

JANUARY 2025

THE COMMUNICON

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PETERBOROUGH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
*An Open and Affirming Congregation***

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1:16-18



Merry Christmas! Yes, Christmas lasts until January 6, and then we move into Epiphany. Christmas welcomes the Baby Jesus, and Epiphany recognizes the ministry of Jesus. During this season we think about the message of Jesus. Jesus called disciples to become "fishers of people."

I still remember the phrase "fishers of men" from Sunday school. I liked fishing, so that sounded like fun. What does it really mean? Does it mean we use a hook and line to actually catch people? If so, I have been doing it wrong. What does Jesus mean by catching people?

Maybe this is like a conga line. It begins with one person who starts to dance. They grab another person to join the line. Then that person catches someone else, and then another, and the line grows longer and longer.

Jesus started the dance, and he called Simon and Andrew; they joined the line, and then others came. There were the twelve, but the scripture speaks of more than sixty who were following at that time, each one catching more people. This pattern has continued down through the ages. What started with Jesus moved out to the disciples. Then they were sent out and became apostles. Those Apostles caught more followers.

Today about one third of the world's population, or 2.4 billion people, are Christian. We are invited to continue this dance, catching new people and sharing the message. We invite others to join this community. We are always watching for people who wish to be caught.

With winter upon us, it is a good time to reflect on our purpose as a church. Who are we? Why are we here? Are we called to catch people as well?

Catching people is a challenge in a world so busy and distracted. They may not wish to join the dance or even have time to join in. Our job, if we accept it, is to offer love to others. This is how we find others who wish to dance along.

This season is a chance to consider how Jesus is calling us to follow him. It is a time to invite others to the dance as well.

Shalom,
Bob



Worship Schedule

10 a.m. Sundays

January 5 Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: Border Crossing

January 12

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon: It Wasn't Me

January 19

John 2:1-11

Sermon: Can You Hear Me Now?

January 26

Luke 4:14-21

Sermon: Job Description

Pastor Bob's Sunday sermons can be emailed or sent by regular mail at your request. Please contact the office if you are interested.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Many people feel supported and blessed by our continuing prayers. Please remember to keep the following people in your prayers:

**Beth S.
Debbie H.
Emily
Ginny
Jim W.
Jo**

**Katherine, friend of Carele
Kathleen
Lindseigh
Shirlee
Ted S.
Vicki
Walker**

...all those with hidden sorrows or challenges and everyone in our church community.

To add or delete names from this ongoing prayer list, please contact the office at 603-924-3272 or office@uccpeterborough.org.

To make a prayer request for the weekly worship bulletin, please contact the office by Wednesday. Thank you!



WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81648698058>

Services are being offered both in person and online via Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/peterboroughucc>



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Key: C = Chapel FH = Fellowship Hall K = Kitchen N = Nursery OS = Off-site P = Parlor S = Sanctuary U = Upstairs Z = Zoom Calendar is subject to change. For updates please visit: https://www.uccpeterborough.org/calendar-of-events			OFFICE CLOSED 1	2	3	4
			Pastor Bob vacation —————		7:30 am Bone Builders (FH) 9:30 am Gentle Stretching (C) 12 pm Red Cross Blood Drive (C, FH, P)	8 am Men Making Breakfast (FH)
5 10 am WORSHIP 2 pm NH Chapter American Guild of Organists —Building a pipe organ (FH) 	6 6:30 pm Council (P) EPIPHANY	7 8:30 am Staff Meeting (P) 4:30 pm Diaconate (P) 6:30 pm AA Step Study (P)	8 7:30 am Bone Builders (FH) 10 am Maintenance Committee (P) 6:30 pm Bible Study (Z)	9 8:30 am WIC/SNHS (P, C) 6:30 pm Bell Choir (S) 6:30 pm Youth Choir (U) 7 pm Senior Choir (S)	10 7:30 am Bone Builders (FH) 9:30 am Gentle Stretching (C)	11
12 10 am WORSHIP 11:15 am Congregational Budget Review (S) 	13 1 pm UCC Wolfeboro's Pastor Dawn's meeting (P)	14 8:30 am Worship Planning (P) 6:30 pm AA Step Study (P)	15 7:30 am Bone Builders (FH) 4pm Finance Committee(P) 6:30 pm Bible Study (Z)	16 6:30 pm Bell Choir (S) 6:30 pm Youth Choir (U) 7 pm Senior Choir (S)	17 7:30 am Bone Builders (FH) 9:30 am Gentle Stretching (C)	18
19 10 am WORSHIP 11:15 am Paul Nickerson Presentation and Potluck (S, FH, Z) 	20 OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. —DAY—	21 8:30 am Staff Meeting (P) 3 pm Sunshine Group (P) 6:30 pm AA Step Study (P) 	22 7:30 am Bone Builders (FH) 10 am Christian Service Committee (P) 6:30 pm Bible Study (Z) 7 pm Monadnock Chorus (FH)	23 6:30 pm Bell Choir (S) 6:30 pm Youth Choir (U) 7 pm Senior Choir (S)	24 7:30 am Bone Builders (FH) 9:30 am Gentle Stretching (C)	25
26 10 am WORSHIP 11:15 am (S, Z) ANNUAL MEETING	27 6:30 pm Council (P)	28 8:30 am Worship Planning (P) 6:30 pm AA Step Study (P)	29 7:30 am Bone Builders (FH) 6:30 pm Bible Study (Z) 7 pm Monadnock Chorus (FH)	30 6:30 pm Bell Choir (S) 6:30 pm Youth Choir (U) 7 pm Senior Choir (S)	31 7:30 am Bone Builders (FH) 9:30 am Gentle Stretching (C)	

