

Sanbornton UCC BELFRY



Happy New Year! The Christmas season at Sanbornton Congregational Church was a special time, as always, and here we are in 2025 and the new year is off to a great start for us! We got to spend quality time with our families and friends and enjoy some great food and presents at the same time.

Here are a few things to remember as we start 2025. Be sure to attend our church's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26th right after church services end around 11am. We will meet in the Sanctuary again and the meeting will be hybrid again for those who are unable to attend in person. We will be sharing the Annual Report and also plan to approve the 2025 Church Budget.

Also coming up is our 2026 Church Vision Planning session tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 8th at 9am. We had a vision planning session last year to talk about where we wanted to be in a year, and that session was a huge success. Many great ideas and dreams were shared and many of those ideas have been implemented. Sue Long has done a great job in tracking the plan throughout the year and helping us stay focused on the priorities that we set as a group. So yes, we will be bringing out the dots again for everyone to vote for their personal favorite ideas!

At our last Church Council meeting in December, we discussed conducting performance reviews for our paid employees,

not only to provide feedback from the church to the employee, but to also receive feedback from our employees back to the church. Many of our employees have not received a raise (or a review) in many years (if ever,) so I have asked the budget committee to include a line for a "raise pool" that can be used to provide raises during this time of high inflation. The Council suggested that the Moderator conduct the reviews privately. If any member of the church has any input or thoughts for these reviews, please share with the Moderator by January 31st, and the reviews will be conducted in February.

And one final thought that I would like to share is that a year has passed since Paula Gile retired and we still do not have a settled Pastor despite our best attempts. Many other churches are in the exact same position due to a national shortage of Pastors. But despite this fact, our church is functioning extremely well with the new structure and organization plan that we have adopted. We have received many complements on our new structure that is working so well, and we have received questions on how we can help other churches who find themselves in a similar situation. We have responded to those churches and continue to respond to our needs as we find the world keeps changing.

Have a happy 2025!

Moderately speaking,

Dave Henderson

Notice of ANNUAL MEETING

SANBORNTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

To the members of the Sanbornton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, let it be known, pursuant to the by-laws, you are hereby notified of the 254th Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 26th, 2025 immediately following the worship service.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim E. Bossey
Clerk





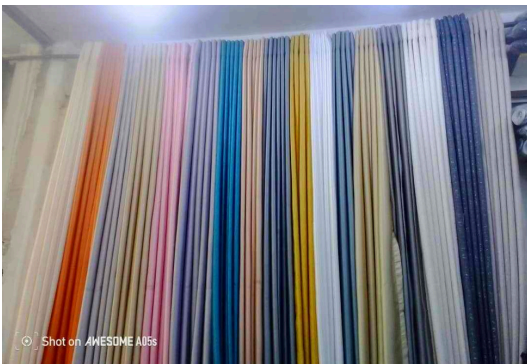
Update from CHE CHE CHE

Good news! The money from our organ concert fundraiser reached its destination with our partner church in Zimbabwe a few months ago, and they have put it to good use. They purchased several yards of colored fabric and members of the church got together to make the curtains shown in the picture!

This "curtain project" started one day with a message from my penpal, Alettah (pictured, in the white dress). She informed me that although their church had many large windows to supply an abundance of natural light, in the summer months it gets very hot - and they had no window coverings! After kicking around a couple of ideas, we decided we would discuss it with our respective churches to see what might be done.

With the help of Brendan Morrison and Robert Ladew on "our end", and Isaac Sibambah (Marilyn Ladew's penpal, pictured with his wife) on "their end", the funds for the curtain material made its way to Zimbabwe. The results of all these efforts may now be seen hanging in the windows of our sister church in Checheche!

Submitted by Karey Caldwell





From the HISTORIAN

Something a little different from your friendly historian this month - an email sent to me 10 years ago from our very own ANN KNOTT! She really had a great sense of humor and I sure miss her smile. Hope you enjoy this as much as I did!

