A Prayer In Spring
Robert Frost
Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in midair stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

Springtime again in New Hampshire! I know, March 20 has come and gone! Yet, spring is still coming - the ice will be out soon, the loons will return, the trees will blossom green, and the flowers will smile. All the seasons show forth the beauty and love of God, but spring is definitely my favorite. I hope you’ll take some time to simply sit back, read some poetry, and give thanks for the “springing fresh from the earth.” We’re moving into a new sermon series: “God is love.” 1 John 4:8 tells us that God is love. For me, this says something quite different than, “God loves.” The former says that love, itself, is God. Do you ever think of that? Do you ever think of simply worshiping love, giving yourself over to love, basing your every word and action on love? Even more, do you think specifically about worshiping and living “love” as Paul defines it in 1 Corinthians 13?

Well, this is what we’ll be doing for a few weeks. We’ll consider God in the simplest way I can imagine --- as love. We’ll consider how love creates and evolves. We’ll look at the Hebrew Bible stories from the perspective of God being love. We’ll relook at the life and message of Jesus as the very incarnation of love. And, we’ll consider the cross, the resurrection, salvation, and the church in light of love being God.

I hope this fresh look will help in wrestling with some of those sticky theological questions like, “If God is love, how can there be so much suffering in the world?” I pray that this approach to knowing and talking about God will open the space for embracing a gentler, kinder God than the way some people today are led to understand God. Speaking of coming to know God from a slightly different perspective, I highlighted the musical, Jesus Christ Superstar, in my message a few weeks ago. I reminded us that back in the 70’s this was a means for young college kids to ask probing questions of the Christian faith.

I hope its airing Easter night and its coming tour in 2019 will again open the space for questions and, in that, open the door for young people to find their way back into (especially) The United Methodist Church.

Science doesn’t claim to know all there is to know about the physics of the universe. Christianity ought not be so bold as to claim it knows everything there is to know about God. Hopefully, we can continue to grow in faith ... and in it, share more and more in awe and thanks.

[Continued Pg. 2]
For those who might be curious, I’d like to share, very briefly, of my beliefs on 3 key questions that Jesus Christ Superstar raises. Those questions are:

1. Is Jesus divine?
2. Was the resurrection about the bodily resuscitation of Jesus?
3. Is Holy Scripture “inerrant?”

1. I certainly believe in the divinity of Jesus. Jesus was a human being just like you and me. Yet, he was also fully indwelled by the Holy Spirit of God - setting him apart and above, the very incarnation of love … of God.

2. Jesus Christ Superstar follows very closely the Gospel of Mark. This Gospel has no corporal, no bodily resuscitation. The resurrection that this Gospel speaks of is the very real presence, the very light of Christ that would go ahead of the disciples back to Galilee. Resurrection, as discussed by Jesus in Mark 10:24-27 and by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:35-37 and 42, is so much more than simply the body coming back to life. What happens bodily is a mystery to me, especially in how it’s presented in both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. And yet, the resurrection – the very real experience of the risen Lord in the hearts and minds of even those who didn’t see – is something I could never deny and know to be the very foundation of the Christian faith.

3. Back in 1922, Harry Emerson Fosdick delivered a sermon in which he said, “One point of view is that the original documents of the Scripture were inerrantly dictated by God to men … inerrantly dictated, everything there – scientific opinions, medical theories, historical judgments, as well as spiritual insight – infallible.” He went on to say, “Indeed, that static and mechanical theory of inspiration seems to [those who don’t hold this understanding a positive peril to the spiritual life…” The world was not created in 6 24-hour days, women are not to be treated as second to anyone or anything, and slavery is absolutely counter to love. Hence, I definitely do not believe in the “inerrancy” of Scripture as Fosdick is criticizing it here. I do very much believe, though, that the Bible is a compilation of sacred writings, inspired in people of faith, and containing all that we need know and learn for fullness of life as God offers it to be.

Well, I hope that’s helpful.

Finally, Disciple 1 is about to start!! We’ll have an orientation after both services on Sunday, April 29th. The intent is to begin Tuesday, May 2 at 10 AM and on an evening that week also. See you there!

The grass is green across the hill,
But yellow blooms the daffodil.
It's sunshine on a little stalk,
A friendly flower, I bet they talk...

© Ltheaker

Peace & Joy,

Pastor Bob

May News!

