

**Church of Our Saviour**  
*Episcopal*  
**Milford, New Hampshire**

*Forming community through Christ,  
serving community in Christ*

## Wednesday Notes for April 24, 2024

### Dates to remember

**Saturday, April 27: SHARE Outreach Collection, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,  
Market Basket, Milford**

**Through Sunday, April 28: Sacred Ally Quilt Display** immortalizing the last words of George Floyd, symbolizing the need for racial justice,  
*Unitarian Universalist Church, 20 Elm St., Milford.*

**Wednesday 10-2; Thursday, 4-8; Friday 10-2; Saturday - Sunday 12-8.**

**Wednesday, June 5: Book Group, 6:30 p.m., Holder Chapel**

Please check our online calendar for upcoming dates and events [HERE](#).



### ***From the Vestry:*** **Warden Update**

I hope everyone is enjoying the arrival of Spring with the beautiful flowering daffodils, azaleas and trees. Do take a moment to walk around the church garden on Amherst Street, and also check out the flowering tree on Grove Street.

I have to admit it is taking me some time to develop my role as Warden. The hard reality hit when Elizabeth handed me a large set of keys and Abbie reminded me that I had to sign her timesheet twice a month. I have had discussions with Fr. Ed and Fr. Michael regarding their work as part-time ministers and I plan to continue those discussions in the future.

The Vestry is moving forward with some of the initiatives that we identified at our retreat in February. These include being sure that our church building and grounds are in good repair, continuing Messy Church, improving our mics and Zoom recordings, increasing visibility on Facebook and now Instagram, better “advertising” of events using banners and signs, and having events outside of our church to increase our visibility and increase contacts with people in the community (e.g. Summer in the Park and the Good Friday walk).

Do stay up to date by a careful read of the Wednesday Notes. Also, we have active Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/COOSMILFORD>) and Instagram (coosmilfordnh) sites. Facebook has our recorded Zoom Sunday church services and other postings regarding upcoming events or thoughts for the day.

Please feel free to contact me, Bob or other Vestry members if you have any questions or thoughts.

**Gail**  
Warden

## **This Sunday's Gospel:** **John 15:1-18**

Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”



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## **Wednesday Holy Eucharist and Bible discussion**

Today, the Wednesday Group meets in person for Holy Eucharist and discussion led by Michael Reinke, followed by conversation over lunch. Pack a sandwich and join the group.

You are welcome to participate whenever you can as we reconnect and discuss our faith and life together. It's informal; you do not have to be a Bible scholar to participate.

We gather on the first and third (and fifth if there is one) Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on Zoom to check in with each other and to discuss Sunday's gospel.

Father Michael celebrates Holy Eucharist at noon on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Please join us in the church on these days.



## Office hours

Due to a scheduling change, the office will be **closed Wednesday, May 8,** and **open on Friday, May 10.**

Also, the office will be **closed Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day.**

Regular office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



## Take a book. Share a book.

Very soon now, Church of Our Saviour will join the ranks of those stewarding a

**Little Free Library.** Dick is wrapping up construction and will set it up on the Grove Street level, to the right of the church and to the left of the steps heading down to Amherst St. The vestry decided last year that ours will have space for some simple snacks/food staples in addition to books for children, teens and adults, and bookmarks.

You can now bring in some great books to stock our library, putting them in a marked donation box in the Narthex. What types of books do we want to offer? Diverse types of good reads you'd be proud to have Church of Our Saviour's name inside. In addition to promoting reading, we think our Little Free Library will be another fun way to increase our visibility within and connection to our community.



## New England Voices in Harmony

New England Voices in Harmony, a Nashua-based women's a cappella chorus, to which church member Lynn (peeking out from behind the photographer) belongs, was thrilled this past weekend to be ranked #1 out of 12 choruses from the northeastern U.S. and Canada at the organization's area contest. The group also qualified to participate in the International (U.S. and Canada) contest in November 2024.

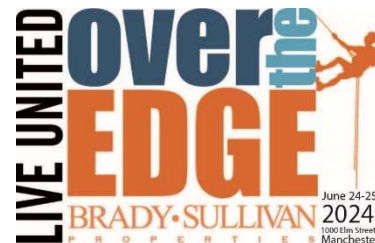
If you have ever been curious about what singing in a four-part, unaccompanied harmony in the barbershop style is all about, you are welcome to participate in a six-week Discover Harmony Program. This free program begins on May 7 and culminates in a show on Saturday, June 15, at 2 p.m. The six-week rehearsals will be held at the Nashua Senior Center Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

The group welcomes singers of all ages who identify as women. To sign up, or for more information, talk to Lynn at church or contact her at [membership@newenglandvoicesinharmony.org](mailto:membership@newenglandvoicesinharmony.org). Come for the first week and give it a try!

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## Joe will go over the edge to support United Way, Meals Matter

On June 25, our sexton, Joe, will be rappelling 24 stories off the side of the Brady Sullivan Building in Manchester, to raise money for Meals Matter, a United Way sponsored student-led organization.



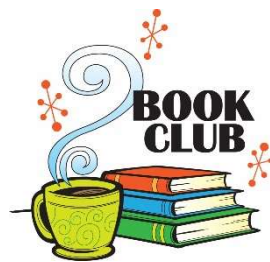
Meals Matter is committed to eliminating food insecurity in the Nashua School District. The program provides financial support for students who struggle with school lunch debt, whether they are free, reduced or full-pay students. Last year, six students rappelled off the building and raised \$5,000. This year they have a team of six students and a team of six adults. United Way is the fiscal agent, but all funds raised go directly to the Meals Matter program.

