



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: [*The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want by Acapeldrige*](#)

[An amazing acapella piece to help you get settled for worship]

Centering Ourselves for Worship, Psalm 23, King James Version:

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd;

All: I shall not want.

Leader: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

All: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Leader: He restoreth my soul:

All: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Leader: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

All: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Leader: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

All: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

All: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Children's Message (for kids of all ages):

Who do you trust?

Hymn: *Psalm 23 The Lord is My Shepherd* by Ingrid DuMosch

[\[Click here\]](#) 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.]

Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:

Leader: Uniting God,
we are no longer strangers and aliens,
but citizens with the saints of the commonwealth of God,
built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

All: In Christ we are joined together as a dwelling place for God.

Leader: We pray for those who have been called or elected as leaders,
that they may be guided by you and by the voices of their people.

All: In Christ we are joined together as a dwelling place for God.

Leader: We pray for the pastors and teachers of the church,
that they may faithfully tend and not scatter those entrusted to them.

All: In Christ we are joined together as a dwelling place for God.

Leader: We pray for those lifted up with joy,
And for ourselves, that we might share our joy with the world.
We pray

For having so many people willing to clear out the church
basement. In just under two hours, they removed everything that
wasn't nailed down.

For Rachel, Sanjay's niece, who celebrated her birthday by
packing for medical school,

For Ryan & Andrea's fourth anniversary, Donna & Peter's kids,
celebrating an event that feels like it happened two minutes ago.

For Donna's retirement from Raytheon, many congratulations!!!

For having such a crowd gather for worship on a Sunday morning

We pray for shared joy in this world.

All: In Christ we are joined together as a dwelling place for God.

Leader: We pray for those weighed down with concerns,
And for ourselves, that we might lighten their burden.

We pray

For Lori, Barbara's daughter, who broke her foot after missing a step,

For Lori & Rick, John's friends, who both had strokes this week,

For the woman missing near Rev. Cath's parents' house, may she be found safe and well, so the volunteers can call off their search

For Bill, the church treasurer, who needs angelic patience and endurance to traverse the bank's bureaucracy so they'll do what they said they'd do

We pray that those weighed down with concern might know they are not alone.

All: In Christ we are joined together as a dwelling place for God.

Leader: We pray for those who are poor and in need of assistance, and for ourselves that we may tenderly care for them.

All: In Christ we are joined together as a dwelling place for God.

Leader: We pray for the victims of war and other forms of violence, that we may be good news for them both in word and in deed.

All: In Christ we are joined together as a dwelling place for God.

Leader: We pray for the sick and infirm and those who are spiritually hungry, that we may be a message of compassion.

All: In Christ we are joined together as a dwelling place for God.

Leader: We pray for all those we remember when we pray Psalm 23, for all the funerals of loved ones who are now in our Uniting God's loving embrace, that they may know peace and rest,

All: In Christ we are joined together as a dwelling place for God.

Leader: Good Shepherd, Lord of Righteousness, Uniting God, bring us together through the cross of Christ and break down the dividing walls between us.

Be our peace,
and by your Holy Spirit
renew our citizenship in your kingdom.

All: Amen.

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 or call/text (857) 259-7269.]

Hymn: *O God Our Help in Ages Past* by Isaac Watts

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

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

Under the shadow of thy throne
May we still dwell secure.
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou 'art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the
night
before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Reflection on the Scripture, “So then, remember ...” :

So then, remember ... (Ephesians 2:11).¹

Let's say you were part of a church in the eastern Mediterranean a couple of thousand years ago. Let's say you were in Ephesus, just to pick a name at random. Most of the people were not Jews, but there was a small minority of people who were Jews. Being a Jew meant following the Law of Moses and that meant they had really specific and complicated expectations about to live a lot of aspects of their lives. If they were to remain Jews, they had to follow those rules. Some of those expectations had historically caused divisions in the past, deep divisions, painful divisions. Jesus had said *Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.* (Matthew 5:17) And then Paul had explained that Jesus' death on the cross *abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances* (Ephesians 2:15).

So if you are trying to make a church in Ephesus, how do you handle these people and their rules? Do you exclude them? Do you follow their rules? How do you make a church out of people with such inherent differences?²

I'll just pause for a second and ask you to reflect on how 2,000 years later we're still working on the answer. In the capital “C” Church and in the little Brookline Community Church right here on this lawn.

So then, remember ...

I was raised in a Congregational church. Like many white New England families who have lived here for generations, we have a number of Congregational ministers in the family tree. But there was a moment when God entered my life, personally, with a question I heard as plainly as I heard Nancy reading the lesson from Ephesians today, *Did you think I only want part of you?*

School and work and life had taught me to hold up the brilliant and sparkling and shiny parts of myself, the parts that everyone wanted, or wanted to utilize for their own goals. And to hide the weak and confused and broken parts. I had learned that if I wanted to get anywhere in this world, I had to keep huge parts of my life behind a dividing wall (Ephesians 2:14) and not let anyone get to the other side of that wall. And then *I* was to forget what was on the other side of that dividing wall, I was to act as if it didn't exist, as if there was no part of me that was weak or confused or broken. Part of forgetting was making the brilliant, shiny parts even more sparkling so no one would notice the ginormous granite blocks

¹ Chery Bridges Johns, “Proper 11, Homiletical Perspective, Ephesians 2:11-22” 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), 255.