Two Reunion groups meet:
1. At Abbotts home
(150 Old Center Harbor Rd., Ctr Harbor)
Second Friday of the month (May 11th)
2. Wednesday – May 9th at MUMC 10:00 AM
Open to everyone.

Reunion group gatherings are intended to help us not only keep connected but to be accountable to each other. This time together allows us to share how God has been working in our lives and opportunity to share those Holy spirit moments. Join us at either date or both if your time permits! If you are interested in taking a “walk” see Pastor Bob, Murray, Charlie Fritz, Ashley Pouliot, or any of the other 35 Emmaus folks. Early registration encouraged. Limited applications.

“A walk with the Lord you’ll not forget”

DeColores!
Outreach

We are busy working on the Spring Tea. It will be held at Geneva Point on May 19th, 2 - 4 PM. It is always a fun time with beautifully decorated tables and great conversations. This year's theme is "Garden Party" and we are hoping for a storyteller. Come join the fun, bring a friend. Tickets are available between and after services and at the Church Office.

We planning a "Shower" for the Women's Shelter in July, date to come. Please see list of needed items below. The Director of Starting Point will do a Mission Moment at each service before the shower. Here is her letter:

Good Morning Bev,

We recently got a large donation of toiletries, so we have plenty of shampoo, conditioner, tooth brushes and tooth paste, for now. However, we can use the following items in the shelter:

**Gift Cards** - Walmart, Hannaford, Circle K (we give these out if our guests need gas, food or clothes)
- Paper Towels and Toilet Paper
- Diapers (all sizes but we have a great need for sizes 4 and 5) and wipes
- Baby lotion, shampoo and body wash,
- Baby care and grooming set (Nail clippers, thermometer, Brush/Comb, Medicine Dispenser, Nasal Aspirator)
- Women’s Nail Clippers
- Women’s Brush and Combs
- Women’s Body wash and/or soap
- Women’s razors and shaving cream
- Women’s deodorant
- Women’s and Children’s Slippers and Socks
- Silverware (spoons, forks, and knives)
- Cleaning Supplies; Lysol Wipes and Spray, Dish detergent, Laundry Detergent

I hope this helps. We have recently gone through a transition in the shelter and have a bunch of new little ones, and with that comes little one needs. We greatly appreciate all of your support!

Thanks again, Bev 😊

April Shelter Manager

**Starting Point**: Services for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence and Stalking
P.O. Box 1972, Conway, NH, 03818
**Office Number** 603-447-2494
**Ancillary Office Number**: 603-452-8014
**Crisis Line**: 1-800-336-3795

From: Raetha Stoddard, Executive Director, Starting Point.

Since 1981 Starting Point has been providing free and confidential services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking. Our core work is in social justice, restoring basic human rights to victims. We also have extended and transitional services assisting victims in becoming survivors and survivors in becoming thriving members of our community, free from the oppression of interpersonal violence.

We provide 24/7 crisis intervention, shelter, transitional housing, personal advocacy, transportation, court and hospital advocacy, support groups, CAC accompaniment, SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) support, LAP (Lethal Assessment Program) support to local police departments and education and prevention services in all of Carroll County. Twice a year we provide volunteer training. In hopes of engaging more volunteers in southern Carroll County our September training will be held at our office at Huggins Hospital. We do not think of our work as charitable but we do rely on charity to do the work. We believe that when we restore human rights we open the door to joy and our clients then play that forward in our community.

**Birthdays of the Month**

| Jordan Prouty 01 | Beverly Charest 21 |
| Jay O’Donald 06 | Priscilla Chase 22 |
| Stephen Cantone 08 | Sarah Lindberg 23 |
| Nancy Kivlehan 10 | James Conway 24 |
| Nancy Smith 13 | Bernard Jansson 27 |
| Lynn Worth 16 | Janet Paddleford 30 |
Tuesday, May 1
10am: Bible Study

Wednesday, May 2
7pm: Bible Study

Thursday, May 3
10am: AA Mtg.

Sunday, May 6
8/10am: Worship
8:00pm: AA Mtg.

Monday, May 7
7pm: Church Council Mtg.

Tuesday, May 8
10am: Bible Study
7pm: Finance Mtg.

Wednesday, May 9
10am: Emmaus Mtg.
7pm: Bible Study

Thursday, May 10
10am: AA Mtg.
7pm: Trustee Mtg.

Sunday, May 13
8/10am: Happy Mother’s Day!
8:00pm: Worship
AA Mtg.

