

# Sanbornton UCC

# BELFRY



Now that November is here, typical New Hampshire winters are already beginning to set in with blustery days and the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays just around the corner. When you are Christmas shopping this year, remember that we have our annual Holiday Fair coming up on Saturday, December 7th as a part of Sanbornton's Christmas in the Square where you can get some great deals!

Our church continues to be very active. We participated in the town's Trunk or Treat event a few weeks ago, which was a great hit. We also hosted an organ recital with Randy Steere that drew a crowd. Both events were well attended and many people who may not have known that we existed sure know now! We have also added to our coffee hour a new virtual option, where church members can now participate in the coffee hour through Google Meet even if they are unable to join us in person.

In the past month, last minute challenges have occurred where our church continues to be resilient illness. Does that mean the services get cancelled? Absolutely not! Burrett McBee from our choir volunteered to preach the sermon that our minister had prepared for this Sunday,

and Burrett's wife Rhu conducted the children's sermon, Laurie Greci lead the opening prayers, and Robert Ladew presented a reading on Veteran's Day. So, it was a great service and life goes on!

One of my favorite things about our church is that I seldom hear "what we can't do" but rather "why can't we do?!" It is about how all of us continue to gladly step up and help whenever we can.

As Christmas approaches, I am reminded that this holiday season is a time of hope, promise and kindness. Our nation and the world have been in such turmoil and conflict over this past year. The ways people choose to express differing points of view can affect us all. During the holiday season, remember that we can choose to be kind, respectful and understanding to our friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors just as we would want them to be to us. (I am sure that is in the bible as well!) Or we can get caught up in all the drama going on, which is very easy to do and forget to be kind, respectful and understanding to others. It's our choice.

Most importantly, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, let's never forget to be thankful for all that we have; we are truly fortunate! Happy Holidays!

Moderately speaking,  
David Henderson



# *Still* SEARCHING

While I do not have any news pertaining to prospective candidates for a settled pastor, I just wanted to reach out and check in with you. We have continued to be hopeful and prayerful as your Search Committee.

Recently, a New Hampshire church reached out to your Search Committee to inquire how we are managing during this time and what we have found useful and helpful. They, too, will be searching for a settled pastor in the months to come and wished to be prepared. We are happy to share with them some ideas that have worked for us.

I am reminded during this season of Thanksgiving, how incredibly grateful and thankful we are to Rev. Richard Slater for his gift of ministry during this in-between time. Rev. Slater continues to lead us in worship each Sunday.

As for you, our faithful congregation, I am so proud of the leadership you share each week. Your time and talents are as important as your monetary contributions. Thank you all for stepping up to the plate as we continue the work of God's church in our community and the world.

On behalf of your Search Committee,

Laurie Greci

David Henderson

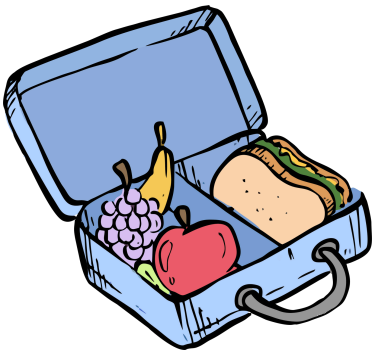
Sue Long

Clif Mills

Polly Mills

Kim Bossey - Chair





# Got LUNCH!

We served over 50 youth this past summer. All went very well except for one item - the Got Lunch budget. We overspent our funding and need to raise money to make up the difference. Please consider making a donation to Got Lunch so we may continue to support food challenged youth in our community. No amount is too small.

A grant application was made to, and accepted by, The Children's Auction in Laconia. Pray that we receive a grant! We also ask that you let us know of any other grants that we may pursue.

Thank you,

Mary Ruth Scott and Laurie Greci





# Bats IN THE BELFRY!



Sanbornton's Halloween Trunk or Treat event was very well attended. Our "trunk" holding the treats was the back of a Ford SUV! It came decorated as our church. We had a Belfry on top with 4 little spires and several BATS flying around and about it.

When costumed kids approached for the Treats, the inside of our "Bats in the Belfry" theme had a large photo depicting our sanctuary and beautiful pipe organ. We played some spooky organ music until Moulton's Band came and set up. Then there was LIVE SPOOKY MUSIC – even better!!!

