



2025

# *Together in Christ*

Contoocook UMC  
24-28 Maple St  
Contoocook NH

Hillside UMC  
82 Center St  
Goffstown NH

Jennifer Savoy, Pastor  
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603 450-0739

**Building Christian Community Within and Beyond the Church**



Greetings Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Someone asked me recently why I believe in God when I can't see God physically. My answer was that I might not be able to see God, but I can see the result of God in my life and the lives of others. Just like we can't see the wind, but we can see the effects of the wind moving through the trees (and through my windows as it rearranges all the papers on my desk!). God gives me peace in difficult times, a love for others that are different from myself, the courage to do things that are hard or scary or unpleasant. My faith in God doesn't come because I see God's face, it comes because I see what God can and does do in my life that makes me a stronger, healthier, hopefully better human being. What has God done in your life? What do you see as the result of God's presence in your life? Hebrews 11:1 says "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Jen

Pastor Jen can be reached at [pastorjensavoy@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjensavoy@gmail.com) or 603 450-0739. If you want to meet in person, she has office hours on Thursdays from 9-2 at CUMC. She is available for meetings by appointment Tues-Friday.

## Our beloved Church Family!

Congrats to Hillside's Roland Ackerman on his retirement! May you have many years of rest and fun ahead!

## Mission Opportunities!



Noisy offerings at CUMC! The Noisy Offering in May will support the Helping Hands fund at CUMC. This fund is for use at the pastor's discretion to help community members with needs such as food, gas, heating oil, medications etc. Please prayerfully consider donating to this important fund.

## 39 BEECH STREET Donations

**Help us provide stability to homeless adults who stay at our 40 bed emergency shelter and daytime engagement center where we address housing, behavioral health, and basic needs.**



### TOP Essentials:

**Jackets, new socks, underwear and bras, Coffee, Creamer, sugar, disposable hot cups, Toilet paper**

Also needed : Feminine hygiene items, toothbrushes and toothpaste, cough drops, hand sanitizer, plastic utensils and paper or plastic plates and bowls, to go cups, laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, trash bags, bandaids, trash bags, hand soap

**Questions?**     [Jake@eastcoastevolutionleadership.com](mailto:Jake@eastcoastevolutionleadership.com)

### Department of Housing Stability:

**Adrienne Beloin, Director:**  
[ABeloin@manchesternh.gov](mailto:ABeloin@manchesternh.gov)

**Owen Westover, Project Assistant:**  
[Westover@manchesternh.gov](mailto:Westover@manchesternh.gov)

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS!

There is a Steps to Recovery AA (women's meeting) on Tuesdays at 7pm at CUMC. This is an open meeting so all women can attend. They meet downstairs in the vestry.

The AA meets on Sundays at 7pm in the vestry.



Join us as we worship our Lord and Savior, in the sanctuary and in the community! May God's peace fill you, may God's love surround you and may you be blessed and be a blessing to those around you.

Hillside UMC 82 Center St. Goffstown 9am

Contoocook UMC 24 Maple St. Contoocook 11am

<https://www.youtube.com/@contoocookunitedmethodistc2605/stream>

\*if you or anyone you know is unable to attend church in person and would like to receive communion, please contact Pastor Jen at 603 450-0739

## IN THE COMMUNITY



The Congregational Church in Hopkinton is having a flea market! Please come and support our neighbors and brothers and sisters in Christ!

## For the learner in each of us!



Each Tuesday, a group of people from Hillside and Contoocook gather on zoom to discuss Bible verses that they have studied over the course of the previous week. Each week's verses have a common theme (humility, leadership, grace, love etc). Please join us and deepen your engagement in God's Holy Word! If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Jen or Tom or Becky Andrew. The link can also be found in the weekly newsletter from CUMC. This link: <https://www.contoocookumc.org/> will take you to the CUMC page, if you click on "Devotions" you will find the daily readings and responses from some of our members. You can also add your own responses and join in the discussion. Looking forward to seeing some new faces on Tuesdays at 7pm!