Tuesday, May 15
10am: Bible Study
7pm: SPRC Mtg.

Wednesday, May 16
7pm: Bible Study

Thursday, May 17
10am: AA Mtg

Friday, May 18
7am: Men’s Breakfast
@ Lion’s Club

Saturday, May 19
2-4 pm:
Spring Tea @ Geneva Point

Sunday, May 20
8/10am: Worship
8:00pm: AA Mtg

Tuesday, May 22
10am: Bible Study

Wednesday, May 23
7pm: Bible Study

Thursday, May 24
10am: AA Mtg.

Sunday, May 27
8/10am: Worship
8:00pm: AA Mtg.

Monday, May 28

Tuesday, May 29
10am: Bible Study

Wednesday, May 30
9am: Printing BellRinger
7pm: Bible Study

Thursday, May 31
10am: AA Mtg.

Please Pray for the members of our church family, friends and relatives.

Family of Pat Strickland, Rae Marie Davis
Norma Jean Richardson, Maria Moser, Nancy Kivlehan
(Prayer requests will be listed for 30 days)

Monthly Events

Emmaus Meetings: 2nd Wed. 10:00 AM
Prayer Shawl: 1st and 4th Thursday @ 12 noon.
Moultonboro Men’s Breakfast: Lions Club 3rd Friday at 7:00 AM ($7) Speakers.

Upcoming Events

May 7, Church Council Mtg. 7 PM
May 8, Finance Mtg. 7 PM
May 9, Emmaus Mtg. 10 AM
May 10, Trustee Mtg. 7 PM
May 18, Men’s Breakfast @ Lion’s Club 7 AM
May 19, Annual Spring Tea @ Geneva Point 2 - 4 PM
## May Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Greeters</th>
<th>Ushers</th>
<th>Liturgist</th>
<th>Computer</th>
<th>Gift Card</th>
<th>Counters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>John &amp; Sue Scudder</td>
<td>Jan Estes</td>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>John Scudder</td>
<td>Sue Scudder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ken Young</td>
<td>Ken Young</td>
<td>Wilderman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>Dave Eastwood</td>
<td>Mel &amp; Jean Heckman</td>
<td>Linda</td>
<td>Shane</td>
<td>Nancy</td>
<td>Bev Charest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jim &amp; Donna Conway</td>
<td>Schneider</td>
<td>Pouliot</td>
<td>Kivlehan</td>
<td>Sarah Richardson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>Norm &amp; Connie Coates</td>
<td>Ken Young</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Steve</td>
<td>Diana Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Charlie Harrington</td>
<td>Charlie Harr</td>
<td></td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10 AM  | Open           | Todd & Sandra Ringelstein | Becky Brenn
|        |                | Rich & Betsy      | Brennan     | Forrest     | Betsy        | Sandy Ringelstein|
|        |                | Peg Young          | Barbara Kohls| Abbott      | Merkle     | Rich Merkle     |
| 20     | 8 AM           | Bob & Jane Hammond | Ed & Sue     | Josh        | John       | Sue Scudder      |
|        |                | Brown              | Bartlett    | Scudder     | Scudder    |                  |
| 10 AM  | Open           | Peg Young          | Barbara Kohls| Charlie     | Mary Jo   | Darlene Fritz    |
|        |                |                    | Fritz        | Bailey      |            |                  |
| 27     | 8 AM           | Kay Marini         | Mark & Diana | Diane       | John       | Sue Scudder      |
|        |                | Johnson            | Johnson     | Scudder     | Scudder    |                  |
| 10 AM  | Kelly Burkhardt| Peg Young          | Harry Welch  | Sandra      | Pamela     | Dave Hanson      |
|        |                | Dick Russell       | Ringelstein  | Abbott      | Merkle     | Mel Heckman      |

### Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>8 AM</th>
<th>10 AM</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>87</td>
<td></td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>64</td>
<td></td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Church Council

At the April meeting we discussed the sign in front of Church and difficulty changing the message. Also discussed is the lack of signage at the Emerson Property. These concerns were sent to Trustees.

The Church Fair is really coming along, all Church tables are covered, vendors are signing up, even the sausage situation is under control! Is there someone who will take the roll of Overseer, I'm avoiding the scary term of Chairman. Please let Bev Charest or Pastor Bob know.
A letter From Diedre Zimmerman
Kathmandu, 2 April 2018.

