



Gospel Truth

Newsletter of the Alexandria United Methodist Church • 12 Washburn Road Alexandria NH 03222 Mar 2016

His Hands and Feet

By Debra Blouin



Well, our meeting time has just changed again! The ever-growing calendar of the church has us meeting on the THIRD Sunday of the month at noon. We will have light refreshments too! All are welcome!

Our mission team is currently going full speed ahead planning for our annual summer fair. **SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday August 13th 9am – 3pm. We are currently soliciting donations for our very popular silent auction, rounding up vendors and crafters for our green, and collecting donations for our Gently Used White Elephant and Book Sale areas. We have storage room, so while you are at that dreaded “spring cleaning” and are finding no longer needed usable goods, give us a call for pick up or drop off! You can call Pastor Deb at the church during Pastor’s hours, or reach out to my cell at 603-393-9376. The lovely ladies Paula Hall and Margaret Clayman have graciously agreed to manage the Usable Goods and Book Sale, respectively, areas of the fair again this year.

We are also excitedly shopping for some much needed items to help our fair day run smoother. We are looking at a fryer for quicker French fry orders and a popcorn popper of our own for the fair and the many other family and youth events. Exciting times! I personally am excited to sample some yummy items for sale under the lunch tent. Ms Nancy Parker always has scrumptious menu items in mind! There is much to do, and many hands make light work so pop in to a missions meeting and give of your time and talent! We would LOVE to see you! If you can’t make a meeting but would still like to help, give a call to Pastor Deb at the church, or myself at the cell # above or shoot me an email at dblouin423@gmail.com. Of course popping in on a Sunday morning works great too!

AUMC has been very busy with our community giving. Several bags of winter hats and mittens were brought to NMMS for our local youth. Thank you so much for all that participated in that drive. Please keep the current 8th graders in your prayers as they are working on planning out their Washington DC trip. Also, be on the look out for this year’s 7th graders as they begin their fundraising for their turn next year!



Be the Change You Want To See In the World

Over the holidays, the AUMC congregation, the Sunday school and the Mission Team worked together to get 50 boxes out to children in need all over the world through The Samaritan’s Operation Christmas Child. Working on our own and with Century 21 Secret Santa, we were able to help several local children and families with food and gifts through the holidays too. Thank you all so much for your gracious giving and hearts.

Recently we participated in the Newfound Area Churches (NAC) “Souper Bowl” by raising monies and collecting foods for Bristol Community Services. Again, thank you so much for your continued support of our local missions! There are so many in need right here in our back yard and we are so blessed to be able to support this wonderful organization.

We are currently participating in a Heifer Project Lent drive. What a wonderful way for us all to learn about the cultures and hardships of other countries, and to be part of the grander plan! Please check them out and buy some chickens, or rabbits, or a cow! <http://www.heifer.org/>

Youth Ministry

The AUMC youth group started having monthly meetings on Jan 8th. The meetings are held the second Friday of every month from 7pm to 830pm and anyone in grades 6-12 are welcome to attend. Meetings include a devotional time, snacks, games and/or activities.

We also have a couple of events coming up. The crop walk will be led by the youth this year. This year’s walk will be held May 1st at the New Hampton Nature and Fitness Trail. Donations from sponsors help to feed the hungry in our local community and also provide resources to support the global fight to end hunger. We hope you will either join us in walking (because they do) OR offer a donation to sponsor our group in raising funds to support this cause. If you would like more info, please grab one of our youth group members or give us a call at 744-8104. The youth will also be selling tickets to and attending the Faith and Family Nights with the Fisher Cats baseball team in Manchester. This will include family friendly music, speakers, a prayer before the game and fireworks after. The youth will be selling the tickets for \$12 (retail price) but a portion of each ticket is allocated to help establish a fund for future youth events. We would love to fill a section of the stands with people from our community in supporting our youth while enjoying a great game. We will let you know when tickets are available...should be in soon!

Please keep us in prayer as we continue to grow our ministry, expand opportunities for our youth to share the love of Christ and serve within our community and the world. We encourage any of our local youth to attend and look forward to expanding our reach.

-Tricia Patten and Amy Clayman



Renewed, Rejuvenated, Rededicated

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers during my time of radiation treatments. It was a journey that started out "easy" in December and landed me on the couch for long periods of time after treatments were completed the end of January. I learned several things on this journey that I would like to share with you. Number 1 is that fatigue is much different than tiredness. I have pushed through many a tired time as I'm sure you have too; however, fatigue is something you cannot "push through" but you need to lean into it, accept it, and just rest. This is God's way of providing healing and restoration.

Number 2 is that I learned even more of how God uplifts us by providing encouragement through others. On days I was feeling especially sad and drained, wishing for the energy and enthusi-

asm I seemed to no longer possess, I would receive a phone call or a card, or a meal and I would thank God, knowing it was God working through that person at that time. And these gestures would lift my spirits as my body continued experiencing fatigue. And lastly, by the grace of God, coming through the other side of this has made me appreciate even more this life that God has gifted me, and I feel renewed, rejuvenated, and rededicated to serving this community of faith and following God's will for me. I look forward to traveling together down the paths the Lord has in store for us.

Lovingly, Pastor Deb
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

Upcoming Praise Team

Beginning in April, we are planning to add a Praise Team in our worship once a month. What does this mean? Well, first let me tell you what it does **not** mean. It does not mean that our style of worship will be changing. We will still lift up to the Lord about the same number of songs each week. We will still use hymns from our hymnal and praise music that is not in our hymnal. The biggest difference will be the amount of people involved in the music ministry of the church.

