matthew 22:36-39 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

That "Love Thy Neighbor" thing...
I meant that.

-God

A CHURCH WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

United Methodist Church

United Church of Christ

Unitarian Universalist Association

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/NewfieldsCommunityChurch>

CHURCH WEBSITE: <https://newfieldscommunitychurch.wordpress.com>

CHURCH EMAIL: newfieldscommchurch@gmail.com

CHURCH PHONE: (603) 778-8626

MINISTER: Reverend Holly Tomlison

SUNDAY SCHOOL is available for children.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:30 A.M.

Newfields Community Church

P.O. Box 87

71 Main Street

Newfields, NH 03856

RETURN REQUESTED