

Week of February 12, 2023



From Woody: . . .We are hearing more and more these days about a real mental health crisis among young people. The New Hampshire Legislature now has a proposed bill that would allow students to have Mental Health Days as excused days away from school. A new study shows that anxiety or depression now afflicts over 18% of kids between 3 and 17. During the recent pandemic 44% of high school students said they had felt sad or hopeless during the past year. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among those between 10 and 34 years old in NH. I think that many young people feel alone and scared. We do live in frightening times. It probably is due to many factors. Growing up has never been easy and the age we are in, with instant and continuous electronic communication, has two sides to it. It means that our world is always with us...both the positive and the negative parts of it.

I do hope that the message that you are never alone and that the loving spirit of God is with you is one we believe and share. That faith doesn't mean you won't have problems and challenges wherever you are in your journey through life. But it does give one a sense that no matter what, you have a friend in the spirit of God found in Jesus. God loves and forgives and is with us. God is not the judge with fire and brimstone but the Good Samaritan and the friend who never turns their back on us. At least in my understanding of our faith God doesn't promise to solve our problems but never leaves us alone, hopefully embodied in family and friends. But also when we feel most isolated, God's spirit is there with us. The God of Jesus is a comforting and understanding friend who is never too busy to be with us, even on our darkest days.



Valentine Serenades and Chocolates: Many many thanks to Sam and the Choir, and to Heather and Rob Trzepacz for brightening the Valentine's Season for so many and also raising money for our church.





Church Directory: The church is putting together a Church Directory so that church members and friends are able to keep in touch! If for any reason you do not want your name, address, phone number or email address, or any part thereof, included in this six-eight page directory, please notify Craig Anderson t carig.nane1980@gmail.com or 603-487-1330. Watch for the new directory on the literature tables in mid-February.



Peace Quote: .Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.....*Maya Angelou*

Thanks to David Woodbury for providing these original pictures of our church (circa 1883)

