



Campton Congregational Church

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2025



“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,” declares the first line of Psalm 136. Goodness is fundamental to all God is and does. “We know God is love (see 1st John 4 verses 8 & 16),” writes commentator David Gruzik, “and that love is an expression of His goodness.” Psalm 136 proclaims this by repeating the same words in the second half of all its 26 verses, “for His steadfast loves endures forever.” A corporate praise psalm, a priest or worship leader would call out the reason to give God thanks, the first half of each of Psalm 136’s verses, and then the congregation would respond with the second half, “for His steadfast love endures forever.” With Palm Sunday and Easter Day only a few weeks away – I thought I would attempt a humble comparison to inspired Scripture, imitation of Psalm 136. After reading each verse, please repeat the words in bold print down the side, **FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.**

- ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good all the time,
- ² And all the time He is good, for that is His nature,
- ³ Give thanks to the Lord for He is the Creator of all,
- ⁴ to Him for the natural beauty that surrounds us,
- ⁵ Mt. Washington and the Whites; fifty-two with a view and the 4,000 footers – all forty-eight,
- ⁶ Franconia Notch and the Old Man, I can still see him there looking majestically to the South,
- ⁷ the lakes and streams; the Pemi and Flume, Campton Falls,
- ⁸ to Him who formed this congregation on June 1st, 1774,
- ⁹ meeting in various homes and adopting a creed and covenant in 1807,
- ¹⁰ to Him who sustained it through the many pastors and controversies,
- ¹¹ and brought it through difficult times and challenges, taking a stand against slavery in 1839,
- ¹² providing a place to meet for worship, moved to the current site from across the river in 1858,
- ¹³ for sustaining Campton Congregational these two hundred and fifty years, plus one,
- ¹⁴ to Him for His provision today,
- ¹⁵ for strong and secure financials, and a treasurer when we needed one,
- ¹⁶ and when we needed a musician to lead us and choir, a retired music teacher,
- ¹⁷ for a new church administrator,
- ¹⁸ the kitchen crew; for coffee hour every Sunday, summer cookouts and potlucks,
- ¹⁹ the Ladies’ Guild; for friendship and fellowship, the Christmas fairs too,
- ²⁰ for detailed meeting minutes, and meeting moderation, dedicated deacons,
- ²¹ those who go beyond the call of duty, even venturing into the dark, dusty crawl spaces,
- ²² those who serve behind the scenes; prayer warriors, ride givers, note writers and call makers,
- ²³ for those who serve in mission, in the community and throughout the world,
- ²⁴ It is He who never leaves us nor forsakes us,
- ²⁵ He who unites and binds us together,
- ²⁶ Give thanks to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; three in one, one in three, blessed Trinity,

FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

As I give thanks for you all, every one; for your support and encouragement. I hope you are planning to join us for Palm Sunday, Sunrise on Ellsworth Hill, and Easter Day worship. Bring your neighbors and friends. Let’s praise and worship! May the Lord bless you and keep you, and be gracious to you, *for His steadfast love endures forever.*

Pastor Jeff

A Look Back



The Ladies' Guild once again demonstrated their dedication and hard work in organizing the beloved annual Craft Fair, raffle, and delicious Chowder Lunch, held on the first Saturday of December, 2024. This year's event was another resounding success, featuring an array of fresh, fun, and useful crafts that delighted visitors. Attendees also enjoyed a variety of delicious treats from the ever-popular bake sale table, adding to the festive atmosphere. The Guild's year-round efforts continue to

bring the community together for this traditional event.

Standing L-R Irene Chapman, Linda Ruth Resnick, Elaine Day, Susan Superchi, Laurie Belyea, Sally Letendre, Anne Pulsifer, Deb Braley, Becky Harding, Linda Saulnier. Seated: L-R Alicia Chapman, Patricia Williams, Bonnie Mardin, Jane Scrafford.



Book discussion group meets some Sundays after worship. Presently they are discussing the book, Rebuilt by Michael White. L- R Alan Hill, Anne Pulsifer, Pastor Jeff, Brenda McKenzie, Linda Saulnier, Jane Scrafford, Susan Superchi

Having fun! Irene Chapman, Elaine Day, Susan Superchi, Sally Letendre



Thanks to Paula Moriarty for expertly painting the church sign.



The Ladies Guild along with the expert Kitchen Crew take pride in hosting beautifully arranged funeral receptions, ensuring a warm and inviting atmosphere for family & friends despite the sorrowful occasion. With delicious food and a thoughtful presentation, every detail is crafted to provide comfort. Families can focus on supporting one another without any worries about hosting, as the ladies (with help from gentlemen sometimes as well) take care of everything to create a space for meaningful connection and remembrance. Pictured left to right: Deb Braley, Jane Scrafford, Sally Letendre, Sandy Manson, Susan Superchi

Music, Music, Music!

