

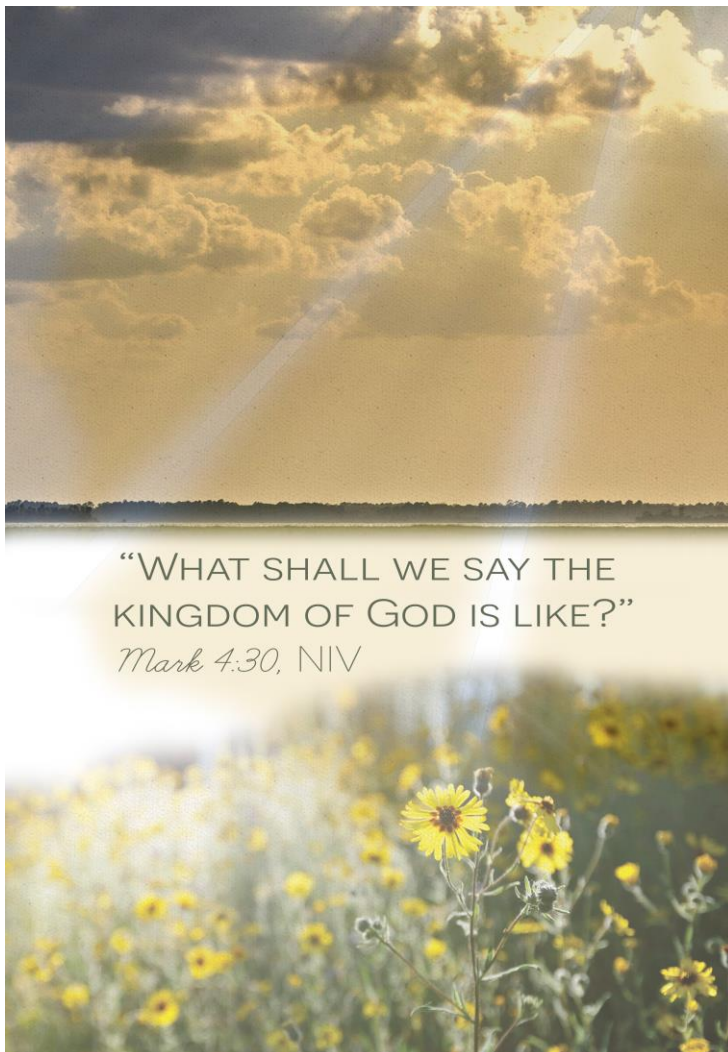
Opus Christi Works of Christ

St. James United Methodist Church
646 Daniel Webster Highway
Merrimack, NH 03054
Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy, Pastor
Robin House, Office Administrator

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Building Christian Community Within and Beyond the Church



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WORSHIP

Pastor's Summer Vacation

Pastor Annie and her family are enjoying their summer vacation through July 8. Rev. Gary Ponder-Williams will lead worship on July 7. Rev. Kelly Turney at Main St. UMC in Nashua will be available for pastoral emergencies. Her contact information is 603-882-3361 (office), 603-594-8323 (parsonage) or 603-883-7135 (text).

Have fun and safe travels Pastor Annie, John and Finn!



Granite District

New England Annual Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Granite District Says Farewell to DS Taesung Kang

June 11, 2024 article and photo from NEUMC.org

After seven years, the Granite District said farewell to their superintendent, the Rev. Taesung Kang.

A celebration of Rev. Kang's ministry was held on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at St. Paul's UMC in Manchester, NH. Beginning July 1, Rev. Kang will serve South UMC in Manchester, CT. The Rev. Dr. Jackie Brannen, retired, will take over and serve as DS of the Granite District until June 30, 2025. Dr. Brannen was previously Katahdin District superintendent.



Rev. Kang began his remarks by thanking the district, his family, his Cabinet colleagues and the bishops with whom he's served.

"Seven years! I can't believe it," Rev. Kang said. "I love the number seven. In Scripture, it often symbolizes completeness or perfection. I don't mean my seven years have been perfect or complete; quite the opposite. It's been a journey filled with twists and turns, moving forward on the familiar paths of tradition and the uncertain, unprecedented roads of the unknown."

"I believe God has called us all to a journey of transformation and the creation of a new future. As Tod Bolsinger mentions in his book 'Canoeing the Mountains,' perhaps we have all been called to pioneer a path that has not yet been traveled," Rev. Kang said.

