



The worship service will be recorded and then edited so you get the best of both worlds, the service and the music videos. There's [a play list that will weave them together](#), so you can just press "play" and go from beginning to end!

**Prelude: [To You, I Lift Up My Eyes \(Psalm 123\)](#)**

[A piece to help you get settled for worship]

**Centering Ourselves for Worship, Psalm 123:**

Leader: To you I lift up my eyes,

**All: O you who are enthroned in the heavens!**

Leader: As the eyes of servants  
look to the hand of their master,

**All: as the eyes of a maid  
to the hand of her mistress,**

Leader: so our eyes look to the Lord our God,

**All: until he has mercy upon us.**

Leader: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,

**All: for we have had more than enough of contempt.**

Leader: Our soul has had more than its fill

**All: of the scorn of those who are at ease,  
of the contempt of the proud.**

### **Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:**

O God of grace and mercy,  
you call us to proclaim your healing  
and faithfully fulfill your kingdom mission.

Let us proclaim your healing when we celebrate the joys that surround us.

We pray for those lifted up with joy,

For a successful bell ringing, bringing people together from Brookline &  
Seattle and points in between

For our first place Red Sox (long may it last)

For James Hoff, Donna's dad, may his recovery from heart surgery go  
swiftly, and may everyone have the patience they need as he recovers

Let us not count the cost of our wins and losses,  
but keep our eyes fixed on you  
as we seek your realm of peace.

Let us faithfully fulfill your kingdom mission by walking with those weighed down  
with concerns.

We pray for those whose concerns are great.

For those of us in our gardens picking up tick bites & the drama that entails

For Tony, Candy's husband, going through tests to explain some medical  
episodes

For Christine, Sanjay's sister-in-law, who dropped a steel beam on her foot

For Lori, John Panto's sister-in-law, who's struggling with her  
chemotherapy and is only half way through

Let us not count the cost of our wins and losses,  
but keep our eyes fixed on you  
as we seek your realm of peace.

Let us lift up our eyes to you,  
O God of grace and mercy,  
that we may faithfully serve you,  
in the face of the scorn and contempt of the world.

Let us not count the cost of our wins and losses,  
but keep our eyes fixed on you  
as we seek your realm of peace. **Amen.**

**Let's pray the Lord's Prayer together:**

**Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

[For next week, please feel free to send me your joys & concerns and I'll include them in our prayers: [minister@bccnh.org](mailto:minister@bccnh.org) or call/text (978) 494-6953.]

**Hymn: *As the Deer***

[[Click here](#) for a video that will give you the lyrics and someone to sing with.]

If you have a favorite hymn you'd like to include in our worship service, just send it along and I'll look for a good place for it.]

**Sacrament of Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

Leader: Jesus calls all people to sit at table with him:  
the sick and the uncertain,  
the weak and the poor,  
the Pharisees and tax collectors.  
From north and south and east and west he calls us  
to come and sit at this table,  
the foretaste of the kingdom of God.

On a night long ago, when Jesus sat at table with his disciples,  
they thought they were the hosts and he the guest.  
But then he broke the bread, and their eyes were opened  
and they recognized him.  
The guest became the host;  
the foolish one was revealed as Wisdom.

To this table, to this banquet of Wisdom,  
he calls us again.

**Words of Remembering**

Leader: You are holy, O God of power and might,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, the one who comes in your name.  
In his life, he called unlikely people to follow him:  
fisherfolk, tax collectors, children,  
sinners, deniers, betrayers.

On the cross he gave himself up to the powers of this world,  
showing in his body your great foolishness, O God,

for loving such a wayward world.

