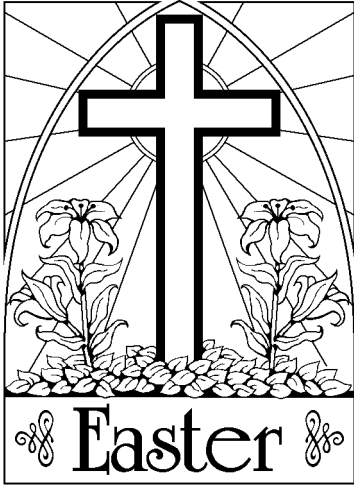


APRIL 2010
VOLUME 175

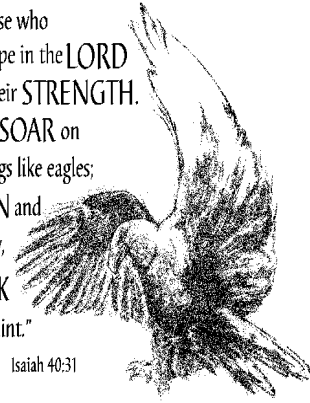
THE MESSENGER

The First Congregational Church of Pembroke, UCC; 301 Pembroke Street, Pembroke, NH 03275-3234
The Rev. Jim Howard, e-mail: pastor@pembrokechurch.org
Secretary, Nancy Jackson, (office: 603-485-9639), e-mail: secretary@pembrokechurch.org



"But those who
hope in the LORD
will renew their STRENGTH.
They will SOAR on
wings like eagles;
they will RUN and
not grow weary,
they will WALK
and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31



Michael Joncas wrote these words for his contemporary hymn, *On Eagle's Wings*:

And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hands.

© 1979, 1991 New Dawn Music

Easter is about transformation, positive change, resurrection. It is about being raised up to new life: "Behold, I make all things new." (Rev. 21:5) It is about Jesus but it is *for us* because Jesus is "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." (Heb. 12:2)

Easter is not a day, a special church service, nor even a season. Easter unveils a new reality and ushers in an unexpected and eternal future *in which we are participants*.

We are raised from the prison of our own creation.
The stone sealing the tomb of our limitations is rolled away.
The veil separating human and divine is removed.
We are healed, restored, renewed, reconciled, remade: all things are new!

Easter attacks our doubt and cynicism replacing them with hope and faith. But only if we allow ourselves to be transformed by it: the choice is ours, always ours. Free will is never violated by our compassionate God who works by persuasion and love, not edict and coercion.

God invites us to experience Easter for real:

And I will raise you up on eagle's wings...

SHARE
THE
& FAITH

In worship throughout the months of April and May we will be building upon our experiences with *Just Walk Across the Room* from last October. Faith will come alive in new and creative ways. You will discover that God has called you to journey

with others in our church as true "Companions in

Christ,” which also builds upon our recent Lenten discoveries. So, your presence in worship is cordially requested, as we are called into community to build one another up into the love, grace, and joy of Christ: we cannot do it in isolation. So be present, for only together can we discover the true joy of being disciples of Jesus Christ!

Every **2nd Sunday** of the month is **Brown Bag Sunday**. Especially needed are **rice** and **canned items – baked beans, green peas, carrots and mixed vegetables** and non-food items such as **toilet paper and personal hygiene items**. All donated items can be left in the Parish Hall.

The **Interfaith Food Pantry** is open on Wednesdays from **1-3pm** and **5:30-6:30pm**.

USHER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL ...

April 4	David and Nancy Bibbins, Alan and Anna Gibbs
11	Eric and Judy Pearson, Luke and Cindy Bonenfant
18	Tom and Allison Hardy, Kurt and Jodi Ehler
25	Floyd and Dot Smith, Randy Shuey, Dean Hopps

If you are unable to usher on your given day, please contact **Dean Hopps at 485-5509**.



THE YOUTH GROUP ...

Friday, April – 9th - Movie Night at the church. **Bring friends!** Snacks provided.

Saturday, April 10th – Jr. High bowling at Boutwells from 2-4pm. Meet 2pm at church; back by 4pm. Cost: 12.00

April 26-30 – Mission Trip opportunity with NH UCC Conference. This is a trip to *HOME* (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment) coop in Orland, Maine. The focus that week will be homelessness and poverty in a rural setting. Cost: \$315.00. Please see the youth group bulletin board or contact the church office for a registration form.

SUNDAY FLOWERS ...

As always, donations of flowers are welcomed for our altar each Sunday morning. To contribute all you have to do is sign up on the Flower Sheet in the Parish Hall or let the flower committee member know.

Please contact Lynn Matava (**April**) 485-8352, Robbe MacKenzie 485-7295 (**May**) and Doris Rowden 485-3664 (**June**).

WORLD SERVICE ...

Our Family's Table serves a free meal on Wednesdays at 5:30pm. See Pat Hill if you have questions or would like to volunteer to help.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ...

A bunch of our kids brought friends to church on Palm Sunday, which was great! If you stayed for fellowship after the service, you saw gangs of kids running around looking for clues in the school scavenger hunt. Fun times. We pray that God would continue to bless our church with such wonderful children, and we pray that He would work in the hearts of families who are thinking of finding a church home.

We have the following needs for teachers. Please contact Amanda Hall if you are interested in helping us out by teaching any of these two-week commitment: **April 11th, 18th and 25th. May 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.**

April's Bible-based unit is on Forgiveness and May's is Anger Management.

If you are a graduating high school senior and intend to head off to continue your education, it's time to apply for the CE Scholarship. Please speak with a member of the CE Committee if you are interested.

Finally, the 8th grade and high school class will meet from April 11th (the week after Easter) through May 2nd.

WONDERLAND PRESCHOOL ...

Wonderland Preschool held weekdays downstairs at the church is having it's Fall Registration Night on Tuesday, April 6 from 6 to 7:30 PM. Wonderland is a preschool program run by Anna Gibbs and Lynda Putnam to fill a need in the community. The mission of Wonderland Preschool is to provide a quality, creative nurturing preschool program for children aged 3,4 and 5 years old. Helping young children to become comfortable with their developing skills and social behavior. We reach out to and provide a quality preschool program for young families and

their children, fostering growth in the following areas and helping young children achieve:

- A positive self image
- Respect for self and others
- Ability to take care of their own personal needs
- Adjustment to group situations
- Development of large and small motor skills
- Increased attention span and the ability to work on a project over a period of time

We have a 3-Day Class for ages 4-5 years which meets Mon./Wed./Fri. September through May.

Our 2-Day Class for ages 3-4 meets Tues./Thurs. September through May. We follow the Pembroke school system calendar for days in session except for our start and end dates. Our school starts the day after Labor Day and ends the Friday before Memorial Day. The 3-Day Class tuition is \$120 monthly and the 2-Day Class is \$100 monthly. The registration fee is a \$20 deposit plus the May tuition in advance.

The children just finished a unit on St. Patrick's Day and were very excited to find that Leprechauns visited our classrooms. They busily set around to capture a little fellow to get his gold. The leprechauns were very tricky and got away but not before we had a special snack of golden pudding, which the tricksters made turn green as we ate it! The week before we had a very memorable imaginary trip in each class, one class went by train, another went by plane. We all had fun at Disney in Florida, riding on amusement rides and swimming in the ocean before returning to Wonderland, all in one day!

For more information call 485-5507 or check out our website www.wonderlandpreschool.net.