Our volunteer "candy hander outers" were great! There was: Susan as a Witch with her trusty broom, Lynn as McGonagall the witch from Harry Potter fame, Karey the Treky from the Starship Enterprise, Marg as Dracula's fangless but VERY red-lipped understudy, and Matt the Bat Trainer or Bat Trainee ??? Anyway, three bats named Noc, Turn, and Al (the Nocturnal group) were clinging to Matt's safari shirt, however, Matt was wearing "Flighty" Training Wings on his elbows. Hmmm, Trainer or Trainee – that is the question!

Truly, I think the adults had as much fun, if not MORE, than the kids! Our treat packets contained a mini-bat (of course), a spider, bat, or skull ring, a handy "all about Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC" bookmark and a couple pieces of candy. There were 15 – 17 Trunk or Treat stations serving about 275 costumed treat seekers. We can hardly wait 'til next year, when we can do it all again!






# Stewardship

Autumn has arrived. The days are getting colder (although I heard WMUR saying that before next weekend we may see yet another day flirting with the 70 degree mark!) But we know that the frost is (or soon will be) on the pumpkin(s). Time to button up our homes for winter, get the furnace cleaned if you didn't do it last Spring. Yes "Old Betsy" down in my basement was looking pretty grim but the guys gave her a cleaning and a clean bill of health. "Old, not as efficient as it should be, but if you take good care of her, she'll last you a couple, maybe a few, more years. This furnace has gotta be over forty years old but the boiler on this old steam train is rugged.," Seems like good **Stewardship**, taking care of things so they will last, is something we New Englanders naturally bring into more focus at this time of year when weather and things such as that, get harder.

Well . . . our church, dated 1771, is older than the Revolutionary War and look at this grand old building and all the people who have come and gone through these doors, doing God's work from this place. Well cared for so far, with how many generations going before us? Budgetary planning for the coming fiscal year is in the works and much of our income is derived from your generosity of both money AND volunteerism.

November 3rd and 4th the annual "Stewardship" mailing went out to everyone we have on a list of friends and members. Please be watching for it. It contains information for your review, asking you to think about what you might contribute, both in dollars and / or in working on tasks which help fulfill God's work. Gathering together each Sunday to create collective strength, we know many hands make a lighter individual work-load. Please take a good prayerful look at your letter / package when it arrives and think about the generosity you are able to share. What this church is and does is too valuable to stop caring for it. We are all Stewards of God's house.

If you are one of our many YouTube visitors who has yet to add your name and address, please let us know. We are a no-pressure kind of group. We encourage you to become more involved as your heart leads you. We would love to send our Stewardship envelope for you to explore, no obligation. Just let us know by so we may address one to you. We welcome all people from all walks of life. All are invited to come and share fellowship with us either online or in-person.





# Stewardship

I know I liked the way I was asked if I would be interested in coming here to Sanbornton Congregational Church. The person said, “come and give us a try, if you like us, stay; if you decide this is not for you and you go, we harbor no hard feelings. I came in 2005, I tried it, I stayed. Not long after I came, I was invited to help with the Stewardship Committee . . . I’ve been participating ever since. We ask that you follow what your heart tells you when it comes to pledging and as always if circumstances prevent you from fulfilling the amount you have pledged, simply contact our financial Secretary and change your pledge.

If you have questions about Stewardship or other parts of our church, please feel free to contact us online and you will be directed to the appropriate person to assist you.

Thank you,  
Marg Whedon

# Music

From the Minister of Music:

We hosted a very successful organ recital on October 18, given by Randy Steere. There was a nice crowd, and Randy played beautifully. Everyone enjoyed hearing Laura’s Symphony Assistant in two wonderful pieces. Randy’s encore was a stunning and touching setting of America the Beautiful by Calvin Hampton; it was a musical moment which will not be soon forgotten.

Prior to the recital, Bob Bengtson did a thorough tuning of the organ...every single pipe, so the organ was, and is, in great shape. The job took parts of 4 days to complete.

On November 9, the choir was honored to sing at the Funeral Mass, at St. Gabriel’s Catholic Church, of Mary Embree, wife of our organist of 39 years, Doug Embree. Doug was here for a few days, and many of us had some time to catch up, and extend our condolences.

We are delighted that Phoebe Timmons has joined the choir. She’s singing Alto, but is also versatile, and has been seen in the Tenor section.

Dennis



# Annual THANKSGIVING Baskets

On November 17 we will be collecting the last of our Thanksgiving Basket Donations! We are well on our way to fulfill our annual contributions to First Fruits Food Pantry's Thanksgiving Baskets. We will be providing at least 20 of each item requested in order to make these baskets. If we have extras, we will be able to donate those too! Thank you for your generosity.