Joe has set a goal of raising \$1,500; he will appreciate any amount that you are able to contribute. To donate, click on this link:

<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/edge2024/JosephAnton>.

Thank you so much for your support! Please share the information with folks who you know would want to support Joe as he supports this amazing program.

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## Book group will read *Strength in What Remains*

The book group has selected its next book: *Strength in What Remains: A Journey of Remembrance and Forgiveness* by Tracy Kidder. The Goodreads abbreviated summary calls this “a wonderfully written, inspiring account of one man’s remarkable American journey and of the ordinary people who helped him – a brilliant testament to the power of will and of second chances.”

The group will meet to discuss the book and share some snacks on Wednesday, June 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Holder Chapel. Please invite a neighbor and join us!

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## Meet our Outreach recipients

Church of Our Saviour’s outreach grants traditionally are made possible thanks to our various fundraisers and in-gatherings, Charitable Trust grants, designated gifts, and allocations by the vestry to outreach from Christmas Fair proceeds and year-end surpluses.

Your Outreach Committee thought parishioners would find it interesting to learn more about recipients of our outreach grants. You no doubt know that SHARE is a long-standing beneficiary, but do you know that there are more than 10 other worthy charities we support as we seek to extend God’s love to those in need? In the coming months, we’ll briefly highlight a different recipient each week.

## Family Promise

One of our regular grant recipients is Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire ([FPSNH](#)), which began in 2000 as the [Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network](#), with the goal of helping homeless families achieve sustainable independence. Local congregations hosted families on a rotating basis. Church of Our Saviour was involved early on, helping provide meals and overnight volunteers during weeks when families stayed at the United Methodist Church across the street from us. In 2002, families were able to stop moving around week to week and stay at their “home for now” at Anne-Marie House in Hudson. In 2021, FPSNH doubled its capacity by moving to the former Infant Jesus School in Nashua where they can now accommodate 24 families!

[FPSNH](#) works with families of all configurations who are homeless, providing transitional housing and helping adults set goals, resolve problems, build up savings, and acquire financial literacy and other skills to break the cycle of homelessness and enhance prospects for success, self-sufficiency, and resiliency. FPSNH has worked with more than 300 families since their start, and has a success rate of over 80 percent. So many lives transformed!!

*Ending Homelessness.... One Family at a Time*

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## SHARE Collection April 27

Church of Our Saviour will be at Market Basket this Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. to collect food and personal care items for SHARE. The Outreach committee and other volunteers will set up a table set up outside the main entrance with signage letting folks know who we are and what we are doing. We'll give shoppers a list of needed items as they head inside, then collect donated items, gift cards, or cash/checks on their way out, and deliver everything to SHARE that afternoon. Look for us Saturday when you do your shopping and help spread the word.



## SHARE's food donations 'down to a trickle'

Please continue to keep SHARE in mind each week as you shop. Right now, food donations are down to a trickle, according to Executive Director Chris Janson, and SHARE must purchase food to provide groceries to more than 100 clients each week.

Outreach has therefore re-started the “reverse offering” where slips of paper with a category of item needed by SHARE will be distributed with the Sunday bulletin, asking parishioners to bring that item in the next time they are at church.

You can drop these items in the basket in the church Narthex, take items directly to SHARE (1 Columbus Ave., Milford, Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30), leave them in barrels at Shaw's or Market Basket in Milford, or Bar Harbor Bank & Trust (32 Elm St., Milford), or donate online via their [Amazon Wishlist](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support to this vital community organization providing food, clothing and emergency financial assistance to area families in need.

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## Our Prayer List this week

Please keep these loved ones in your prayers for healing and support: **Jackson, Brenda, Betty, Joanne, Deirin, Mabel, Cathy, Carrie, Erika, Cheryl, Susan, Ben, Diana, Carole, Joe, Forrest, Brian, David, Valerie, Terry, Peggy, Jeff, Sharon, Paul, Amanda, Stephanie, Dick, Andrew, Fr. Jack, Fred, and Lu.** May God’s grace and the healing love of Jesus Christ be with them each day.

*Please call or email the office to add names to the prayer list. When the time comes that a name could be removed, please let the office know that, too.*

## Altar flowers/Sanctuary lamp

Altar flowers are given this week to the glory of God by Susan and Frederick in loving memory of Freddie's sister, Mary Lou.

The sanctuary lamp burns in honor of the Lord's presence with us, given this week by Susan and Frederick in loving memory of Freddie's sister, Mary Lou.



*To donate for the lamp or flowers, sign upon the calendar in the Narthex (to the left of the Memorials Book) and fill out one of the forms there; or simply contact the church office (mail, email or phone) with your name and those to be honored.  
The suggested donation is \$10 for the lamp and \$35 for flowers.*

**ENews: Follow The Episcopal Church of NH**

A regular e-newsletter is sent to church members, clergy and lay leaders, delegates, wardens, and retired clergy. To join the mailing list, email a request to [officeassistant@nhepiscopal.org](mailto:officeassistant@nhepiscopal.org).

*Website:* [www.nhepiscopal.org](http://www.nhepiscopal.org)

*Facebook:* **Episcopal Church of NH**

*YouTube:* **NHEpiscopal**

*Twitter:* **@NHEpiscopal #NHEpiscopal**

### **Contact us:**

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Office phone: **603-673-3309**

E-mail: [office@coosmilford.org](mailto:office@coosmilford.org)

Web: [www.coosmilford.org](http://www.coosmilford.org)

**PO Box 237, Milford, NH 03055**