

COMMUNICON

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, PETERBOROUGH, NH

As the annual UCC Winter Film Festival enters its sixth year, we're switching to a matinee schedule. All movies will begin on Sunday afternoons at 2:00—get there at 1:45 for tea and treats!



This year's theme is Empathy; the films focus on individuals or groups who are perceived as being "different"—and how they deal with that. Here's the line-up:

February 1: *The Great Debaters*

(2007) PG-13 124 minutes

At all-black Wiley College in 1935, an activist professor pushes his debate team to a level of excellence that nets them a chance to take on Harvard University—the reigning national champs—in this inspiring drama based on a true story. (Strong thematic material, including violence and disturbing images; language and brief sexuality.)

February 8: *Music Within*

(2007) R 93 minutes

After losing his hearing as a soldier during the Vietnam War, Richard Pimentel returns to America, where he falls in with an unlikely circle of friends and finds a new calling as a spokesman for the disabled in this inspirational true story. (Language, including sexual references, and some drug content.)

February 15: *Belle*

(2014) PG 105 minutes

This period drama based on fact traces the life of Dido Elizabeth Belle, a biracial girl born in 1761 to a British admiral father and an African mother. Raised by her great-uncle, Dido finds her place in society despite her mixed ethnicity.

February 22: *The Lives of Others*

(2006) R 138 minutes

In 1984, secret police agent Wiesler is assigned to eavesdrop on a successful but possibly disloyal playwright in East Germany. As the lonely Wiesler learns more about the man and his lover, a prominent actress, he becomes fascinated by their lives. (Some sexuality/nudity, including a brief prostitution scene; subtitles.)

March 1: *Happy*

(2011) NR 75 minutes

Happy takes viewers on a journey from the swamps of Louisiana to the slums of Kolkata in search of what really makes people happy. Combining real-life stories and scientific interviews, the film explores the secrets behind our most valued emotion.

Small TALK

It's a new year. That's always a good time to look forward while also being guided by the examples of those we admire.

Among those who have left indelible impressions on science, technology, and the world's people, I'd rank Thomas Edison pretty close to the top.

Imagine holding nearly 1100 patents! Imagine is the operative word there. Edison imagined devices that would bring light and sound to billions upon billions of people.

In church life, we imagine a lot, only we call it visioning. It's not much different from what Edison did on the road to creating something new, useful, and desirable. Churches may not be entirely new, but they certainly want to be useful and desirable.

The search committee is well on its way to putting together the profile that will attract your next pastor. That profile will highlight many of the most desirable aspects of life and ministry in Peterborough. Before that person arrives, we can do a lot!

Time is the most precious of all commodities. We should use it wisely. In the coming months, we can pray for one another. We can spruce up the church's facilities. We can have fun. We can connect, or reconnect, with people of faith in the wider church. And we can imagine many ways to grow together.

More than 100 years ago, Mr Edison said, "None of my inventions came by accident. I see a worthwhile need to be met and I make trial after trial until it comes. What it boils down to is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine per cent perspiration."

Very little that will happen for us at Union Congregational Church will come by accident. I am confident that we are going to keep thinking and talking and imagining the worthwhile needs to be met here in our town and beyond.

To be fair, Edison isn't the only person whose pithy sentiments encourage me. Here's another: "It ain't over 'til it's over" - Yogi Berra. Pitchers and catchers report to spring training in 38 days.

Happy New Year!