## Influential Figures in Christianity

This month we will look at Bishop Polycarp of Smyrna. The following is taken from

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Polycarp>:

“**St. Polycarp** (flourished 2nd century; feast day February 23) was a Greek bishop of Smyrna and Apostolic Father who was the leading 2nd-century Christian figure in Roman Asia by virtue of his work during the initial appearance of the fundamental theological literature of Christianity. Historically, he formed a link between the apostolic and patristic ages.

By his major writing, *The Letter to the Philippians*, and by his widespread moral authority, Polycarp combated various heretical sects, including certain gnostic groups that claimed religious salvation exclusively through their arcane spiritual knowledge. Polycarp’s *Letter to the Philippians* contains a classic formulation in which he refutes the gnostics’ argument that God’s Incarnation in, and the death and Resurrection of, Christ were all imaginary phenomena of purely moral or mythological significance.

More important, however, is the way in which Polycarp referred to St. Paul the Apostle in his *Letter to the Philippians*. Not only does he repeatedly quote from Paul’s writings, but he also stresses the personal importance of Paul as a primary authority of the Christian church. It must be remembered that at that time Paul had been adopted as a primary authority by the gnostic heretics. Polycarp, in response, reclaimed Paul as a treasured figure of the orthodox church. It is apparently thus partly due to Polycarp that Paul, the disputed apostle, became a theologically respectable part of the Christian church’s tradition. Furthermore, Polycarp’s

orthodox use of the Pauline texts marked a crucial advance in the Christian theology of biblical interpretation. According to certain scholars, Polycarp may even have composed or directly influenced some of the letters traditionally ascribed to St. Paul, the so-called Pastoral Letters (I and II Timothy, Titus). These letters possess a 2nd-century vocabulary and style that are characteristic of Polycarp.

Polycarp's *Letter to the Philippians* is doubly important for its early testimony to the existence of various other New Testament texts. It probably is the first to quote passages from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the Acts of the Apostles, and the first letters of St. Peter and St. John. Other immediate post-apostolic writers employed a more oral tradition.

Toward the end of his life, Polycarp visited Bishop Anicetus of Rome to discuss with him the date at which the Easter festival was to be celebrated, a controversy that threatened to provoke a schism between Rome and Asia Minor. The two men could not reach agreement on a common date on which to celebrate Easter, so they agreed that Rome and Asia Minor would follow different practices in this regard. On his return to Smyrna, Polycarp was arrested by the Roman proconsul and burned to death when he refused to renounce Christianity. This event has been eulogized in the *Martyrdom of Polycarp*, one of the earliest known Christian documents of this nature.”





New life defines the season of spring. Make this Easter craft that symbolizes rebirth.

#### What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Jellybeans



#### What you do:

1. From the bag's bottom, cut two 2-inch circles. Set aside.
2. From the sides, cut two 10-inch circles.
3. Draw a thin spiral on each large circle and cut along the lines. Crinkle spirals gently.
4. Starting at the center, wrap one spiral into a nest. Glue every few inches to hold it.
5. Glue one small circle to the bottom of the nest.
6. Repeat with the other spiral. Fill nests with jellybeans and give to a friend!



# Puzzle!

Unscramble the names of these biblical mothers. Look up the verse if you need help. Then use the letters on the numbered blanks to complete the message below.

VEE (Genesis 3:20)

6 11

NNAHAH (1 Samuel 1:20)

14

RBAHEOD (Judges 5:7)

18 3

KREEHAB (Genesis 27:5)

16 5

EHLA (Genesis 30:14)

1

CLEHRA (Genesis 30:22)

7 12

MOIAN (Ruth 1:22)

10 17 13

RAAHS (Genesis 17:19)

8

AMYR (Matthew 2:11)

2

ZEBLEHATI (Luke 1:13)

9 15 4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 8 14 G F F G !  
15 4 16 10 17 3 18

Answers: Eve, Hannah, Deborah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, Sarah, Mary, Naomi, Elizabeth:  
A mother's love is a gift from God!

## Bible Quiz

What was the name of the wealthy merchant of purple cloth who met Paul and his companions, was baptized and became a leader in the Philippian church?

- A. Priscilla
- B. Lydia
- C. Dorcas
- D. Joanna



Answer: B (See Acts 16:11-15, 40.)