A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible. Here is what he wrote;

The Children's Bible in a Nutshell - PART 1

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one," but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, "Give me a light!" and someone did.

Then God made the world.

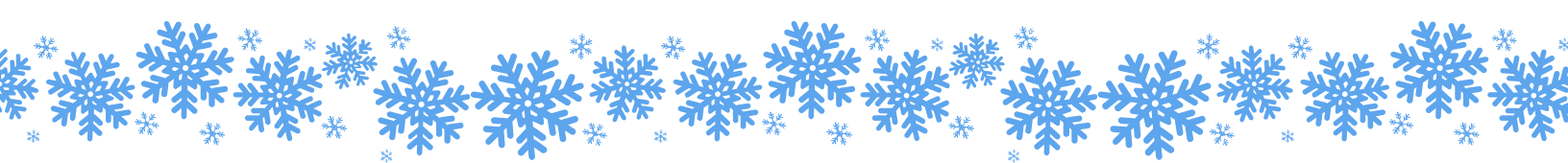
He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden ... Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat....

STAY TUNED FOR PART 2 IN NEXT MONTH'S BELFRY!
Submitted by Karey Caldwell, church historian





Trivia About THE MOON

The last full moon of 2024 and the first full moon of 2025: December's "Cold" Moon" and January's "Wolf Moon"

"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. European settlers followed that custom and created some of their own names.

December's Full Moon: "The Cold Moon" on December 15, 2024

December's full moon generally indicates Winter taking its firm hold and temperatures plummeting at this time. The full moon name often used by Christian settlers is the "Moon before Yule". It's also been called "Bitter Moon", "Long Night Moon", "Oak Moon", "Christmas Moon", "Peach Moon", "Snow Moon" and by the Dakotah Sioux, simply the "Twelfth Moon".

January's Full Moon: "The Wolf Moon" on January 13, 2025

Howling and other wolf vocalizations are heard in the wintertime to locate pack members, reinforce social bonds, define territory, and coordinate hunting. Another name for this full Moon is the Center Moon, used by the Assiniboine people of the Northern Great Plains, because it refers to the idea that this Moon roughly marks the middle of the cold season. Other names include Cold Moon, Frost Exploding Moon, Freeze Up Moon, Severe Moon, Hard Moon, Canada Goose Moon, Great Moon and Greetings Moon.

Submitted by Karey Caldwell





In Memory
DAVID HART



“Life lives itself. One life living. We get to experience it. The body’s just the ticket to ride. It’s the vehicle to ride. Life was there before the body, and will be after. Bodies come and go, life is infinite.” ~ Tony Basilio

It has been a wonderful ride!

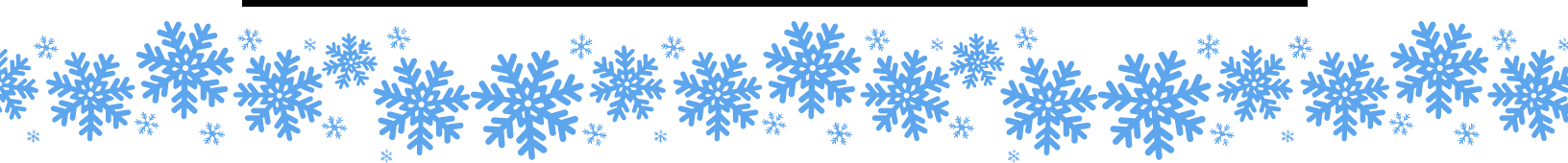
David Bonhurst Hart, 97, beloved patriarch of the Hart family, passed away on Monday, December 9, 2024, at the Taylor Community in Laconia, NH.