² Calvin J. Roetzel, “Jewish Christian - Gentile Christian Relations: A Discussion of Ephesians 2:15a.” *Zeitschrift Für Die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft Und Die Kunde Der Älteren Kirche* 74, no. 1-2 (1983): 81-89. He asked the question, but, to be honest, I didn't find his answer helpful.

stacked 15 feet tall hiding the broken bits. Which were constantly peeking out over the top anyway. It was exhausting. Because the shiny bits were never enough and the pile of broken bits just kept growing.

So then, remember ...

In today's reading, we hear about a group making a church. And the easy way to start a group is to make a rule, "Everyone starts fresh." The trouble is that isn't real.³ We hear in today's reading that we're supposed to bring our histories in with us: *remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world* (Ephesians 2:12). When we found Christ, when Christ found us, however you think of it, we moved from being way far off (Ephesians 2:17) to having direct and immediate access to God (Ephesians 2:18). For me that was a moment, like flicking a light switch. God asked me a question and my whole life changed. For others, I know it's a more gradual process. But I would argue that you can look back in your life and find a way of living that was different than the way you live now with God in your life.

So then, remember ...

God wants all of us. Our good choices, our bad ones. The things we're proud of, the things we're ashamed of. The history we made and the history we inherited. Bring it all. Tear down the dividing wall that hides what the world rejects. God offers us peace (Ephesians 2:17). Not the peace of empire, the peace that Rome offered everyone in the conquered lands, the peace they achieved through taxation and crucifixion.⁴ God offers us peace. Not the peace of empire, that runs on inconceivable wealth inequality. God offers us peace and a place in the household of God. Just as death is no more, even though people continue to die, peace is in this world even though we see conflict all around us.⁵

So then remember ...

We can see that God gathered us in, sparkly and broken, we can see that God led us to green pastures and still waters (Psalm 23:2). We can see that we walked through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, and our enemies didn't let us

³ Beverly Gaventa, "Proper 11: Ephesians 2:11-22" in *Texts for Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year B*, ed. Walter Brueggemann et al. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993), 435.

⁴ Sally A. Brown, "Second Reading: Commentary on Ephesians 2:11-22", Working Preacher "Lectionary Commentaries for July 22, 2012, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost", <https://www.workingpreacher.org/?print-all=32713%2C32712%2C32714%2C32711%2C32715> (accessed 31 May 2021)

⁵ George W. Stroup, "Proper 11, Theological Perspective, Ephesians 2:11-22" 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), 258.

sit down to eat with them. We can see that God has anointed us with oil, has healed us (Psalm 23:4-5). That we can see.

Today's reading is asking us to remember that, to remember to look up in gratitude for the wide-open access to God that we now have. Today's reading is also asking us to look to either side, and see the other people God has gathered, the other people God has healed.⁶ They too are sparkly and broken. They too have things they're proud of and things they're ashamed of. They too have history they've made and history they inherited. All that has brought them to this moment when they are looking toward God in gratitude for all they've been given.

That is the new humanity (Ephesians 2:15) that God has made. It's not the new of a gleaming copper penny. It's certainly new, but there are millions more like it. It's the new of a new idea, something never seen before.⁷ God invites a diversity of people, with all different histories, with different memories, and bring them together into one household. With mercy and forgiveness and joy that they are there.

How do we make a church out of such a diversity of people? The sparkly bits when gathered together are more gorgeous than the vault at Tiffany's. The broken bits would constitute a Superfund toxic waste dump. But bring it all together, making sure that we remember that we're no perfect specimen, and it can become the strong, well-built holy temple of the Lord (Ephesians 2:21). So long as we bring it together with mercy and forgiveness and joy. Just as when I remember and I reach up to God and out to my fellow Christians, I am *built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God* (Ephesians 2:22). I just need to remember that it is so.

So then remember ...

Hymn: *How Firm a Foundation* by Fernando Ortega

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

How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word
What more can He say, than to you He hath said;
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, Oh be not dismayed
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand

⁶ Bruce W. Fong, "Addressing the Issue of Racial Reconciliation According to the Principles of Eph 2:11-22." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 38, no. 4 (1995): 571.

⁷ William Barclay, *The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians*. (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1975), 116.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie
My grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake
I never, no never, no never forsake
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake
I will never, no never, no never forsake

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts We've Been Given

**Uniting God of green pastures and still waters,
bless these gifts that we have been given
that they may become part of your banquet for the world.**

**You have spread a table of blessings before us.
Let us express our gratitude
by giving a portion of what has been given to us.**

**Use our gifts and our lives to join all of us together
As a strong foundation of the dwelling place of God. Amen.**

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World

(A riff on Psalm 23 for this week.)

Leader: As we head back out into the coming week, we ask God for help to turn our backs on wanting things and stuff and status that cannot come through acquisition in this world,

All: Help us to find the truth when we say, "I shall not want."