The reference was a fitting one for Rev. Kang, who took up kayaking and hiking during his tenure in New Hampshire.

"I have developed a ritual during my hikes," he said. "As I hike up, I try to empty out anything that suppresses me. And on the way down, I always stop at a brook or river to wash my face and recite, 'Remember your baptism. Remember you're God's beloved. Therefore, be grateful.' This has been my mantra as I start each day or sit in my office. Let's continue to remember who we are and whose we are in Christ."

As Dean of the Cabinet, Rev. Jill Colley Robinson shared some thoughts on behalf of her colleagues. Rev. Colley Robinson, who serves as superintendent of the Green Mountain District, joined the Cabinet at the same time as Rev. Kang.

Their years have been tumultuous ones, she pointed out, citing "the \$2.46 billion class action suit against the Boy Scouts of America, a pandemic and the pursuant thrice postponed General Conference, disaffiliations and schism in the denomination, the sudden loss of Bishop Devadhar and other loved ones, to name just a few."

"Speaking personally," Rev. Colley Robinson said, "I could not have survived these last seven years without your encouraging spirit, your abiding faithfulness that is so deeply grounded in prayer, and your unforced ability to make us all laugh."

"In the words of our colleague, [Director of Connectional Ministries] We Chang, 'Taesung is one of the most resilient persons I have known. What makes his resilience stand out is that he practices it with grace and a smile.'"

In her reflection on Rev. Kang's ministry, Bishop Peggy A. Johnson shared some of the many things she and he have in common:

"... we both had attended Asbury Seminary, we had a passion for mission work and had done some church planting," the bishop said. "I was later to find out that both of us appreciate so much Paul's enthusiastic blessing found in chapter 15 of the Book of Romans.

"Oh! May the God of green hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope." — Romans 15:13 (The Message)

"You have been blessed," Bishop Johnson told members of the district, "and through his life-giving ministry among you, you have hope: hope for the future, hope for doing things some new ways, hope that comes only by God, who even in these challenging times, keeps giving us the power to continue on, knowing that the future is bright in God's hands."

She encouraged them to "take a page out of DS Taesung's Roman 15 playbook" and "be filled with joy and peace and believe in the hope that is yours in Christ Jesus and the hope you give to others as you serve."

The day's events included a lunch provided by the nearby churches Rev. Kang had served.

NEWS FROM COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

Summer Break for Committee Meetings

The Finance Committee, Church Council, SPRC, and Board of Trustees will not hold their monthly meetings in July. Also, we will not have a church work day in the month of July.

Holiday Office Hours

Robin will be in the church office on Monday and Tuesday July 1 and 2. The office will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday, July 3 and 4.

Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee has been attempting to balance the 2024 budget. As you know, we are facing a potential \$45,000 deficit this year. At the June 9th all-church meeting, the committee presented several ideas on how to increase income and decrease expenses. In case you missed the meeting, here is a short summary. Income ideas:

- If possible, give an extra amount each month, as if there was an extra Sunday in each month. If not the entire amount of your regular pledge, whatever you can afford to give.
- Adopt-a-bill: If there is something you feel passionate about, donate your money toward that bill each month.
- Sponsor a fundraiser. If you have an idea for a fundraiser, go to the next Finance Committee meeting. We are currently looking for someone to sponsor a dinner or other fundraiser for November 2024, but it's also great to look ahead to 2025.

Expense ideas:

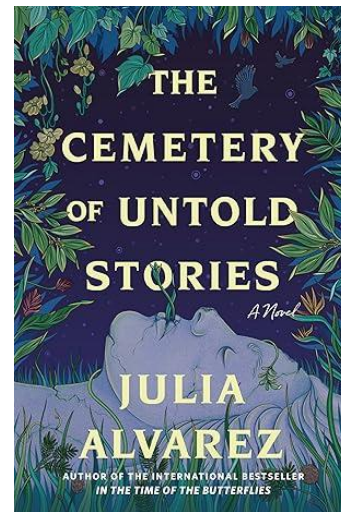
- On July 9, at a church conference, we voted to change the wording to the Organist Reserve Fund so that we can use the money to pay our current organist salary from that fund.
- At Church Council in April, we voted to pay half of our monthly share of our Mission Share bill to the New England Conference. We will continue at this rate unless we have funds later in the year to make up the remaining portion of our bill.
- We are looking ahead to 2025 with the hope of applying for a couple of grants to help with Mission Shares and possibly other bills.