We are blessed to have Don Towle join us and share in his music ministry along with Tom Larson and myself, Pastor Deb. We will be looking for others to come forth and share with instrument and/or vocals so that we can make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



The purpose of this Praise Team will be to enhance everyone's ability to worship and praise God. If you have musical ability, please prayerfully consider being a part of this Team.

Please lift up this new ministry in prayer that it may be an enhancing tool used by God to draw us closer to God's self in our times of worship.

"Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord." Psalm 150



Visit Our Website

For more information on church activities and happenings, visit our website. Please note that our website domain alexandriachurch.org is no longer in service but our

Website domain alexandriachurchnh.org has all the same information including our church events calendar, and help resources, bible study.

Helping Hunger

Reminders

- The first Saturday of the month at 5pm you can enjoy a great meal and fellowship right in our own Fellowship Hall.
- The **TTCC** also sponsors the Food for Friends meals provided at the BUCC from 5-6 pm the first Thursday of every month.
- We continuously collect non-perishable items for BCS on one of The Giving Chairs in the sanctuary entrance.



Hi Folks! Our 2016 Winter/Spring Sunday School is **ALIVE, ACTIVE, and FILLED WITH SPIRIT!**

Just a few brief updates:

- We will be having an Easter egg hunt and children's breakfast on March 20th.
- Sunday School closing program will be on May 22nd.
- Our Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.) will be held July 11th thru the 15th. Look for our flyers in the mail during early June.
- If people are interested in an ADULT Sunday School class or family group, please contact Pastor Deb or myself thru our church office. We all need love and support during these changing times

Peace & Love,

The Sunday School Staff & Margaret Clayman.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

You may remember that in our last edition of the Gospel Truth we had mentioned a fund we had created for the pastor to have some small way to help people out in immediate need. Although this fund doesn't have a lot of money in it most of the time, we had not specifically asked in any way how we would replenish this fund. Many of you heard our request to send in a donation to this fund for the pastor to use when needed. We thank you very much for your generosity and seeing the need for this important work by Pastor Deb in the community. She often uses this and our hannafor bonus gift card program for immediate needs such as food or basic necessity's for those down and out. There are other avenues to get more long-term help but this fund is always ready if she needs a limited amount for a small purchase for some reason. If you still want to donate, it isn't to late. Just mark your donation with the funds name. If you did donate... thank you!! Pastor Deb has really shown her appreciation for the ability to use this and keep anonymity with this fund. She keeps some notes for her own accountability and refreshing her memory but she usually only gets one request for an immediate need.

Easter Offering

Is the church asking for money again?

That may be the first thought that crossed your mind when you read the title of this article. Well, yes, but perhaps not for the reasons you might think. The church does feel a responsibility to offer the opportunity, that if your heart tells you to offer some monetary gifts to the Alexandria Church during this Easter season, that we would be glad to accept it for our work in the world and in our own community.

As with most churches, we do discuss the money aspect of our spending and try to be good stewards of all that God provides for us. We see more and more evidence that there is a lot of need in this complicated world and it is not only money. There are needs such as warm clothing and food in the community and we need hands and feet to make that happen. There are needs for companionship and love in the world as we become more cut off by technology from the face to face interaction of older times. People need each other still and as a society we have accepted social media and electronic communication as the way to replace having to deal with each other personally. Of course we may not get along all the time but humans were always meant to be together.

Easter is a time when we reflect on the meaning and reasons God sent his Son JESUS to die on the cross for us. Jesus was the greatest love offering of all time. God said that he loved us so much that he was going to sacrifice his son to die for our sins. Let that sink in for a minute. Would you allow your most precious family member(s) or friend(s) be killed viciously by complete strangers for someone else's wrong doing?? Would it be easier knowing they weren't at fault?? God used Jesus, his own earthly form of himself, to understand us as humans and to show us in God's own majestic way that God loves us.

So if you would like to help the church share these truths with others, and help us continue striving to be the hands and feet of Jesus, please consider a small monetary offering using the envelope provided and sending it to the church to support our work and missions. If you would like to offer help or support in other ways, that would be great also, just call us at 603-744-8104. May God be with you during this Easter season and remember that he loves you! He died for you and rose again to offer you eternal life with him.

HAPPY EASTER!

Scott Patten

Alexandria United Methodist Church
12 Washburn Road
Alexandria, NH 03222
603-744-8104



Holy Week Worship Services

Holy Thursday, March 24th at 7 PM We Invite You to "Come to the Table"

Come to the table looking at the items representing parts of Jesus' life. The Lord's Prayer written in Jesus' native tongue, Aramaic; rocks from the Sea of Galilee where most of his disciples were from; the palms from palm Sunday; the shekels representing the money Judas received; the basin for the washing of feet; the rooster that Peter heard the night of his denial. This will be a time to prepare our hearts to come to the table to remember and share.

Good Friday, March 25th at 7 PM We Invite You to Ponder...

The Final Words of Jesus on the Cross

Can you remember all the words Jesus spoke from the cross? They must have been important because it would have been so very painful for him to speak. May we listen to these words and ponder what they mean for us today.

Sunrise Service, March 27th at 6:45 AM at the Wellington State Park Boat Launch

We invite you to a time of song and prayer, acknowledging the empty tomb and celebrating new life!

Easter Sunday Worship, March 27th at 9 AM

We invite you to a Celebration Worship for our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