Yet by this very cross, O Wisdom from on high,  
you have undone and remade the wisdom of this world,  
drawing light from darkness, power from humiliation,  
life from death itself.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,  
we proclaim together the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Come, then, life-giving Spirit, brood over these bodily things

**All: and make us into one body with Christ,  
that we, who are baptized into his death,  
may walk in newness of life;**

Leader: that what is sown in dishonor may be raised in glory

**All: and what is sown in weakness may be raised in power.**

### **Prayer of Consecration**

Leader: The psalmist knows that when we turn to God, we find mercy. God offers love that is completely gratuitous; God seeks only our well-being. So often we deny others the mercy and love God offers us. God forgives and invites us to turn again, to try again, to begin again. And we know that if the expectations of our lives are swept aside, we have a table from God, a meal not made with hands, that feeds us hope and steadfast love.

Leader: Rest your hands lightly upon your elements of Communion. We ask God's grace on us and on all those who are in our prayers this morning and God's blessing on our elements and our hands.

**All: God, in whose open hand we place our own, whether we have met you long ago or in this very moment, we pray that you send your Spirit of life and blessing upon all of us gathered anywhere, in any way, so that this Bread may be broken and received in love and this Cup poured out to give the world hope. Risen Christ, as you have faith in us, may we have faith in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you. Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Elements**

Leader: We are welcome to this gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

**All: We are Christ's family in the Bread we share.**

[Eat the bread]

Leader: We are welcome to this gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

**All: We are Christ's family in the Cup we share.**

[Drink from the cup.]

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of new covenant. In the beginning of time, your wisdom danced through creation, calling forth light and life. Through wisdom, you formed us in your image, calling us to love and serve you.

**All: We were slaves in Egypt, and you freed us.  
We were hungry and thirsty in the wilderness,  
and you nourished us with manna and water from the rock.  
We had no home, and you led us into the land of your promise.  
We worshiped idols of our own making,  
and you called to us through the prophets to turn back to you.**

Leader: Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with choirs of angels  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

## Hymn: *Nothing but the Blood of Jesus* by Carrie Underwood

[\[Click here\]](#) for a video that will give you the lyrics and someone to sing with.]

What can wash away my sin  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
What can make me whole again  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh, precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow  
Oh, no other fount I know  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Ooh, ooh

For my cleansing, this I see  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
For my pardon this my plea  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh, precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow  
Oh, no other fount I know  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Ooh, ooh

Nothing can my sin erase  
This is all my hope and peace  
This is all my righteousness  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

What can wash away my sin  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
What can make me whole again  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh, precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow  
Oh, no other fount I know  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Oh, oh, ooh, ooh

### **Scripture Reading: Mark 6:1-13**

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honor, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

### **Reflection on the Scripture:**

*Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud (Psalm 123:3-4).* My argument about getting better acquainted with the psalms is that they will help us put into words something we're experiencing today. And with those words, we can more easily turn to God in prayer.

At this moment, 245 years after the founding of our country, those words hit hard. We have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, who are proud. The Hebrew for "more than its fill of scorn" uses the word for "throat" or "neck". The image is that we're so full of other people's contempt that we don't have room to breathe. Rather than being full of nourishing food, we're choking on scorn.<sup>1</sup> The inability to breathe connects with all sorts of images that come out of today's news, George Floyd being choked to death, the limitations on free speech, the hundreds of thousands of Covid deaths. So yeah, those words hit hard. Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy.

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<sup>1</sup> Steven Bishop, "Proper 9, Exegetical Perspective, Psalm 123" in *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B, Volume 3*, ed. David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009), 205.

Maybe because we're so full of other people's contempt, so full we're choking on it, part of the reading from Mark hits hard too. *If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.* (Mark 6:11). Oh, man, do I have a whole list of people to shake my dust at. I can give you list alphabetically or in order of priority. And the list gets longer every day. I have a temporary handicap pass for my car while my knee is so painful. I can tell you I will aggressively shake dust at anyone who leaves a shopping cart in a handicapped spot.