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

8 Luke Schoel; **18** Jeni Chui; **21** Stan Fry; **24** Harley Wilson;
27 Dick and Karen Loudon (anniv)

BUILDING ON THE FUTURE

You are invited to join us in building a pipe organ in Fellowship Hall at Union Congregational Church UCC, 33 Concord Street, Peterborough, NH, on **Sunday, January 5, at 2:00 p.m.** The intergenerational event will include several people of all ages selected from attendees and tasked with figuring out how to build a working instrument together as shown in the photo. With luck it will be playable within an hour! Refreshments will be available for all of us watching the magic of Sound, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) come to life. The organ kit, purchased by the NH Chapter-American Guild of Organists, will be available for loan to anyone interested in demonstrating how the physics of sound can be created using principles such as construction, woodworking, tone, and adaptation to environment. These principles form the foundation of education and trades in today's workforce. Let's put them into action before our very eyes!



In addition, the fun can be extended by visiting the 1873 George Ryder tracker organ in the Sanctuary to see how the fundamentals were used as organbuilding blossomed over the centuries into larger instruments.

If it's a poor driving day, we'll reschedule for January 12. Contact Mary Ann Fleming at flemmal954@gmail.com or 603-562-6109 if you have questions.

PAUL NICKERSON'S VISIT

On **January 19, 2025**, the Rev. Paul Nickerson of Nickerson Coaching will come to share worship with us and to give us a presentation of the kind of work he does.

Paul was on staff at the Massachusetts Conference for many years as the church vitality director. Since then, he has worked with church start consultants and has coached many churches in his own consulting business. He is well respected in the field and brings many years of experience to his work.

We are considering engaging Paul to lead us through a visioning process, so we can move into the future with a united set of goals. This process can take a few months to a year depending on the goals of the congregation.

Paul will preach during worship on January 19. This will be followed by a potluck, and then he will give an hour presentation. There will be time to ask questions.

Calling Paul for this work would require a congregational vote, so please come and be part of the conversation.


CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
33 Concord Street
Peterborough, NH
The Reverend Dr. Robert Marrone, Pastor

January 12, 2025

The Annual Meeting of Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Peterborough, New Hampshire, will be held in person and via Zoom on January 26, 2025, at approximately 11:15 a.m. (after the morning worship service), followed by paper balloting by mail, for the purpose of conducting the following business:

1. To review reports of officers and act thereon
2. To review reports of committees and organizations connected with the church and act thereon
3. To confirm committee members
4. To confirm necessary officers provided for in the bylaws
5. To hear presentation of proposed 2025 budget and vote thereon
6. To consider amending the bylaws to dissolve the House Management Committee
7. To consider the church engaging with Paul Nickerson for a visioning process.


Sharon Smith, Clerk

January 12, 2025
Date

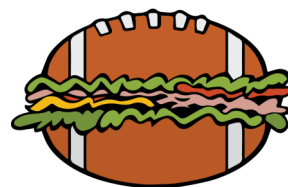
STOVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

What's the old saying, "A watched pot never boils"? We are all anxiously waiting for the opportunity to boil something on our new stove, but unfortunately, the situation has hit another snag. This is what we recently learned. The church's fire alarm system becomes obsolete in January 2025. This was a shocking revelation, and there is no way the stove's fire suppression system can be activated with this situation. We learned that the current alarm system is under proprietary ownership by the original installer. Therefore, the entire fire alarm system cannot be fixed and must be replaced, and the Church Council has approved the funds to do so. We are fortunate that a local business can replace it, as well as take over all the annual inspections of fire extinguishers, alarms, and maintenance related to this. They will be scheduling a walk-through of the premises with the Peterborough Fire Chief to identify any changes that should be made with the new installation. Until a new system is installed, the stove project is halted.

Our current alarm system is still operational, and everything is safe within the church. Leadership on the replacement system will be the Maintenance Committee's responsibility. We can all count our blessings. With the many challenges we have faced in replacing the stove, this is one that is of utmost importance in keeping our church people and building safe for the future. We certainly will have a celebration when it's all completed!