Jill

The Reverend Jill H Small, Interim pastor

Report from Search Committee

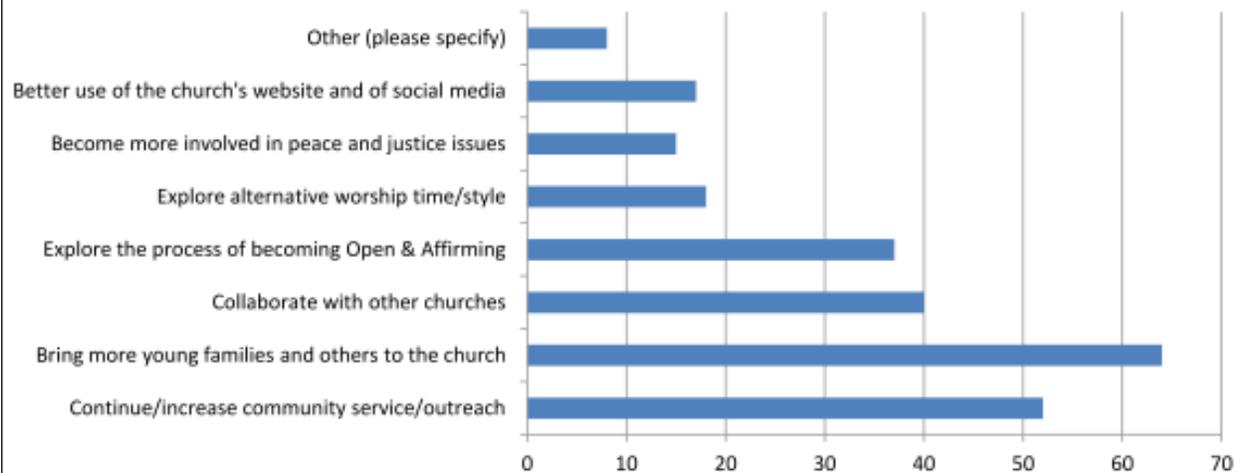
Many, many thanks to all who participated in the Pastoral Search Committee's recent survey. We received responses from 77 members—that's a 44 percent response rate, when experts typically are thrilled with a 30 percent response—plus another five responses from friends. We're sure you're as curious as we were about the opinions expressed, so we've started posting graphs of the results on the hall bulletin board. For those who haven't been able to check out the bulletin boards in person, a few excerpts are included here ([on page 3](#)) as well.

Your responses to the survey are invaluable as we move on to our next task: creating an extensive "Church Profile" for review by the leadership of the UCC New Hampshire Conference and, ultimately, by pastoral candidates. Putting together the profile is a very time-consuming process, because it involves gathering data not only from the survey but also from a number of other sources—and also because the document template is 22 pages long! But we expect to have it completed by the end of January.

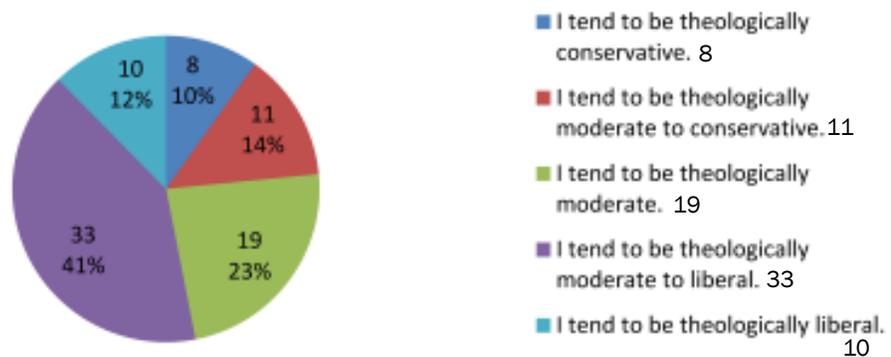
Once again, thank you all for your help and support in this ongoing process. Your input and questions are always appreciated.

Your Pastoral Search Committee: *Irv Richardson, Judy DeWitt, Sarah Pope, Holly Sanders, Sharon Smith, and Norm Makechnie (alternate)*

What do you feel God is calling our church to do/become over the next few years? Mark the 3 most important.



Which one statement most accurately describes your theological/faith stance?



What style and content of preaching do you value most? Mark the 3 you feel are most important.



Church Banners

On behalf of the deacons I would like to invite people to join me in investigating the possibility of creating some banners for the sanctuary or other places in the building, to celebrate the various seasons of the church, to welcome people, etc. Quilters, painters, graphic artists--creators of all kinds--are welcome to participate.



If you are interested, please contact Martha Dahl at 924-6303 or dahlhouse46@hotmail.com. I will contact interested people so we can set a date for a brainstorming meeting. Thanks for your interest.

—Martha Dahl

Annual Meeting Dates

January 4: Draft copies of the 2014 and 2015 budgets will be available for distribution.