We welcome your input. If you have ideas or questions about any of this, please call or email the church office. You will be forwarded to a member of the finance Committee.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Summer Reading Virtual Book Club

During the month of July, the summer book club will read *The Cemetery of Untold Stories* by Julia Alvarez. In this book literary icon Julia Alvarez returns with an inventive and emotional novel about storytelling itself that will be an instant classic. The discussion will happen on July 24 at 7pm via Zoom. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact the church office so we can send you the Zoom link. PLEASE SHARE! This is a perfect opportunity to invite a friend to something.



It's Time to Register for VBS




This year's VBS theme is Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God. To help people manage their busy schedules, St. James will host a weekend VBS. We'll start at 5:00 pm on Friday, July 19 with pizza for dinner followed by Day 1 activities until 7:30 pm. Come back again on Saturday, July 20 from 9 am to 3 pm for more fun. Visit our online registration webpage for participants and volunteers: <https://st-james-umc-merrimack-nh.mycokesburyvbs.com/>. There is also a link to the registration webpage on the St. James website www.stjames-umchurch.org

Volunteers needed. Help kids put their trust in God. See Robin House if you can help.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

In the final poem of Psalms, what musical instrument is mentioned as a means to praise the Lord?

- A. brass
- B. percussion
- C. strings
- D. woodwinds
- E. all of the above



Answer: E (See Psalm 150:3-5.)

OUTREACH



**Nashua Soup Kitchen
& Shelter**

Backpacks for Back to School

The Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter needs help with their annual “Backpacks for Back to School” program. They collect new backpacks and school supplies for families trying to live on minimum wage, staying at the shelter, or visiting the soup kitchen for food.

Starting a new school year with a new backpack and new school supplies always brings joy to the students who get them. Donations can be dropped off at 2 Quincy St. in Nashua from **July 29 to August 2**. If you are interested in volunteering to help sort, organize, assemble and distribute backpacks, you can sign up at nsks.volunteerhub.com.

Supply List

| | |
|---|---|
| 2” Three ring binders (required in high school) | staplers (mini or desk size) |
| Loose leaf filler paper | student scissors (safety scissors for younger students) |
| Tabbed dividers | dry erase markers |
| Spiral notebooks | crayons (box of 24) |
| #2 pencils | colored pencils (bright or bold) |
| Handheld pencil sharpener | washable colored markers |
| Separate erasers | pencil boxes or pouches for elementary school children |
| Pens | lunch boxes/snack bags for elementary school children |
| 12 inch rulers | calculators for high school students |
| Protractor or multi-piece drafting package | dictionary |
| Bottled glue | index cards |
| Glue sticks | 8 GB or larger flash drive for high school students |
| Scotch tape | |

And most important, new backpacks for boys and girls grades kindergarten-12th grade



FELLOWSHIP

Spring Tea Gets a 5 Star Review!

We received a nice note from a satisfied customer who attended our Spring Tea. It reads, "Five stars for the Spring Tea Committee! I attended the event Saturday, May 11 and felt compelled to write this note. What an outstanding performance! The plates of tasty tea foods and desserts were beautifully presented. The servers were most cordial and attentive. Thank you for offering this delightful gathering."



Monthly Breakfast

The St. James United Methodist Men (UMM) would love to have you join them for breakfast on the first Saturday of every month. RSVP to George Fisher at fishergf@comcast.net so he knows how many people to expect.

Date: Saturday, July 6

Time: 8:00 am

Place: Mary Ann's Diner, 1 Craftsman Lane, Amherst



We need volunteers to make coffee and provide refreshments for coffee hour after church during the months of July and August. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Feel free to use baked goods in kitchen freezer that are marked for coffee fellowship



Merrimack Parks and Rec Summer Concert Series

Come and join the Merrimack Parks and Recreation Department this summer for their free weekly summer Concert Series at Abbie Griffin Park. Concerts are held on Wednesday nights from 6 to 8 pm and each week features a different musical style. Bring blankets or lawn chairs and your dinner and enjoy this free night of entertainment.

Summer with St. James Outings: Join your friends from church when we listen to the Merrimack Concert Association perform patriotic music on July 3, the Bedford Big Band on August 14 and children's musician Judy Pancoast on August 21. Visit www.merrimackparksandrec.org for the full concert schedule.

In case of inclement weather, check merrimackparksandrec.org or the Merrimack Parks and Rec Facebook page regarding the status of the show.