And yet, given all the other stuff Jesus said, I'm pretty sure that I'm not being sent out into the world to shake dust. I'm pretty sure we're being sent out to proclaim that folks need to turn their lives around (that's what "repent" means) (Mark 6:12). We're being sent out to heal folks (Mark 6:13). Because we're being sent out with the authority that Jesus gave us (Mark 6:7). We're being sent out not to say what we think. We're being sent out to say what Jesus said.<sup>2</sup> After that, we can add that loving our neighbor is hard, especially when they leave shopping carts where we want to park.

Jesus knew that not everyone was ready to hear God's wisdom, to receive deeds of power (Mark 6:2). Jesus had done a circuit in the area around Galilee, preaching and teaching, recruiting disciples. He had come home to Nazareth, to the people who had raised him, to the people who knew him best. We can speculate why he was there, but it was clear he was there as a teacher, with his disciples. He hadn't come home just for a cooked meal and do his laundry. I think he wanted to offer some of the mercy, some of the grace he had found in God. Because regardless of what his community said, he laid hands on people and cured them (Mark 6:5).

There's a clear implication that Jesus could have done more in Nazareth, if the people there had only believed. But it's also clear why they didn't believe Jesus had anything to offer. They thought they knew him so well. He was Mary's son, they knew his whole family, he was a carpenter, not a rabbi (Mark 6:3). He was just an everyday guy from the village. Someone as ordinary as the boy next door, whose brothers and sisters you know is not going to be where God shows up. Because they knew what we know. God does not work through the commonplace.<sup>3</sup> God works through the exotic and the marvelous. The people from Nazareth were astounded he would even make the claim (Mark 6:2).

And Jesus is amazed at their unbelief (Mark 6:6). Because he knows what they have, in part because he grew up there. They have community. They have the ability to come together and rely on each other. When he sends his disciples out, he tells them basically they can only go with the clothes on their back. He's

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<sup>2</sup> William Barclay, *The Gospel of Mark*. (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1975), 144.

<sup>3</sup> Lamar Williamson, Jr., *Mark*, in *Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 1983), 117.

forcing them to go, two by two, to different villages and bring a message about the Kingdom of God. The message is certainly the stuff about loving God and loving your neighbor. But it's also a message about being vulnerable, about taking care of the weakest among them, about caring for the image of God in the stranger. And that message comes because they have to rely on others for food and shelter.<sup>4</sup> Their resources aren't the bread or money in their belts (Mark 6:8). Their resources are the commonplace hospitality of strangers and their obedience to God. And the message is that God works through the most ordinary of messengers, who show up willing to rely on the hospitality of strangers.

When God sends us out in the world, our authority comes from our obedience to Christ's message. Yes, Jesus cautions us about relying too much on the clutter of things that would rob us of our authority.<sup>5</sup> Our authority does not come from our power or wealth. Our authority does not even come from our success rate, our results. We are not to force ourselves on other people or assume some kind of responsibility for their decision.<sup>6</sup> Jesus tells us to shake the dust off our feet not because we get to choose who is outside the circle of God's love. Jesus tells us to shake the dust off our feet to remind us that it is God's mission, not ours. It is the people to whom we offer our witness that have to decide to accept it, not ours.

When our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, when we are full up with the contempt of the proud, God offers us mercy. God offers us a reminder that our resources do not accomplish the work of God.<sup>7</sup> Regular, every day, commonplace people like us count because of the authority God conferred on us by Jesus Christ. That's why God dares to send us out. That's why we dare to go. That's why remarkable good still comes. The good comes through the obedience of inadequate, commonplace messengers.<sup>8</sup> Who are choking on the dust of the proud who are at ease. God gives us permission to walk out of that dust storm, to continue to share the message of Jesus Christ. Thank you for that mercy, O LORD, thank you.

**Hymn: *In Christ Alone (My Hope is Found)* by Adrienne Liesching**

[[Click here](#) for a video that will give you the lyrics and someone to sing with.]

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<sup>4</sup> T. J. Rogers, "Shaking the Dust off the Markan Mission Discourse." *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 27, no. 2 (2004): 178.

<sup>5</sup> Williamson, 121.

<sup>6</sup> Williamson, 121.