Music plays a vital role in enriching our worship experience, and we are blessed to have the dedicated efforts of our choir, led by the talented and hardworking John Whitney, as well as the young bluegrass trio, DellaValla, who grace us with their music once a month. Their lively melodies lift our spirits and bring a unique energy to the service that everyone enjoys. We deeply appreciate the time, practice, and effort they invest to make our worship services truly special. Music not only unites us as a congregation but also serves as a powerful medium to express and celebrate our shared faith. Do come and support this beautiful music ministry, guided by our John Whitney and adds so much to our spiritual journey. If you enjoy singing or play a musical instrument, you are welcome to join, filling the church with joyful sound!

Sunday, March 23, the congregation enjoyed the music of DellaValla Trio, which this day was a quartet as the Trio included Henry, a friend who joined in. DellaValla pictured L- R Henry (first time with us), Molly, Joseph, and John. And the choir L-R Priscilla Whitney, Alan Hill, Linda Saulnier, Becky Harding, Patricia Williams and Jane Scrafford (missing) and John Whitney at the organ.

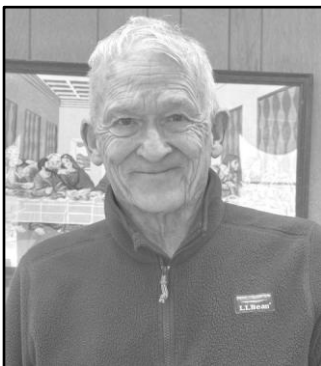
Our Choir



DellaValla



Our Organist, John Whitney



John, our Music Director, brings a lifetime of expertise to our community. A Concord native, John and his wife Priscilla (who is also a music professional), reside in Campton. They are proud parents of three children and grandparents to six. In his free time, John enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, and biking. John honed his musical talents at Boston University and UMass, mastering the trumpet alongside the piano, voice, and organ. He began his teaching career in Massachusetts before returning to New Hampshire in the 1980s, where he inspired young musicians in Plymouth for decades.

Though officially retired, John continues to share his gift of music with us. We are fortunate to have him as our Music Director, enriching our lives with his dedication and musical talent. Thank you, John!

Help Us Stay Connected



In an effort to save resources and stay better connected, we'd love to know if you'd consider receiving the church newsletter via email. And if you have any updates to your address or preferred mode

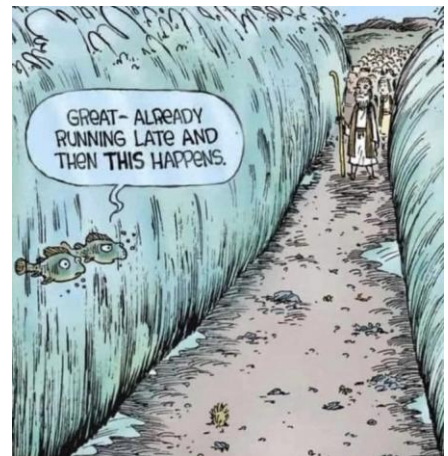
of contact, or if you'd like to adjust how much church mail you receive, please let us know! Email the church at ourccc1774@gmail.com to share your preferences.



Easter is rich with traditions, symbolism, and fascinating history. Here are some lesser-known and interesting Easter tidbits:

1. **The Name "Easter":** The word "Easter" is believed to have derived from Eostre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and fertility. However, in many languages, the name for Easter comes from "Pascha," which is related to Passover.
2. **Eggs as Symbols:** The Easter egg tradition predates Christianity and was originally a symbol of fertility and new life in various ancient cultures. Early Christians adapted this tradition, with eggs symbolizing Jesus' resurrection and the promise of eternal life.
3. **Easter in Different Dates:** Eastern Orthodox and Western Christian churches often celebrate Easter on different dates due to variations in their liturgical calendars. The date for Easter is calculated as the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox.
4. **Hot Cross Buns:** These sweet, spiced buns with a cross on top have roots in ancient pagan traditions and were later Christianized to represent the crucifixion. In the 16th century, Queen Elizabeth I limited their sale to specific occasions, like Good Friday.
5. **World's Largest Easter Egg:** The world's largest Easter egg is in Vegreville, Canada. It's over 31 feet tall and was created to honor the town's Ukrainian heritage.
6. **Easter Lilies:** The white Easter lily symbolizes purity and resurrection, making it a popular decoration during Easter services. Its trumpet-like shape is thought to represent the trumpets heralding Jesus' resurrection.

Smile Aisle



To Prism.

It's a light sentence, but it gives them time to reflect.

Mark Your Calendars

- **April 13th – Palm Sunday**
Men's Breakfast 7:45 a.m. (All men welcome, delicious food by chef Bill)
- **April 17th - Maundy Thursday**
- **April 18th - Good Friday**
- **April 20th - Easter Sunday**
Sunrise Service, Ellsworth Hill 5:45 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast at the Campton Baptist Church following at 7:00 a.m.
Easter Service: 9:30 a.m. (No fellowship today)
- **April 27th - Church Quarterly Meeting:** after the worship service
- **May 18th - Scott Brunt shares his music ministry at our 9:30 worship service.**
Barbeque lunch (the first cookout of the season follows the worship service today).

He is risen! (Matthew 28:6) Wishing you joy and peace as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ this Easter.