January 11: Copies of the 2014 Annual Report will be available for distribution, including the final 2015 budget.

January 11: Following the church service, a meeting will be held in the chapel to answer questions about the church budget for 2015. The meeting will be led by our Finance Committee chair, Rick Hartman, and our treasurer, Mark Fernald.

January 25: Following the church service, the 2015 Union Congregational Church's Annual Meeting will be held in the sanctuary. The meeting will be led by our moderator, Laura Gingras.

Beat the Winter BLUES!

By **Friday, January 16** we all will be ready for getting together to beat the "winter blues" a bit! From **4:00-6:30** the Women's Fellowship invites everyone to the Parlor and Chapel to enjoy good food and the pleasure of each other's company.



There will be coffee, tea, punch, and finger foods to entice you out of your snow cave! Hope to see you there!

Sunday School Update

Hello Everyone! Thank you to the youth that participated in the Advent skit in church on December 14th. It was wonderfully done and enjoyed by all. We are very excited in the Sunday School for the upcoming sleepover on the 30-31st. We will have a craft, snack, games, and a movie for youth to enjoy! Please keep an eye out for the permission slips and take a peek at the bulletin board for more information!

Superbowl Subs to Go!

Whatever you want to call it—Superbowl Sub, Hallmark Hoagie, Golf Grinder, History Hero, Tennis Torpedo, or Scy-Fy Sandwich, let the **Kids4Action** group make your day by putting a sandwich to order on your plate on **Sunday, February 1st!** Just fill out an order form, attach a check, and send to or drop off at the church office. Forms are available in this newsletter or at the church. Orders must be received by Sunday, January 25. Subs can be picked up after church in Fellowship Hall where they will have been freshly constructed that morning! This is the first activity for our newly formed group. Help support their effort to donate profits to a local charity and get a great meal in return! If you have questions, contact Mary Ann Fleming.



Nancy Gorr Retires on February 1st after 10 Years of Service!

We congratulate Nancy Gorr for 10 successful years as our church secretary. Nancy has helped us in so many ways and we will miss her friendly smile, sense of humor, and constant willingness to help. We thank Nancy for all of her contributions toward keeping our church running smoothly. With more free time in retirement, we'll be sure to keep her busy with church activities! The Personnel Committee will oversee the hiring of a new church secretary.



You are cordially invited to a Special Coffee Hour after church on February 8 to celebrate Nancy Gorr's retirement and to honor her years of service and dedication to our church. Please plan to stay a little longer to enjoy some hearty refreshments and a time for celebration and remembrance.

If you would like to contribute to a gift or have a story to tell, please send/give a note or check to Martha Dahl at 46 Pine St. or Ann Lessard at 14 Lounsbury Lane by January 31st.

Remember Our Prayer List

The Diaconate has implemented a new procedure in an effort to help us to take prayer seriously and to be more intentional as we pray for each other.

In the Sunday bulletin, we will continue to have a prayer list for new and immediate prayer concerns, listing names to "keep in your prayers this week." Names will stay on this list for a few weeks (or longer if requested). To add names or keep names on this list, please call the church office by noon on Wednesday.

In addition, we are keeping a longer/ongoing prayer list that will be included in the *Communicon* each month. We know there are many people who feel supported and blessed by our continuing prayers, and we understand how important this ongoing prayer is. Including the list in the *Communicon* will help us all to remember those in need of our prayers, even when we're not in church to see the list in the bulletin. Please help us with this by calling the office by the 4th Tuesday of the month to keep old names on the list and/or to add new ones.

If you have any questions or concerns about this effort to keep our prayer list current, please speak to Martha Dahl or Alex Inglis.

Please keep in your prayers:

Carl and Marilyn Britton; Alfred Whitney; Scott, friend of Dick Freeman; Larry Schongar; Joe Wilson; Mary Ann Fleming's parents; Fred and Ginger Nielson; Jim Suokko; Lorie Snyder; the Pastoral Search Committee; and all in our church community.

To add or keep names on this prayer list, please call the church office by noon on the 4th Tuesday of January—the 27th.

Ann Preston Retires

After 7 years of service, Ann Preston will step down from her position as Church Clerk. Thank you Ann, for keeping our minutes, posting notices for special meetings, and keeping us in order!

