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PRESS RELEASE
for immediate release

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UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH RECEIVES GRANT
FROM THE ARTHUR & DOLORES DANIELS FOUNDATION

PETERBOROUGH, NH –Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, has recently received a \$500 grant awarded by the **Arthur & Dolores Daniels Foundation**. The funds will be used to support the church's free community suppers that are served at 5:30 PM each Monday night, from September to mid June.

"We are grateful to receive this generous contribution," states Martha Dahl, who has coordinated the community suppers since their inception in May 2002. The church held 35 community suppers last year and served approximately 3,000 meals altogether. On average, 85 people attend each week, though as many as 110 have been served in one evening. "Our guests come from Peterborough as well as surrounding towns," she observes. "They include disabled adults from several life care communities, young families, senior citizens (both couples and single folks), church members, and working adults who are alone." On occasion, volunteers will deliver a meal to a regular guest who is temporarily housebound.

"Our original intention was to provide meals," explains Dahl. "Over the past six years, however, we found that people come for community and fellowship as much as, if not more than, they come for food."

The community suppers are made possible through the combined efforts of church members and friends of all ages. The youth group sets up tables and chairs before supper, greet guests, and then clean up the dining room afterwards. Volunteers buy food, cook, provide desserts, greet, share in the meal and conversations with guests, wash dishes, and clean up the kitchen. The community suppers depend upon the generosity of organizations and individuals who provide financial support as well as in-kind food donations such as ingredients for salads, bread and butter, juices, desserts and coffee.

According to Dahl, the average weekly cost of the community suppers is about \$55, which comes to

nearly \$2,000 per year. "Given rising grocery prices and diminishing free-will contributions, we are all the more thankful for the recognition and support of our community suppers from the **Arthur and Dolores Daniels Foundation.**"

The **Arthur and Dolores Daniels Foundation** is a private charitable organization established in 1984 in memory of the founder of New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc. and his wife. Over the years the Foundation has supported a number of worthwhile local organizations including the Peterborough Elementary School, Monadnock Community Hospital, Monadnock Family Services, and the Granite State Opera.

Union Congregational Church was built in 1839. In addition to being a historical landmark and a place of worship, the building is regularly used by a number of community organizations including: *Alcoholics Anonymous* for weekly meetings; *American Red Cross* for blood drives; *Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS)* for blood pressure clinics; *Monadnock Chorus* for rehearsals; *Peterborough Chamber Choir* for concerts; *Life Sharing Communities* for plays; and *Peterborough Jazzercise* for fitness classes. In addition to the free community suppers, the church also hosts several ongoing activities in Fellowship Hall such as senior luncheons, adult education programs, and a children's summer theatre camp that benefit members and non-members alike.

Union Congregational Church is a member of the United Church of Christ (UCC). Worship services are held Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM during the school year and at 9:30 AM during the summer. For further information, please call 603-924-3272.

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