Summer with St. James

Fisher Cats Baseball Faith & Family Night

Meet the team chaplain and some of the players then watch the Fisher Cats take on the Reading Fightin' Phils at Delta Dental Stadium.

Bonus –Atlas Fireworks after the game!

Date: Saturday, July 27

Time: 5:00 pm Meet the team chaplain and talk to players. Game starts at 6:35 pm

Cost: \$12 per person. Sign up on bulletin board next to the church office.

Deadline to sign up for group tickets is July 7.

Park in the SNHU Millyard Parking Garage for \$10. Save \$2 if you purchase a parking space in advance on the Fisher Cats website

www.milb.com.



OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Please keep **Pastor Jennifer Savoy** and her family in your prayers. Jen's father, Timothy R. Pierce, 71, died May 31, 2024. Condolences may be sent to 15 Rockwood Circle, Contoocook, NH 03229. Timothy's celebration of life was held on June 6 at Hillsboro United Methodist Church.

July 2024



New England Conference
The United Methodist Church

Connected is a publication of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church. This monthly insert is designed put Conference news directly into the hands of our local church members.

Find more at www.neumc.org.



AC 24: Co-Creating Justice and Joy

That was the theme for the 2024 New England Annual Conference session that took place June 20-22 in Danvers, MA.

Here's a summary of some of the legislation adopted during the session. The complete information about actions taken, videos of the session and photos can be found on our website. Search AC24 to find all the conference-related news at www.neumc.org/news

2025 Conference Budget adopted

The 2025 budget is \$6,896,620 – that's \$306,561 lower than the current budget. Incoming President of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration LaVergne Randolph said the CCFA and Connectional Table "made the decision early in the process to hold the line on budget increases."

"To those of you struggling to maintain your local missions and ministries and meet your connectional commitments, we hear you," he said. "This is the first reduction in many years; praise the Lord."

RS 24-208 Toward a More Youthful Future

This calls for the creation of district/regional young adult committees.

RS 24-212 Grassroots Resource Team for New Models of Vocation

This legislation aims to support clergy who are serving less than



Children's choir performed gathering music on June 22

full time. It calls for the creation of a resource team 51% of which will be those serving less than full-time appointments

RS 24-214 Fund Black Churches with Equity

Calls for the development of a two-year learning program for congregations/individuals on anti-racism and the history of racism in the NEAC and beyond as well as the creation of a conference Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) team. It also establishes a seed fund for reparations with a goal of \$2 million.

RS-24-214 Support for Immigrant Clergy

Development of Strategy to support immigrant clergy/candidates that includes the establishment of an Immigration Support Task Force.

Continued on page 2



LOOK FOR AC24 TO FIND VIDEOS, PHOTOS AND MORE
www.neumc.org/news



The UMC apologizes for sexual misconduct

Continuing the Conversation ...

Following the apology for sexual misconduct by The UMC at the 2024 New England Annual Conference session, we are *continuing the conversation*.

Together we will create brave/safe spaces where people can express feelings, share stories honestly, and begin and continue the healing process. There are online and in-person sessions between July 7 and Aug. 3

Learn more at www.neumc.org/events

The apology reads, in part:

The United Methodist Church apologizes for the times we allowed our desire to protect the Church to outweigh our desire to care

Continuing the Conversation

New England Conference
2024-2025



for victims and survivors of sexual misconduct. We have allowed polity and protection of the institutional Church prevent us from holding persons accountable, thus perpetuating harm within our local churches and other ministry settings, and damaging the whole United Methodist connection. We apologize for the times we have not listened to you, doubted your stories, ignored your wounds, and have not tended to your pain. We believe this has contributed to allowing an unsafe culture to exist.



Service of Ordination and Commissioning

On Friday, June 21, the NEAC welcomed its 15 newest clergy members. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi of the Pittsburgh Area and co-episcopal leader of the Susquehanna Conference was guest preacher.

Find details and photos on our website www.neumc.org/news

Ordinands

Deacon

Adama Brown

Elders

Michelle Ann Stiles Ashley

Sungmin Jeon

Sooyoun Kim

Daniel Chung Ho Lee

Juhee Lee

Jamie Dupasquier Michaels

Spencer E. Shaw

Commissionees

Deacons

Samantha Ball

Tallessyn Z. Grenfell-Lee

Karen McLain

Sharon Sagat-Stover

Elders

Eungil Cho

Seth Fortier

Myungso Lee

Continued from page 1

RS-24-216 Commissioning the Strategic Implementation Team

The Strategic Implementation team will exist as a dedicated, transitional team for the next two years focused on the goals and work outlined by the Vision Forward Team.