OFF THE WALDO

Waldo's New Year's Resolutions



I resolve to:

1. Believe that God has given each of us the unique personhood he wants for us.
2. Live my life with good humor and confidence that I will be adequate for whatever happens.
3. Assume that other persons have key roles to play in God's kingdom, as I do.
4. Assume that God intends for ALL human beings to be safe and well, and that I have a role to play in that.
5. Assume that my relative prosperity is not because I am due it, but that it's a pure gift!
6. Believe that God intends for me to grow in knowledge and in wisdom—whether I want to or not.
7. Assume that history is God's story whether I can see it yet, or not.
8. Live assuming that something like the affection I have for my family is how God thinks of me . . . and everybody else in God's family.
9. Grow in my ability to hear and see God in nature—including human nature.
10. Believe that change often happens for lasting good—in people and in events—whether I can see it or not . . . yet.

Stewardship Update— Blessed to be a Blessing

As of 12/31/14, we have 73 pledges of support for 2015 totaling \$109,490. Thank you to all who pledged generously again this year! Our goal is to receive 90 pledges. If you have not had a chance to make your pledge, we ask that you do so as soon as possible. Please contact Laura Gingras 924-4164 if you need another pledge card. Thank you all for your strong support again this year! You are a Blessing.



CROP Walk TOTAL

The total received from the CROP Hunger Walk raised by all the Monadnock Churches that participated in the walk was \$9,000. Our church raised \$2,533 of that amount.

Thank you to all of our walkers and sponsors for helping to fight hunger around the world and here at home. Across the country some two thousand churches will have held similar walks—making Church World Service's work with hunger in our community, in our country, and around the world substantial and vital.

Senior Choir Winter Rehearsals

To accommodate those who prefer not to drive at night and in wintry conditions, there will be optional rehearsals for Senior Choir members on **Tuesdays beginning January 6 from 1-2 pm**. The regular Thursday night rehearsals will remain as scheduled.

Christian Service News

Many, many thanks to all of you who contributed to the Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund during December. We collected \$265 for NIN and \$365 for the Christmas Fund.

Life Screening

There will be a Life Line Screening day at the church on **Thursday, Jan 8, 2015**. This is an opportunity to have preventive health screenings for stroke, diabetes, or heart disease. Pre-registration is required. If interested, call 1-888-653-6450 to make an appointment. Members of the church are entitled to a \$10 discount.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 – Norm dePuy
- 8 – Luke Schoel
- 9 – Dick Fernald
- 12 – Joe Lessard
Tom Blakeman
- 14 – Cindy Woods
- 16 – Fiona Pieterse
- 18 – Jeni Chui
- 19 – Mary Reis
- 21 – Mike Stiefel
Stan Fry
- 24 – Doris Heckbert
- 27 – Karen and Dick Loudon -
Anniversary

Name _____ Phone # _____

Choose one: Ham Turkey Veggie Cranberry Walnut
Chicken Salad

Size: 6 inch for \$5.00 12 inch for \$10.00

Sides: Lettuce Tomato Cukes Pickles Black Olives
 American Cheese Provolone Cheese
 Mayonnaise Mustard Italian Dressing

Options: Snack size plain potato chips - \$.50 Chocolate chip cookie - \$.50

Fill out one form for each sub. **Return** to the church office **no later than Sunday, Jan. 25**. Checks payable to Union Congregational Church-Christian Ed.

Name _____
Paid by: _____
 Cash Check
 Upon Pick-up Feb 1st
Amount: \$ _____
For Staff Use Only
Collected by: _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Choose one: Ham Turkey Veggie Cranberry Walnut
Chicken Salad

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JANUARY 2015

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Union Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

33 Concord Street

Peterborough, NH 03458

Interim Minister: The Reverend Jill Small

Worship Service: 10:00 am

Nursery Care Provided

Church Office: 924-3272

Parsonage: 924-6320

Email: officeucc@comcast.net

www.uccpeterborough.org

Newsletter Editor: Karen Loudon

Send articles to keloudon@gmail.com

Silent Support Team:

Janet Brown, Randy Brown,

Carolyn Peacock