Dear Friends,

"Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news." Mark 16:15

It was a glorious March morning as I cycled along the still-quiet streets to Patan Hospital. Having sent the boys off on their new 7am school bus, I was hoping to get an early start to a busy day in my new role of helping the hospital develop nutrition services for patients. The air was filled with birdsong and bright sunshine that quickly dismissed the early morning chill, and the sense of spring in the air was palpable. So strange, I thought, to be surrounded by such light and hope when a shadow had just loomed over our heads. Arriving at the hospital, I was soon busy supervising the preparation of nutrition supplements in the kitchen and checking individual patients who were to receive them on the wards. Nevertheless thoughts kept popping into my head as to what the coming weeks, or even months, might hold for us.

For years, Mark had been aware of a brown patch on his left forearm, often exposed to sun while hanging it out car windows. Recently he had wondered if it was changing colour and one morning in early March decided it had gone dusky red. The next day, between two busy clinics, he had Chief of Surgery Dr. Sanjay remove it, leaving a seven-stitch incision. Dr. Sanjay recommended that the specimen be sent to a private pathologist whom he trusted. Six days later the pathologist phoned Mark with her findings: ‘Lentigo Maligna Melanoma.’ She invited Mark to her office to discuss his report in detail, including the fact that the margins cut around the lesion were not sufficient to be considered safe. She advised that he would definitely need to have it re-excised, and that he needed further specialised tests not available in Nepal to determine the depth and degree of the cancer. The doctor had done her pathology training in Chicago and later at Johns Hopkins University, and was a U.S. board-certified pathologist. Her English was polished and her manner professional and caring. Together, she and Mark packed his microscope slides and biopsy specimens into a box for shipping overseas.

The next couple of weeks were a whirl of e-mails and arrangements. Dermatologists have long waiting-lists in the US and it seemed that health facilities in Thailand would not be sufficiently experienced with melanoma. Sending enquiries to U.S. medical colleagues, a long-time friend since college days connected Mark with his friend Dr. Linda Wang, an outstanding dermatologist in Baltimore and an authority on skin cancers. Dr. Wang immediately emailed Mark about his case and reviewed his pathology report, agreeing that he needed to send the specimens to her office as soon as possible and come to the US himself about a week later. A four-day visit to Kathmandu by Jim and Marilyn Simons gave us the chance to rush the box of biopsy specimens back to New York for mailing on to Baltimore. We researched air tickets and booked a flexible ticket for Mark to leave on the night of Easter Sunday, with free changes to his return date. The one silver lining to the cloud was that Mark would fly in and out of Philadelphia, and have the chance to visit his mother at the same time.

The increased numbers of doctors on the medical team meant that there was no difficulty for Mark to take the necessary leave. On the other hand, my work as the sole dietitian on a part-time basis was peaking towards a major presentation to senior doctors and nurses about the importance of developing nutritional services as part of patient care. More supervision was required on the home front too as the boys broke from school for Easter holidays. Benjamin spent a good amount of time working on basketball skills, while Zachary tucked into some serious study towards his international exams that take place in May.

The boys were briefly startled by Mark's diagnosis but understood that we were working to deal with it. We told close friends about the situation and many, including Benjamin's classmates, assured us of their daily prayers. A week later, our Nepali church was conducting a 'Healing Program' to which we had invited a friend with lung cancer along with her husband.

[Continued next page]
At the end of the service, folks lined up for prayers for healing and the church elders, including Mark, laid hands on them as the chorus sang softly. As the service was winding down, Mark shifted from pray-er to prayee and asked Krishna Kaji to lay hands on him, telling him he needed to travel to the U.S. for surgery on his arm without mentioning the cancer.

Spring did not sweep in as uniformly as we have grown to expect in this tropical climate. The weather was more reminiscent of an Irish spring, with strong winds bringing heavy showers and cooler days. With nothing planned for the Easter holidays, and Mark’s impending departure, we organised a group of friends to hike up a favourite mountain ridge for a picnic lunch on Good Friday. Vehicle booked, bread rolls and hot cross buns ordered from a nearby bakery, and the fridge packed with sandwich fixings, we woke up that morning to the low rumble of thunder. The day was dark with clouds, and soon a rain shower was beating down. On the horizon we could see blue sky behind the mountain, but the weather seemed unreliable and we were still second-guessing ourselves as we made the one hour drive to our parking spot and the clouds drew in once more.