<sup>7</sup> Williamson, 122.

<sup>8</sup> Williamson, 122.



## **Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts We've Been Given**

**Jesus calls us to travel light as we serve the world,  
for God is our strength and provision.**

**O God of grace and mercy,  
all that we have is a gift from you,  
and your grace is enough for us  
Pour out your Spirit upon the gifts we offer  
that they may increase your blessing to others,  
through the grace and mercy of Christ. Amen.**

## **A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World**

[This is today's riff on Psalm 123.]

**Leader:** As we head back out into the coming week, we look to you, O God of mercy and grace,

**All:** **Turn us around, so we offer that same mercy to anyone we meet, especially those who face the contempt of the world.**

**Leader:** When we are the ones at ease, help us to look at others the same way we look to you,

**All:** **Help us to look with awe, without suspicion, fear, dread or resentment.**

**Leader:** Our need is urgent, we want to be free of demeaning relationships,

**All:** **We want to be people of hope, living in a world that revolves around mercy, not one driven by contempt.**

**Leader:** In this coming week when it will be so easy to reach for power in our relationships,

**All:** **Help us to look to you, and to offer mercy to those around us.**

**Leader:** Amen.

**All:** **Amen.**

[CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: # 839 "God Be With You Till We Meet Again; by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again."](#)

[The Music Ministry crew made this bit of video for us, so we could all sing together, with each other and our former selves!]

## **Postlude: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* by Bart Millard**

[[Click here](#) to sing along and let it help you gear up to return to the world.]

*Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.*

### **Notes on Psalm 123**

The psalm rotates and spins, opening up space for God's New Thing. The psalm begins with God enthroned in heaven. Turning to earth, the psalm points at a servant, at a maid, who are watching their masters. Their glance is not full of suspicion, fear, dread or resentment; the prayer would not work as a prayer that way. Instead, the look is one of awe, dependence and glad submissiveness, all rooted in trust.

The psalm turns again, urging us to look to God the way the servants are looking to their master. We should look for mercy from God because, as our master, God offers love that is completely gratuitous. God gives Godself over to the well-being of God's servants.

What a way to think of prayer, as a recharacterization of social relationships with the God of mercy as the defining reference. The prayer presents humiliated people, like us, turning from the ones who are "at ease" to the one "enthroned in heaven." With that turn, we depart from contempt and embrace of mercy. The God of mercy thus is presented as the alternative and antidote to unbearable relationships and social inequity.

The prayer is an immense act of hope, a conviction that demeaning social relationships are not the norm and need not endure. The voice of such hope grows out of urgent need, but the grounds of such hope is in the one addressed, the God of all hope, who will, sooner or later, turn the world to well-being, even for those whom the world holds in contempt.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms*, in *New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 530-534.



## PRAYER LIST (07/11/21)

If you know those on this list, call on them & tell them we are praying for them. If you know others who should be added to this list please give their names to the minister or a deacon.

- Friends & family of Jerry King, Tre Rouse, Tasha Feller, Pat Tiner, Terry House, Rev. Tom Atherton, June Hoff and Dave Larkin.
- Luca, Amy's nephew, who's working with a new pediatrician who's helping him and his family
- Those affected by the corona virus and those working to limit its impact
- For everyone to stay as healthy as they can in the days to come
- For the friends & families of those who have died alone;
- For our church, that we remain patient with the process of re-opening
- For those of us in our gardens picking up tick bites & the drama that entails
- For Tony, Candy's husband, going through tests to explains some medical episodes
- For Christine, Sanjay's sister-in-law, who dropped a steel beam on her foot
- For Lori, John Panto's sister-in-law, who's struggling with her chemotherapy and is only half way through
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

### **Household Prayer: Morning<sup>9</sup>**

Loving God, as this day opens into new and untold possibility, purge me of my compulsive need to carry useless baggage – physically, mentally, or emotionally. Teach me to walk simply with you as I trust in your abundant provision. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