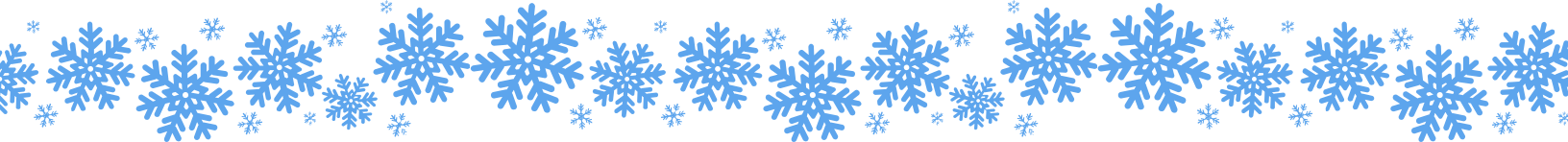
David was born on November 14, 1927. He was the youngest of three boys born to Carrie Louise Bonhurst and Edward Osgood Hart in Fulton, Oswego County, NY.

The family lived in Syracuse, NY after 1928. David was baptized into the Christian faith in the American Baptist denomination at the Eastwood Baptist Church.

He graduated from Eastwood High School, class of 1945, and served in the US Army in Hawaii and Guam from January 1946 to June 1947. Both older brothers served in World War II as well. David graduated from Denison University in Granville, OH, in 1951, where he was a member of the American Commons Club Fraternity, which welcomed members of all races and creeds. He earned a master’s degree in education from Columbia University.

A Celebration of Life is planned for Sanbornton Congregational Church UCC, 21 Meeting House Hill Rd, Sanbornton, NH 03269, on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 1:00 pm



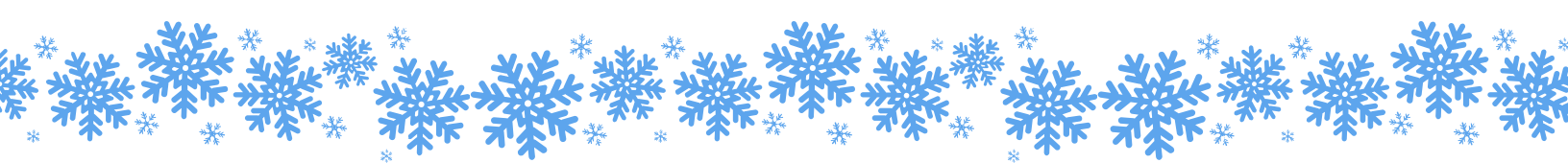


He married his college sweetheart, Lee Sharp, a Denisonian, class of 1950, in August of 1952 in Haddonfield, NJ. Dave and Lee settled in Granby CT where they raised their three children. He was active in the community and their church, the First Congregational Church, UCC. He served as deacon, and teacher and superintendent of the church school. For the capital fund drive celebrating the 250th anniversary of the church in 1989, he acted as general chair. For 29 years Dave organized 15 bakers who produced over 400 loaves of cheddar cheese bread, which was a highlight of the one-day craft fair! David taught history and social studies in the public schools of Sherburne, NY, and West Hartford, CT, before becoming a re-insurance underwriter and manager with the Travelers Insurance Company in Hartford from 1957 until retirement in 1989.

He was active in the Granby Public Health Nursing Association, serving as president for four years and spent several years volunteering at the Institute of Living in Hartford. In the 1970's and early 1980's, he and his two sons backpacked in the White Mountains of NH, climbing all of the peaks over 4,000 ft. elevation. Some wonderful, happy memories came out of those experiences! He continued to hike and backpack solo in NH and ME, climbing Mount Katahdin three summers in the early 1990's. In 1997, David and Lee became permanent residents of the Taylor Community in Laconia. Almost immediately, Dave began to look for a historical record of the retirement community. Finding only a brief outline, he started a ten-year journey researching records in the Taylor Community archives, the county court house, and the public library.

In 2007, he completed a literary work of 226 pages honoring the 100th anniversary of the Taylor founding. During his tenure at Taylor Community, David was a strong proponent of the retirement model with three levels of care and maximum resident participation. He served on the residents' council for six years, two of those as president. In 1998, he and Lee became members of the Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC. Dave was a member of the choir and served seven years on the Board of Trustees.