RS-24-219 Repentance, Restitution, and Love

Commits to a process of restoring the Covenant Hills camp property in Cabot, VT, to the Nulhegan band of the Abenaki people. As part of a covenant between the former Troy Conference of The UMC and the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, the UCC does have

an interest in the camp, though no claim to the property. The UCC is discerning next steps and will hold its next annual meeting in the spring of 2025. Should the UCC opt not to support the land restitution approved here, it is potentially owed \$25,000.

RS-24-221 Conference Team of Ombudspersons

The team of four, which include a deacon, an elder, a local pastor and a lay person, is that there will be additional support and just processes for complaints, accountability, and evaluation that are neither overpowering nor disempowering to those subject to discriminatory and harmful behaviors.

Let's Connect

Do you have a story to share? A feature idea? A question to ask? Contact Beth DiCocco, Conference Director of Communications, at communicate@neumc.org or (978) 682-8055 ext. 150

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



2024 Schedule of Events

Visit www.merrimackparksandrec.org/4th-of-july for more information.

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|-------------------|---------------|---|---|
| Wednesday, July 3 | 6:30 -8:00 pm | Patriotic Concert in the Park | Abbie Griffin Park |
| Thursday, July 4 | 8:00 am | 25 th Annual Sparkler 5k Road Race | Merrimack High School track |
| | 8:00 am | Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast | Merrimack High School |
| | 1:00 pm | 4 th of July Parade | D.W. Hwy & Baboosic Lake Rd |
| | 9:15 pm | Fireworks Display | O'Gara Dr. Athletic Fields, also visible from Watson Park |

15th Annual New Life Home Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Golf outing to benefit the New Life Home for Women and Children in Manchester, NH. New Life Home carries out a mission to save lives, empower women, and restore families. This is achieved by providing a long-term residential recovery program designed to nurture, coach, and advocate for the advancement of broken women and their children. The multi-faceted, faith-based program aims to introduce responsibility and commitment into the women's lives. To learn more about the amazing work done at New Life, visit www.newlifehome.org.

Golf Outing Details

Date: July 22, 2024

Place: Sky Meadow Country Club, 6 Mountain Laurels Dr. Nashua, NH 03062

Format: Four Person Scramble

Price: \$175.00

Event Schedule:

6:30 am Registration, breakfast snacks, driving range and practice areas open

7:30 am Shotgun Start

12:30 pm Lunch, awards and raffles

Register at https://events.golfstatustatus.com/event/newlifehome_golf2024

Thank you from Girl Scout Troop 13912

Senior Girl Scout Troop 13912 has been meeting in our undercroft on Thursday evenings. To show their appreciation to St. James, they gave several boxes of Girl Scout cookies that we can share during coffee hour and a thank you note that reads, "Girl Scout Troop 13912 thanks St. James Methodist Church for the use of space for our meetings! Enjoy these Girl Scout Cookies! Lily, Melody, Lauren, Moriah, Amy, Maria, Izzy and troop leader Stacie"



Harvest Fair Update – July 2024

Harvest Fair News: Save the date! The Harvest Fair will take place on Saturday, October 19. As you know, it is a great fundraiser, but also brings many community members into our church. It is really an all hands on-deck operation with planning spread out over most of the year. Right now, we need to start collecting your donations.

- Please bring items you are donating to the yard sale/flea market to the undercroft. There are tables set up for your donations. If you cannot get to the undercroft with your items, you can drop them off in the Wesley room.
- If you have books to donate, they can also go to the undercroft on a separate table.
- Are you a crafter? If so, please bring your craft items to the church office. Lesley and Brenda will store them. Remember, for larger crafts, to limit your crafting to 6 – 8 items per craft. If your item is a hot-seller, we can always take orders for more.
- Last, but maybe most importantly, can you donate toward the silent auction. The silent auction has brought in the most money for the last several years. Need ideas? How about some of these: gift cards to local businesses or restaurants; themed baskets; donations from a business that you own or work at; vacation rental week from your time share or property. If you have other ideas for the silent auction, let us know. This part of the fair really brings community people in to the church.

We still need people to chair the Book room and the Candy table. Let us know if you are interested in organizing either of these tables. If you have any ideas or questions, please contact Lesley Fallu (fallu@comcast.net) or Brenda DuLong (bsdulong@gmail.com).