Mary Ann Fleming, Chair
12/18/2024

KIDS4ACTION SUPER BOWL SUBS



FUNDRAISER

It is that time of year again for the Kids4Action Super Bowl Subs charity fundraiser! For years, the youth have donated money to many local charities, including End 68 Hours of Hunger, Amazing Grace Animal Sanctuary, and Cold Springs Healing Paws, to name a few. All of the charities that receive donations have been so appreciative of the support!

You can help a great cause and enjoy a delicious lunch at the same time! It's a win-win opportunity! You may print the order form from below or pick one up on the Sunday School bulletin board in the church hallway. Choices for the subs are ham, turkey, veggie, or cranberry walnut chicken salad, with fixings of lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, pickles, cukes, or olives. The 8-inch subs are \$12 each and filled to capacity! Additional snacks of chips or cookies are available for \$.50 each. **Orders must be in by February 2 for pickup after church on February 9.** Checks may be made out to *Union Congregational Church-Christian Ed* with a memo line of "Super Bowl Subs."

Name _____ Phone # _____

Choose one: ☐ Ham ☐ Turkey ☐ Veggie ☐ Cranberry Walnut Chicken Salad

Size: ☐ One size 8-inch for \$12.00

Sub Sides: ☐ Mayonnaise (reg) ☐ Mustard
☐ American Cheese ☐ Provolone Cheese
☐ Lettuce ☐ Tomato ☐ Cukes ☐ Pickles ☐ Black Olives

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

Fill out one form for each sub order. **Return** to the church office **no later than Sunday, Feb. 2**.
 Checks payable to Union Congregational Church-Christian Ed.

Name _____

Paid by:

☐ Cash ☐ Check

☐ Upon Pick-up Feb 12

Amount: \$ _____

Thanksgiving Day



Jodi Marrone & Grace



Carol Crocker



Sharon Smith



Todd & Dan Hollis



Mike Crocker



Ginny Ridabock & Donn Brous



Randy Brown, Wendy, Joe



Suzanne Lamport, Geoff Frank,
Sue McMillan, Ed



Arlene MacArthur & Pastor Bob Marrone

Advent Wreath Lighting



Week 1: KaitLynne Foote, Shirley, Emily Burke, Clayton, Matthew Foote



Week 2: Pastor Bob, Mark Fernald, Russ Fernald



Week 3: Rick Hartman, Laura Gingras, Claire Gingras, Ed Gingras



Week 4: Arthur Pope, Sarah Pope, Esther Pope, Dan Millbauer, Megan behind Esther

Christmas Pageant



UCC kids

Christmas Caroling



Caroling for Marilyn Britton

Carolers also visited Randy Brown, Judy Fernald, Nancy Hicks, Pattie Ingelstrom, Shirley Porter, and Joan and Ed Tuberosa.

COMMUNICON

January 2025

Vol. 71, No. 1

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
33 Concord Street
Peterborough, NH 03458

Minister: The Reverend Dr. Robert Marrone

pastorbob@uccpeterborough.org; 603-425-4578

Pastor's office hours: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.

Lan DiSciullo, *Administrative Assistant*

Cathy Harvey, *Organist and Choir Director*

Carele Mayer, *Handbell Director*

Emily Burke, *Sunday School Coordinator*

Rick Tracy, *Custodian*

Worship Service: 10 a.m. online and in person

Church Office: 603-924-3272

Office hours: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Email: office@uccpeterborough.org

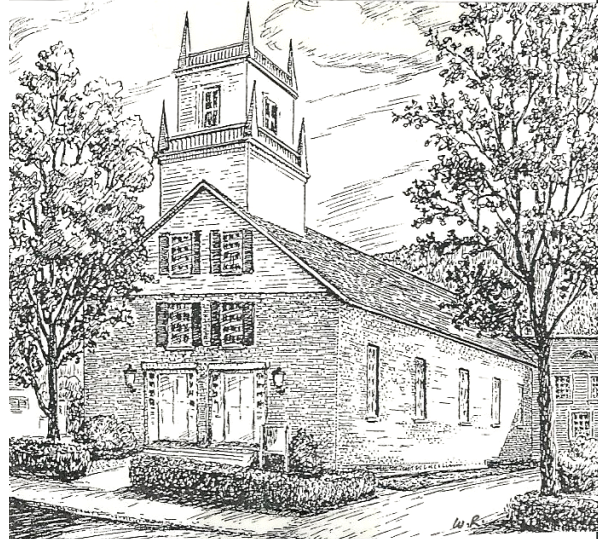
<https://www.uccpeterborough.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/peterboroughucc>

Communicon Editor: Lan DiSciullo

DEADLINE for February issue:

10 a.m., January 21



Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
33 Concord Street
Peterborough, NH 03458