Here's what we still need to complete our contribution:

- 0 more cans of cream of mushroom soup
- 4 more cans of cranberry sauce
- 1 more 2-quart bottle of juice
- 1 more jar of turkey gravy





# Annual CHRISTMAS Fair

December 7, 2024, 9am-2pm

We are looking forward to welcoming the community again this year with sales of crafts, hand-sewn fabric gift bags, baked goods, books, custom made soaps and gently used Christmas items.

We welcome your donations of:

- Gently used books ~ no textbooks or dictionaries please

Coordinators: Susan Bayer and Mary Ruth Scott

- Baked goods ~ packaged and ready to sell

Coordinators: Barbara Osler, Mae Burke, Cheryl Provost

- Christmas bags ~ Do you have extra unused gift bags in your stash?

We will take them so shoppers have a nice way to take their purchases home.

- Gently used Christmas items ~ If you have a holiday decoration or ornament in good condition, we would gladly accept it. When donating, please ask yourself if you would buy it. 😊

★ If you are making a new item for the sale, please suggest a price for each item.

We are still looking for help with pricing White Elephant Christmas items and folks who want to help in other ways!

Let Sue Long know if you want to help out  
(email: [administrator@uccsanbornton.org](mailto:administrator@uccsanbornton.org))







# Community CAROL Sing

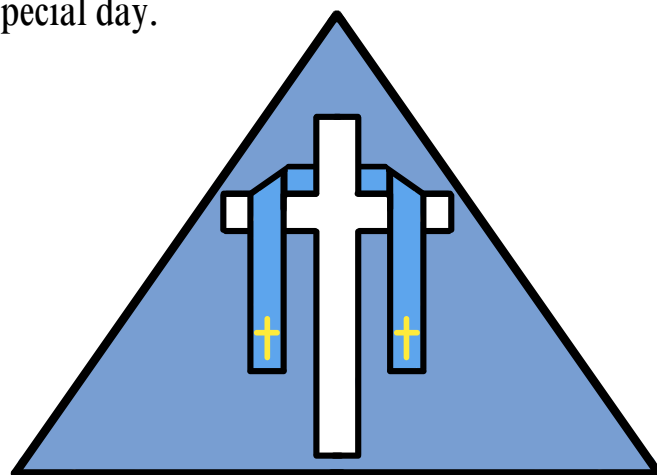
Bring your family and friends and get in the Christmas spirit at our Community Carol Sing. We will be working with the Sanbornton Recreation Department on Saturday, December 14, 2024, starting at 2 pm. Once again we will join our voices for singing, accompanied by Laura Belanger AND try to outdo last year's interactive "12 Days of Christmas" under the direction of Rhu McBee with her fabulous creations. After the Carol Sing, families can go to the Old Town Hall for the Recreation Department's Holiday Party and wait for Santa to arrive at the end of the party.





# The MERRIMACK Association

The Merrimack Association is filled with joy that on December 8th at 3pm, Cherie Shaw will be Ordained at South Congregational Church Concord; 27 Pleasant St, Concord, NH. All are invited to attend and celebrate with Cherie. Clergy will be wearing blue stoles with their robes per Cherie's request. Cherie experiences God as water and that connection has been very meaningful for her throughout her time of formation/preparation for ordained ministry. She feels blue stoles will add another layer of meaning to this special day.



The New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ sends out a weekly newsletter. It has a regular wealth of information that many may want to know about, including Conference news and updates, workshop offerings, Horton Center updates, Conference sponsored youth programs and opportunities, and so much more! It's easy to have it delivered to your in-box - simply subscribe through this sign up form (<https://www.nhcucc.org/newsletter-sign-up>).





# Keeping in TOUCH

Keeping in Touch - Thank you for keeping us in-the-know!

Please let us know how you are staying connected with folks from our Sanbornton Congregational Church community by filling out the [form linked here](#). We plan to add this as a regular article in our Belfry!

Kim says “I ran into Judy at the grocery store. She looked fabulous. She is still selling real estate and driving the “kiddos” safely to and from school. Sonia has started a new job. They are both doing well.”