SHINE like stars

Why do stars appear to twinkle? Try this experiment to find out!

What you need:

- Aluminum foil
- Large glass bowl
- Water
- Flashlight



What you do:

1. Crumple the foil into a ball. Carefully unfold it and lay it flat on the ground.
2. Fill the bowl with water and place it on the foil.
3. Turn off the lights and make the room as dark as possible. Shine the flashlight about 1 foot from the water's undisturbed surface. Light will reflect onto the foil.
4. Then tap your finger on the water's surface. As the water moves, what happens to the light on the foil?
5. This flickering simulates scintillation, which happens when starlight enters Earth's atmosphere. As light passes through layers of gas and water, it refracts and appears to twinkle.

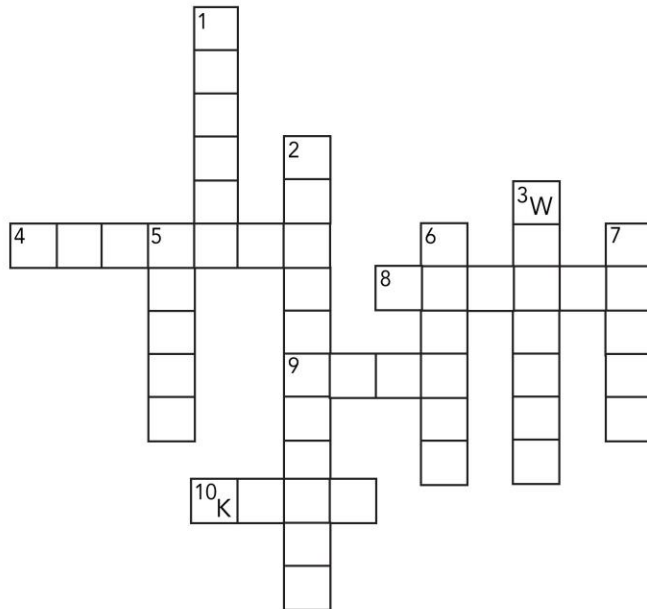


THE WONDER OF STARS

The heavens display evidence of God's great power.

What else does the Bible say about the sky?

Directions: Use the clues and Bible references (all NIV) to complete the crossword.



DOWN

1. The sun, moon and stars do this to God. (Psalm 148:3)
2. God made these as numerous as the stars. (Genesis 26:4)
3. Don't do this to the stars and sky. (Deuteronomy 4:19)
5. What do the heavens declare? (Psalm 19:1)
6. The moon and the stars do this at night. (Psalm 136:9)
7. When we're pure, we do this like the stars. (Philippians 2:15)

ACROSS

4. The heavens are the work of these. (Psalm 8:3)
8. On what day did God create the stars? (Genesis 1:14-19)
9. God calls each star by this. (Isaiah 40:26)
10. A star announced the arrival of him. (Matthew 2:2)

Answers: DOWN: 1. praise, 2. descendants, 3. worship, 5. glory, 6. govern, 7. shine, 8. fourth, 9. fingers, 10. king. ACROSS: 4. fingers, 8. fourth, 9. fingers, 10. king.



JULY 2024

Thank you to the volunteers who signed up to provide refreshments following worship during the month of July.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 30 Pastor Vacation 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club | 1 Pastor Vacation | 2 Pastor Vacation 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm No Finance Committee Meeting | 3 Office Administrator vacation Pastor Vacation 6:00pm Concert in the Park | 4 Independence Day Pastor Vacation | 5 Pastor Vacation | 6 Pastor Vacation 8:00am Monthly Breakfast |
| 7 Pastor Vacation 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club | 8 Pastor Vacation | 9 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Harvest Fair Meeting | 10 | 11 8:00am Fit & Strong | 12 | 13 9:00pm Fireworks at Roger Green's house |
| 14 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club | 15 | 16 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm No SPRC Meeting | 17 | 18 8:00am Fit & Strong | 19 Mission U 5:00pm VBS | 20 Mission U 9:00am VBS |
| 21 Mission U 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club | 22 | 23 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm No Trustees Meeting | 24 7:00pm Summer Book Club | 25 8:00am Fit & Strong | 26 | 27 5:00pm Fisher Cats Baseball outing |
| 28 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club | 29 | 30 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry | 31 | 1 8:00am Fit & Strong | 2 | 3 8:00am Garden Club Plant Sale 8:00am Monthly Breakfast |