Lee, "the treasure of my heart" and beloved wife of 63 years, predeceased him in September 2015. He is survived by his son Bruce and his wife Jill; daughter Carol Hart and her husband Malik Haig; son Edward and his wife Laura; honorary son Ron Brown; granddaughter Megan Leigha; granddaughter Stephanie Krist, her husband Nate, and their son Julien David; nieces, nephews, many dear extended family members, and friends.





Keeping in TOUCH

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



Do you have some news to share?

If you want to share news, you can let us know by filling out the [form linked here](#).

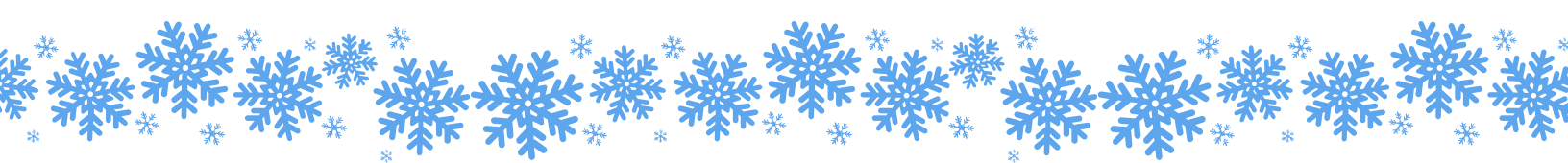
With your permission, we will add your news to the next Belfry.



From Debi Gray

Mike and I have sold our home in Sanbornton to a sweet couple. We moved into a Senior retirement community named "The Peabody Place" in Franklin, NH on October 19th.

We are still adjusting to life in an apartment, but like it here so far. We have met so many new people and their food is so yummy! They make our main meal every day!



Annual CHRISTMAS FAIR

On December 7, 2024, the whole town of Sanbornton was buzzing with Christmas shoppers. The Sanbornton Historical Society hosted their annual wreath sale and craft fair and First Baptist Church served breakfast, lunch and crafts. At Sanbornton Congregational Church, we welcomed the community into the Undercroft to buy books, baked goods, vintage Christmas items, crafts, hand-made fabric gift bags, custom made soaps and so much more. Customers who shopped said they were excited to come AGAIN this year. The fair was a fabulous success, not only because we brought in money, but also (and more importantly) we welcomed people into the building, sharing our space and our infectious SCC energy. A big thank you goes out to everyone who contributed throughout the year!





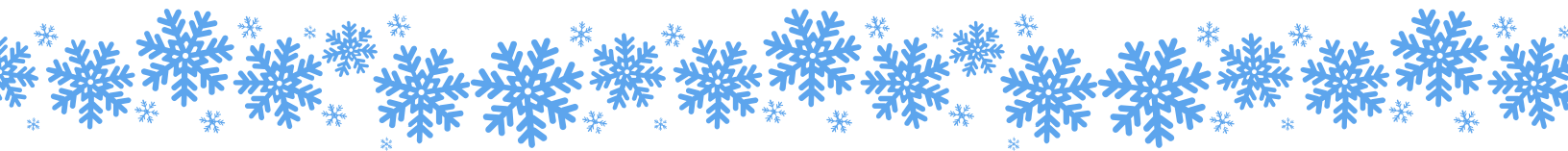
Christmas Carol **SING ALONG**

Singers of ALL ages and abilities were delighted with classic songs from the Christmas season at our Community Sing-Along on December 14, 2024. A highlight of the event was definitely in the middle of the program when participants led the "12 Days of Christmas" with Rhu's professionally crafted puppets (made just for the song). After the singing at SCC, families went next door to the Old Town Hall for Sanbornton Recreation Department's Annual Holiday Party. Thank you Laura for your gift of music and for sharing that with our wider community.



12 Days of Christmas Video

Link: [Video](#)





News & UPDATES

YouTube Channel NEWS

Our OLD channel is

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAeFubnOS3JWWBOxKxiNgHw>

You will still see our old services there.