Lord, as I come to the close of this day, I thank you for the gift of attentiveness and for every moment that the eye of my heart was fixed on you. When I failed, you were with me, and when I wavered, you were there, for there is no place that you are not. And so I rest in peace this night, for your grace is more than sufficient for me. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

Stuff distracts us. Useless clutter we think we cannot live without can be a burden: too many coats, shoes, garden tools, or mismatched kitchen storage containers with no lids in sight as they tumble out of overstuffed cabinets. Perhaps our clutter shows up in other ways: on a computer that has grown slow from processing too many useless files, or when our minds grow dull from too much Web surfing or television viewing. Do you struggle with too much stuff? How do Jesus' words about traveling light challenge you to change the way you live? How can you follow him more faithfully today?

### **Daily Awareness Reflection<sup>10</sup>**

At the end of the day, I've been asking myself the following questions. I jot down the answers and ask them again the next evening. I've found it helps me to remain centered as well as increasing my awareness of God in my life. It takes about 10 minutes.

1. Slow down. Stop. Prepare yourself to pray by becoming aware of the love with which God looks on you ...
2. Note the gifts God has given you today. Give thanks to God for them ...
3. Ask God that this be a time of special grace and revelation ...
4. With God, review the day. Look at the stirrings of your heart, your thoughts, and your choices as the day progressed. Which have been of God? Which have not? What does God want to say to you about both? ...
5. Ask for forgiveness for failures/omissions, for healing from their effects ...
6. Look forward to the following day, and plan concretely with God how to live it according to God's desire for your life ...

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<sup>9</sup> The Morning & Evening Prayer and Question for Reflection are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.

<sup>10</sup> Elizabeth Liebert, *The Soul of Discernment* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2015), 31.

## Announcements:

The church's financial obligations continue. If you are able, please mail your offering to: Brookline Community Church, PO Box 507, Brookline, NH 03033.

	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs. Expenses +/-
June	\$42,170	\$42,361	(\$191)

Please shop [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Brookline Community Church as your charity to support the church. Thanks!

You can now use the Amazon Shopping app on your phone and still support the church through the Smile program.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Church of Christ" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the app

### **Trustees Work Party: Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00am**

The trustees are looking forward to getting the basement cleared of the excess wood and paint and other materials. Please email Susan Haight ([sdlhaight@gmail.com](mailto:sdlhaight@gmail.com)) if you're able to help. *Particularly if you have a truck!!*

### **Rev. Cath's new(-ish) cell number (857-259-7269):**

Google has let me know that the virtual number I've been using (978-494-6953) is losing some features. So I'll ask you to use my personal cell number (857-259-7269) going forward. Many of you have the 857 number already because of the way the virtual number works. The 978 number will still work, but I may be slower to respond.

### **Save the Date: August 1, Worship & Picnic Brunch**

It's been a while since we've been able to share a meal. So save the date for August 1. We'll have a picnic brunch on the side lawn (weather permitting) after worship.

### **What Community Events/Fundraisers Would Share the Spirit?**

With the easing of Covid restrictions, we can start to think about events and fundraisers that would share our sense of the Holy Spirit's presence in our daily lives. We have plenty of willing hands, but we need some folks to get us running in the same direction. Breakfast Buffets? Spaghetti Supper for the Ghost Train Trail Race? Christmas Faire? Something we haven't thought of yet?

If you have ideas, speak to Rev. Cath, Ann Desrochers or anyone on the Cabinet!

### **Take Home Meals on SALE!!!! 3/\$20**

We will be not be making any new Take Home Meals for the months of July and August this summer. And we're clearing out the freezers to make room for more meals in the fall. So any three meals are going for \$20, such a deal!

### **Town Communications Survey Open July 3rd-17th**

The Selectboard chartered the Open Government Working Group (OGWG) to identify ways to improve the dissemination of town information to residents and enhance citizen engagement and to ensure openness, transparency, accountability as well as effective disclosure of public information in the operation of the Town.