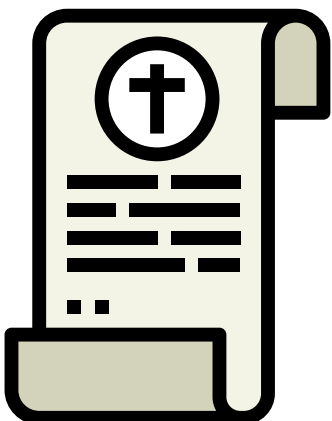
We host a **Virtual Coffee Hour** each Sunday after church. Join us at our Talking Table and catch up with folks on-line and those who are in the Undercroft.

[meet.google.com/eyv-xpjd-gcf](https://meet.google.com/eyv-xpjd-gcf)

## Read Sunday Sermons on Our Website

Reverend Slater has graciously provided us with written copies of his weekly sermons and you can read them by visiting our website. [Click this link!](#)

Thank you Rev. Slater!





# *From the* **HISTORIAN**


## The History of The Church Parsonage

Allow me to introduce the man responsible for the house our church once used as it's Parsonage: Herbert Irving Fiske.

Did you know Herbert's name at birth, in April of 1900, was Herbert Irving Adams? That's right...his biological father was John Quincy Adams (no, not THAT John Quincy Adams, but ongoing research does point to a connection!) but in 1903, his parents divorced. That same year, his mother, Ellen, went on to marry Charles Preston Fiske, who then adopted Herbert as his son. Herbert lived with his parents in Alexandria, NH until his father died in 1951, at which point he and his mother moved to the house on Sanborn Road. His mother died in 1965.

In October of 1965, Herbert married Florence (Cutler) Nordin, a widow, originally from Massachusetts, and together they lived in the home on Sanborn Road for 10 years until Florence's death in 1975. He was a custodian at the Sanbornton Central School, drove a school bus for George Currier and was a member of the Sanbornton Fire Department. He attended our church in the seventies, and is remembered as a very unique and interesting individual.

In 1981, he gifted his home to the church (via a friend he held dear to his heart, our own Milly Shaw) as a future parsonage, retaining a life estate. After spending some time in the Belknap County Nursing Home, Herbert died in 1988. A family gravestone is found at the Homeland Cemetery in Bristol, NH with the names of Herbert, his wife, Florence (who is actually buried in Mass.) and his parents. Dennis Akerman attended Herbert's graveside service, which was conducted by Rev. Wm. Zeckhausen, a member of our church.



# From the HISTORIAN

Over the years, the home had been occupied by Rev. Tigert, Rev. Norman, Rev. Borden and Rev. Martz, as well as leased to a few individuals. The church added the room between the house and garage in the late 80's. As with most older homes, the estate needed constant maintenance, which became costly for the church. At our 2022 Annual Church Meeting, the members authorized the creation of a Committee to evaluate the viability of retaining or selling our 'Parsonage' at 425 Sanborn Road. An all-church member vote in November of that year voted in favor to sell the property. The home was offered for sale, and we were blessed to find the son of one of our church family members very interested in purchasing the home. The conditions of the sale were very beneficial for our Church, and the sale was completed in early January 2023, with net proceeds of \$281,500.

The photos attached are of the metal plaque that once hung on the Fiske House while it was our parsonage and property, an aerial view of the house from prior to the addition (early to mid 80's), and the Fiske House as it is seen today.

Many thanks to Dennis Akerman and Brendan Morrison for providing so much great information and photos.

Karey Caldwell



# Take me to THE MOON

Interesting Trivia about the Moon: November's Full Beaver SuperMoon

"Genesis 1:14 - And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years..."

Full Moon names date back to Native Americans, of what is now the northern and eastern United States. The tribes kept track of the seasons by giving distinctive names to each recurring full Moon. Their names were applied to the entire month in which each occurred. There was some variation in the Moon names, but in general, the same ones were current throughout the Algonquin tribes from New England to Lake Superior. European settlers followed that custom and created some of their own names. Since the lunar month is only 29 days long on the average, the full Moon dates shift from year to year.

Full November Moon - "The Beaver Moon". November was the time for hunters to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. Another interpretation suggests that the name Full Beaver Moon comes from the fact that the beavers are now actively preparing for winter. The Lakota Tribe calls this moon "Waniyetu Wi - Moon when winter begins". This moon is sometimes called the Hunter's Moon, the Digging Moon, the Whitefish Moon, the Deer Rutting Moon or the Frost Moon by other Native tribes.

This year, the full Moon crests on Friday, November 15 just before 4:30 A.M. EST. Skygazers will see the FINAL extra bright full Moon of the year, known as a Supermoon, when the Beaver full Moon rises on Friday.

Karey Caldwell