Our NEW channel is

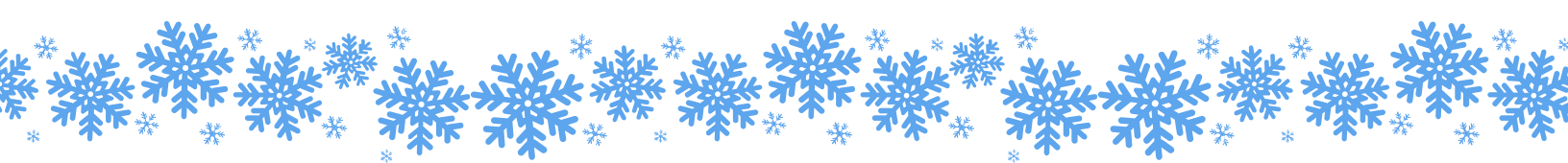
www.youtube.com/@SanborntonCongregationalChurch

You will see our weekly service on the NEW channel.

If you haven't updated this link, please click it and

SUBSCRIBE. :-)

SAVE THE DATES

- Sunday, January 26, 2025 - Annual Meeting after church
 - Saturday, February 1, 2025, 1 pm - Memorial Service for Dave Hart
 - Saturday, February 8, 2025 - tentative date for Vision 2026
 - Saturday, February 22, 2025 - Prepared to Serve at Pembroke Academy
- 



News & UPDATES

Read our history, listen to our organ, keep up to date on events and re-watch a service through our many platforms.

Visit our website Follow us on Facebook

www.uccsanbornton.org

www.facebook.com/sanborntonuccchurch

Watch us on our NEW YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/@SanborntonCongregationalChurch





A Word on STEWARDSHIP

Stewarding the Common Good

In Genesis 4, God asks Cain the whereabouts of Abel, his little brother, whom Cain has just murdered in a jealous fit. Answering God, Cain retorts, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” What God would most likely have wanted for an answer is: “Yes, you are your brother’s keeper.” That principle also applies to us.

Jesus taught, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” –Matthew 22:38

Woven through Scripture is God’s clear priority that we love and care for one another. Jesus repeatedly teaches us to love everyone – friend, family, neighbor – even enemy, no exceptions. (Yes, I know, that is a hard one to follow).

Love for neighbor is a stewardship issue because we are responsible to care for all that God has entrusted to us, including community, relationships, and the welfare of others. Our culture has long taught us to “look out for number one,” as opposed to looking out for everyone. Consider how much of our political division and brokenness in criminal justice, education, healthcare, economics and government results from our thinking “what’s good for me,” rather than “what’s good for everybody.”

This year, especially as politics and division have embroiled and divided our country, we especially need to consider how the theme of loving our neighbor and good stewarding good is woven through Scripture. Stewarding the common good often involves giving up some measure of what is good just for us. As we sacrifice, out of love, to provide what is good for our neighbor. Is anything more Christian?

Many of us are drawn to this church, Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC because of our non-judgmental nature and our practicing love for one another, even if we individually disagree with another’s individual beliefs or opinions. Keeping a church like this alive, through pledging our support in money AND deed, so that our money minders (the budget creators) can create a functional budget for our continuance, is a high priority, and honors the path God would hope for us to follow.





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If you have not yet submitted your pledge, rescindable, reducible or growable at any time throughout the year, if need be (now tell me, where else does one find that offer?), we understand your hesitancy. However, as soon as possible, please find it in your heart to send in your pledge or bring it into a service at church, so our budget creators can complete their work.

Many of the words above are borrowed from a 2020 article by Rev. Rob Blezard, who has served as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA and works as a content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org As your Stewardship chairperson, I thought much of this was appropriate or applicable to the controversial times we have been going through prior to, through and after a federal election. The parts of the article I borrowed from Rev. Blezard were written in 2020 (also around the time of a previous controversial federal election)

Sincerely & thank you, Marg Whedon

