



*Brookline Community Church*

*September 26, 2021*

*Reverend Catherine A. Merrill, Minister*

**Prelude:** [The Prelude](#)

[An instrumental piece to help you get settled for worship]

*We welcome Rev Susan Garofalo this morning to lead us in worship.*

*Susan is originally from Rochester, NY. She relocated to New Hampshire 2 years ago, and calls it home. Susan earned her MDiv from Northeastern Seminary in Rochester, NY, where she is currently currently pursuing her DMin studies. Susan is employed by Granite VNA, in the professional role of Spiritual Care Counselor. She is currently transitioning from the Community Hospice team to the Palliative Care and Hospice team. Susan is a member of First Church of Hopkinton, NH, UCC, and a Member In Discernment with the Merrimack Association of UCC and New Hampshire Conference. Susan is a musician: vocalist, guitar and piano.*

**Call To Worship :**

**Stott, Based on Psalm 124**

Leader: We gather together in praise and worship of our Faithful God,  
because our help and hope rests always in the Lord our God.

**People: We bring our praises and thankful responses to our Saving God.**

Leader: Blessed be the Lord our God, who is our security and home,  
and whose mercy and grace frees us from all that traps us.

**People: Blessings, reverent honour and glory be to the Lord our God.**

Leader: We come together to praise worship our all-Powerful God,  
because we are confident of God's generous care over us.

**People: Our eternal trust is in the name of the Lord our God,  
who is our Maker, our Saviour, and our timeless Home. Amen.**

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

No Stumbling Blocks!

Nathaniel Vissa

Hymn: [Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word](#)

**Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:**

[For next week, please feel free to send Barbara Haskell-Higgins your joys & concerns and we will include them in our prayers: [barbarajh@comcast.net](mailto:barbarajh@comcast.net) ]

**Let us 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.

Hymn: [O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee](#)

**Scripture Reading: (James 5:13-16, 19-20, Mark 9:38-50) (NRSV)**

James 5:13-16, 19-20 (NRSV)

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

## Mark 9:38-50 (NRSV)

<sup>38</sup>John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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

“On Salt and Stumbling Blocks”

Susan A. Garofalo, MDiv

Hymn: [He Gives Us More Grace](#)

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

As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to bring the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.

### **Announcements**

**A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (Benediction)**

**Dilley**

Go now in peace,  
for Christ has called you to live in peace  
among your brothers and sisters in Christ.  
Go now in courage,  
for Christ has called you from the places of your life  
to be agents of redemption and partners in healing.  
Go now in joy and thanksgiving,  
for Christ is our light!  
Go now as one body,  
to love and serve God as you love and serve the world! 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."](#)

**Postlude: [Praise the Lord](#)**

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



## PRAYER LIST (09/26/21)

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 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 Rev Catherine's smooth recovery as she recovers from surgery
- For the medical personnel who are working through another overwhelming wave of care needed for those stricken with Covid
- For the people of Afghanistan, as their country's struggles continue
- For the friends and family of Gary, Donna's cousin who passed away unexpectedly
- For the friends and family of Bob, Susan's brother-in-law who passed away
- For the friends and family of Ursula, Candy's cousin who passed away
- For the friends and family of Louise Considine, Barbara's friend who passed on August 2th after a 2 year battle with cancer
- For Barbara's neighbor, Lester Reid, who was diagnosed with metastasis cancer
- Mrs. Pires' co- worker Charlie who has back problems that are preventing him from returning to work
- Friends and family of Rev. Holly Tomelson's husband who passed away
- Rev. Rebecca Larson's grandson, Sam, came home from school ill.
- Nancy McGinnis, a friend of Susan And Russell's daughter Stacey was diagnosed with liver cancer. She is a 45 year mother of a 4th grade boy and an 8th grande boy
- For those suffering from addiction
- For all the major life transitions whose impact we feel over time.
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families



### **Household Prayer: Morning**

God of heavenly glory, brighter than the midday sun, as each day tells your wonder, may the words of my mouth be acceptable to you, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

God of heavenly glory, deeper than the midnight dark, as each night sings your mystery, may the dreams of my heart be acceptable to you, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

Numbers 11:24–29 and Mark 9:38–41 are both concerned with expressions of divine power that occur outside the bounds of formal leadership and authority. Where have you experienced God’s mighty or gracious action in the church and in the world? What does it mean for the church to pray or act in the name of Jesus Christ? How do you account for gifts of the Spirit that seem to spill out beyond the church’s control?

## 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.

BCC YTD Financial Summary	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs Expenses + / -
August	\$70,873	\$55,748	\$15,125

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

**Rev. Catherine** Following her surgery Rev Catherine is on medical leave. If you need anything and aren't sure where to go, please contact Candy Tiner, the church secretary ([secretary@bccnh.org](mailto:secretary@bccnh.org), 603-801-5918) or Jill Aitken, chair of the Deacons ([jgoods4@gmail.com](mailto:jgoods4@gmail.com), 973-713-7832) and they will get you to the right person.

## 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.

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.

Please feel free to contact Amy Razzaboni at [arazz3914@gmail.com](mailto: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.



### **Making Music with the Band!**

The band is always welcoming 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.

### **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:

- Detergent
- Juice
- Cleaning supplies
- Graham crackers
- Paper towels
- Facial tissues
- Coffee

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.

### **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