Please help us in our evaluation of town communications by completing [this 3-4 minute survey!](#) We will use this information to guide our recommended actions to the Selectboard. This survey will be open from Saturday, July 3 - Saturday July 17. Survey results are anonymous.

### **Brookline Food Pantry**

Although we cannot be together physically at this time, Outreach is continuing to work with Rebecca Purdin through the Brookline Welfare office & CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) to address our community's needs.

The Brookline food pantry is now open on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10-2:00 for drop-offs only. There is a list on the [Brookline Food Pantry's Facebook page](#) that is being updated as items are needed. In addition to Market Basket gift cards, this week, they're looking for:

Pickles	Apple or Cranberry Juice
Parmesan	Paper Towels
Cookies/Cookie Mix	Coffee
Cheese Nip (or similar) Crackers	Disposable Razors
Jello/Gelatin (any flavors)	Dry Cat Food
Sardines	Dry Dog Food
Cereal (especially Raisin Bran or "Fun" Cereals)	Dish Soap
	Zip-style Bags

If you know of anyone who could use some help from the Food Pantry, please let Rebecca or Amy know. We sense there's more need in the community than is currently picking up food.

Non-perishables can be dropped off at Brookline Town Hall (downstairs near the Town Clerk's Office), at the Brookline Post Office, or at the Cozy Tae Cart any time those places are open.

As always, perishable items such as bread, cheese, butter, eggs, meats, and milk can be donated during open pantry hours: Tues and Thurs, 10am - 2pm.

Thank you for your continued support to our church and our community.

### **One Free College Class for 2021 NH High School Graduates:**

The Community College System of NH (CCSNH), the Foundation for New Hampshire's Community Colleges, and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) have partnered to provide "A Gift to the Class of 2021."

Every 2021 graduate from any New Hampshire high school or home-school program is eligible to register for one free class at any CCSNH college this fall. The gift covers tuition for a three-credit course and fees, up to \$755 per student!

[Learn more.](#)

### **Greeting from the Open and Affirming Team**

It has been over a year since we began the stay at home precautions due to Covid. We have greatly missed our church family. Last year we had just started to have conversations with our fellow members to listen to your thoughts and concerns around the Open and Affirming process. Due to Covid, we were not able to continue the one-to-one conversations, and we stopped our team meetings as well.

We have recently started to meet again as a team and are hoping to resume the one to one conversations with our fellow members. We will be reaching out to all members of the congregation throughout the spring and summer.

However, to help facilitate questions and suggestions we have also created a question box to gather any questions or suggestions you may have. It is located on the table in the upstairs hall as you enter the sanctuary. In addition, we welcome your comments via email or post. These can be addressed to ONA c/o Brookline Community Church, 2 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033. This will help us to facilitate conversations and will help us through the process.

We look forward to our conversations as we thoughtfully explore the process of Open and Affirming together.

### **Habitat for Humanity Build in Nashua**

Although they are not accepting volunteer builders at the moment, we have provided a financial donation to Habitat for Humanity in Nashua. They are currently working on a duplex for two female veterans and their kids. Habitat would welcome financial contributions at this time as well.

### **Covid-19 Scams Targeting Seniors**

The [NH Attorney General's office put out a press release](#) describing several scams that are targeting seniors. The claims range from needing personal information to get their Social Security payments, to being family members in need of cash to treat Covid-19 symptoms, to offers of fake medical products to prevent Covid-19, to needing personal information to get their stimulus checks, to fake charities. (Honestly, what are people like?!?). Please pass the word.

## **Covid-19 Information**

If people want to know the latest status of Covid-19 in NH and the Emergency orders to date, go to <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>

## **Help Lines**

This time of isolation can be very difficult. You may know someone who needs some support beyond what you can provide. We're in this together.

- Suicide prevention: 1-800-273-8255
- Sexual assault: 1-800-656-4673
- Domestic violence: 1-800-799-7233