Leader: Help us to not only notice the green pastures of renewal and refreshment, but to stop in our mad dash to accomplish and actually lie down,

All: Let us find some still waters in our lives and take a breath.

Leader: Let us accept that our souls are being restored

All: Even when the path of righteousness are tough to traverse.

Leader: Let us acknowledge the reality that sometimes we are walking through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, that sometimes our enemies have blocked our way to the place at the table we're entitled to.

All: Let us accept comfort and protection from God.

Leader: As we head back out into the coming week, let us slow down so that the goodness and mercy God is sending after us have a chance to catch up to us,

All: Uniting God, let us dwell in your house for ever.

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: [I Am Not Alone](#) by Kari Jobe

[Feel free 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 23

This is the psalm we say to remember. We recite it together in funerals. Much of the power of this psalm comes from the contexts we remember when we recite it. And yet we recite it to remember because its imagery evokes grace, hope and abundance. Still that grace, hope and abundance are encountered in the real world, where we walk through Death Valley, where our enemies have taken our place at the table.

Our good shepherd has given all that is needed – good food, good water, good paths. Notice that all the verbs of action are for the shepherd. The sheep have no verbs. The sheep wait and enjoy the gifts. Because the shepherd is generous, the sheep live a safe, trust-filled life, surrounded by generosity. That is the grace that is offered.

We need to let ourselves be caught and embraced in love, like that of a sheep with safe pasture, like a traveler with rich and unexpected food. Our life is not willed by God to be an endless anxiety. It is meant to be an embrace by God. That's the hope, that we figure out how to let ourselves be caught.

What God gives will be enough for me. This is a statement of enormous confidence in the generosity of God, the one who knows what we need and gives well beyond all that we ask or think. "I shall not want," is a decision made against the greed and lust and satiation and aggressive ambition of a consumer society. I will refocus my desire. I will not entertain all those other distractions that keep me busy and make me selfish and cause me not to notice my neighbor.

I will remember.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Threat of Life: Sermons on Pain, Power, and Weakness*. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1996), 92-93.



PRAYER LIST (07/18/21)

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
- 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 Lori, Barbara's daughter, who broke her foot after missing a step,
- For Lori & Rick, John's friends, who both had strokes this week,
- For the woman missing near Rev. Cath's parents' house, may she be found safe and well, so the volunteers can call off their search
- For Bill, the church treasurer, who needs angelic patience and endurance to traverse the bank's bureaucracy so they'll do what they said they'd do
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning⁸

Holy One, thank you for the gift of this new day. Please help me to stay mindful of your creation and your teachings as I travel through it. Empower me to see and spread the good news of your grace for all people. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy One, thank you for the gift of today. Thank you for all the ways that I saw your glory and learned your teachings beyond speech and words. As I drift to sleep this night, may the meditations of my heart draw me closer to you, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

The Old Testament year of jubilee that Jesus refers to in his first sermon—what some have called his “mission statement”—was a time set aside every forty-nine years to forgive financial debt and redistribute the land among the people. Why do you think God envisioned a year of jubilee? What might that look like in our world today?

Daily Awareness Reflection⁹

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 ...

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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://www.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

Reaching Out with Outreach

Outreach has been busy so far this year. We collected items to benefit Marguerite's Place, Bridges & Harbor Cares for their veterans transitional facility in Nashua.

We were able to donate in total 7,955 items consisting of diapers, wipes, paper goods, cleaning supplies, bedding & gift cards to these organizations!!

We could not have done this without the generosity of our congregation, Brookline and Hollis communities and the advertising efforts of Megan & Candy.

If you are looking for organizations to donate to over the summer please check out the websites for The Brookline Food Pantry, Share in Milford and the Nashua Soup Kitchen for their wish lists.

The Nashua Soup Kitchen is conducting their annual "Backpacks for Back to School" Program. More information can be found on their website at: <https://nshks.org/project/nshks-backpacks-for-back-to-school/>

If you would like to donate, but cannot get the items there please leave them in the basket in the front Hall at the church by August 1st and we will deliver the items for you.

As non-profit organizations are starting to open up again so are opportunities for volunteer and paid positions. If you are interested or have some time please consider checking out one of the organizations Outreach supports or contact an organization that interests you.

Visiting Angels of Nashua is looking for In-home Care Aides. Please see flyer attached with more information and how to contact them.

Please feel free to contact Amy Razzaboni at arazz3914@gmail.com or speak with any member of the Outreach Board with any questions or to get more information about our Outreach Organizations and other local non-profits.

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!

Making Music with the Band!

The band is beginning to rehearse again. So they'd welcome singers and instrumentalists of any level to join in making a joyful noise before the Lord. Speak to Sanjay (scherian@charter.net) if you're interested.

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!

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
Parmesan
Cookies/Cookie Mix
Cheese Nip (or similar) Crackers
Jello/Gelatin (any flavors)
Sardines
Cereal (especially Raisin Bran or
"Fun" Cereals)

Apple or Cranberry Juice
Paper Towels
Coffee
Disposable Razors
Dry Cat Food
Dry Dog Food
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