

Week of March 31, 2024



From Woody: There was an interesting and informative column in the Union Leader the other day. It was written by Jodi Picoult, a New York Times bestselling author who lives in New Hampshire. She discusses a recent development that has historical roots in the 20th century in Nazi Germany. It is the banning of books. There is going to be a bill voted on this Thursday in the State Senate, SB 523, which allows a school principal or another individual to ban a book without a review committee. This trend, which began recently in Florida, would seem to be a dangerous one. She does not object to parents reading a book and deciding it is not right for their child. She does object to a parent deciding unilaterally that no child should be allowed to read that book.

One of her books that has been banned frequently is NINETEEN MINUTES, which is about a school shooting and the effects of bullying. It contains a single page describing a date rape in non gratuitous nor graphic terms. She says that since writing the book she has received thousands of emails from bullied kids who said the book was the reason they decided not to bring a gun to school and not to commit suicide.

Pointing out that book bans have increased over 1100% since 2020 and have occurred in 41 states and have affected millions of students, she has this thought to consider, "What does it say about our world when 'keeping children safe' means banning a book about school shootings...but not regulating the guns that cause those real-life shootings?"

That is some serious food for thought. By the way, if books are going to be banned for sex or violence, the Bible would be among the books to go. Her whole column is certainly worth reading. I will make some copies to have available at the church on the table in the hall.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Thanks again to our wonderful choir, to Sam Karinna Lyn Reimer, and to Ellen Anderson for her great job with our flowers, for a wonderful Easter morning. Also many thanks to Deb Downing and her family, including a wonderful chicken who helped Jim Goonan usher, for our 7am service at Blue Herron Farm.

Thanks also to all who helped Sofia recover her lost cell phone. Mission Accomplished.



Know what would make spring cleaning at the church much more fun? YOU! Please join us on **Saturday April 6 from 9:00 - 11:30 am**. We will be cleaning the church inside and out. If you have rakes, leaf blowers, loppers, wheel barrows, or any other tools you like for outdoor clean-up please bring them along. Inside cleaning will include moving items to the attic, window washing, and general organization. Please let us know if you'll be able to help.

New Boston Boy Scout Troop 123 Fundraiser



Ecosmith Recyclers Inc. and Boy Scout Troop 123 are proud to partner in hosting a fundraising clothing and shoe drive.

Raise money to support your local Troop by donating new or used articles of clothing, pairs of shoes, and household textiles.



CLOTHING & SHOE DRIVE

WHAT TO DONATE

- Shirts
- Jeans
- Pants
- Shorts
- Sweaters
- Jackets
- Socks
- Dresses
- Skirts
- Bed linen
- Purses
- Backpacks
- Hats
- Scarves
- Belts
- Sneakers
- Sandals
- Dress Shoes
- Boots
- Towels

PLEASE BAG SHOES AND CLOTHING SEPARATELY

WHEN

April 22nd and 23rd

WHERE

New Boston Town Hall
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road

CONTACT

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All collected material is destined for export to less advantaged persons in developing nations around the world.

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Peace Quote: Books bridge divides between people. Book bans create them.....*Jodi Picoult*