Up on the mountain however, the air was clear and the threat of rain receded. We even appreciated the cooler weather as the eleven of us pushed up the steep slopes of the ridge and climbed the final 1000 stone steps to the summit. Leaving the teenagers to wait for the rear-guard, four of us went over the top to our regular picnic spot to set out the lunch. Below us to the south was an undulating stretch of pine forest leading down to groups of village houses set in terraced fields; to the north, a more dense jungle of trees cascaded off the edge of the mountain into the surrounds of the city far below. As we waited around our picnic blanket with the food containers set out on it, we fretted about a scurry of approaching clouds. Suddenly, a squall of raindrops whipped across us, followed by a roaring wave of wind that thrashed all around us, bending the trees over and tearing at the surrounding vegetation. For a good ten minutes we crouched low, clutching our backpacks, our dog Bella and the picnic fixings as the wind persisted in its rage, whirling debris all around us. Then, as quickly as it had arrived, the wind dropped, and the air was still again. The clouds moved on without shedding their rain, and patches of blue sky appeared. Shaking the dirt off the picnic blanket, we gathered around to read the familiar Bible passages about Christ's crucifixion, including descriptions of the darkness and earthquake that occurred as He died. After a brief prayer, we set into our lunch before enjoying the more leisurely walk back down to the vehicle.

That evening, after the empty lunch boxes had been unpacked and the backpacks stowed away in the wardrobe, Mark opened his computer and an e-mail from Dr. Wang arrived with the subject line ‘Good News’. She wrote ‘preliminary wet read is that it is not a melanoma.’ We crowded around the computer screen in astonishment as she questioned the timing of Mark's flight in relation to when she could confirm the findings. With just 48 hours left before his planned departure, we wondered how quickly clarity could come. But within a couple of hours the full final pathology report from Boston arrived saying ‘Lichenoid Keratosis (no sign of malignancy)’. Just before bed Mark phoned the dermatopathologist in Boston. She was gracious about the Nepal report, saying this was a difficult call for someone not specializing in skin conditions. She herself was highly experienced, had applied stains specific for melanoma (which were all negative), and, just to be complete, had conferred with another pathologist. After his half-hour conversation, Mark was convinced that the matter was resolved for good.

Early on Sunday morning, Mark left the house and headed out into the dark, deserted streets of Patan. The tension of the previous weeks had taken their toll on me, and I continued in deep sleep without noticing his departure. The occasional truck hurtled past as he cycled under a buttery moon descending amidst the streetlamps. Reaching the church, he joined members arriving in ones and twos to take seats around the carpeted hall. Outside, grey light began to reflect off adjacent houses and a bird song through an open window mingled with the first hymn and prayers. It was time to celebrate our Risen Lord.

Sincerely, Deirdre, Mark, Zachary and Benjamin.
Outreach
Are you interested in doing some yard work or fix-it projects in the community, we have a few families that could use your help. Realizing everyone's time is precious, we will have some time options. Please let Chuck O'Hara or me know and when you would be available. Bev and Chuck, Chairs

MUMC Staff Change
Greetings Church Family!

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has accepted, with regret, Shara Jameson’s resignation as Family Activities Coordinator. We thank Shara for her service and wish her and her family well.

SPRC remains committed to prioritizing the needs of younger families and are thoughtfully considering staffing needs at this time. We welcome your thoughts or suggestions.

In His service,
Diane Bartlett, SPRC Chair

Stephen Ministry
“A ministry that approaches brokenness in ones life with Christian care and compassion to help find strength and wholeness in life once again.” Brokenness and loneliness is a condition that none of us care to face in life but the reality is, it happens. Stephen Ministry is a ministry that helps persons work through the complexities of life when they have surfaced with Christian care. If you or someone you feel might be in need of a Stephen Minister we are available to share and help to bring about wholeness out of brokenness. For further information please see; Nancy Hanson or Murray Nickerson. Grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Shopping Card News
As of this writing $152.32 was contributed towards Missions for the month of April.

Mother’s Day is May 13th – Pleasee can make a selection from our in stock restaurant cards, home improvement cards or retailer’s cards or order the perfect shopping card (over 400 retailers) that would make her happy. The complete list can be seen on-line at www.scripzone.com/certificatelist.aspx—Deadline for orders is May 6th.

Bridal Shower, Wedding & Anniversary busy season is fast approaching. Gift cards for restaurants and most bride and groom registry retailers are available to help you stay with in your budget. Can’t attend a shower or wedding? Cards are easy to send in the mail with no fancy wrapping required.