

# THE GOOD News

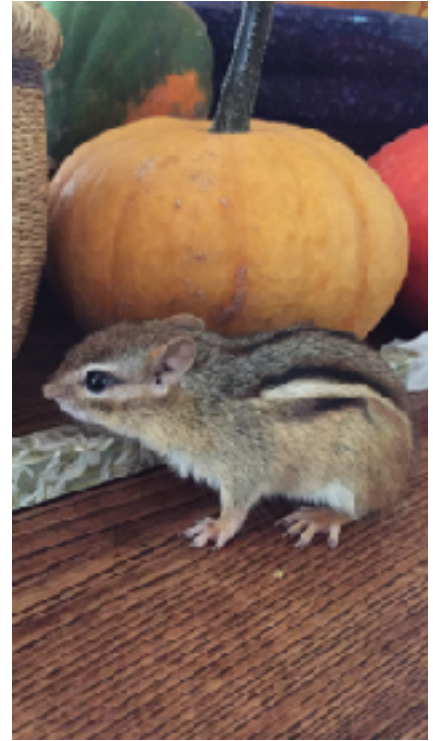
DECEMBER 2020



## What Do I Know?

Last weekend when my children found a chipmunk on the road by our house, I told them not to bring it inside, under any circumstances. My youngest daughter was holding the small rodent in her hands. It was lying on its back, all four legs in the air, eyes unblinking, breathing shallow and sporadic. It was not long for this world.

As we watched, its breathing ceased and my daughter carried it to find a nice place for it to return back to the earth. As she was lowering it reverently to the ground by a large oak, the chipmunk sprang from her hands and sat crouched on the ground. She came running in the house to ask me what to do. It was a cold and windy day. We found it in the same place and, without even thinking, my daughter reached down and scooped it up. The chipmunk made no attempt to escape and I'm sure you can imagine the pleading look that followed. We brought it in the house and that little chipmunk became the centerpiece of our family for the next two days.



I was sure it had died in my daughter's hands. Wrong. I was sure that it would go wild and get lost in our house. Wrong. I was sure that it would bite one of us eventually. Wrong. That little chipmunk proved me wrong over and over again.

There are so many things I think I know. I make so many assumptions about people and their intentions. I convince myself I know exactly how a situation will play out and how a certain person will respond. Why do we do this? We people find security in a sense of knowing, so much so that we may cling to a false narrative just to have something to hold on to.

In following Christ we are called to empty ourselves of our knowing. We are called to make room for mystery and room for miracles. As we prepare for the coming of the Christ Light over the next few weeks, may we mindfully set aside what we think we know. Only then can we begin to really know one another; only then can we begin to fathom a love without limits and a life that never ends.

— Traceymay

### Visit [DublinChurch.org](http://DublinChurch.org)

All recent Dublin Community Church sermons and music can be found in text and voice on the Church's fb page at [facebook.com/Dublin-Community-Church-47439349395](https://www.facebook.com/Dublin-Community-Church-47439349395).

Do visit to see what Church is about, or just to refresh your memory of a sermon or a song.

You can also join Bible Study in a Zoom meeting. Check the calendar for dates and times.

All are always welcome, of course. Also, our cookbook, *Beautiful Soup*, is back in print, and can be bought at the Dublin General Store for \$15.

All proceeds go to Outreach.

### The Dublin Community Church: An Open & Affirming Church

*"We, the people of the Dublin Community Church, gather together in love and tolerance to seek through prayer, worship, study, and fellowship to respond faithfully to God's Word, so that, edified and empowered by the spirit of a loving God, we will grow in faith in order to serve God and witness to our community through acts of love, compassion, and healing."*

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION — Rosamond Cady

Follow the bright star to our beloved creche this Christmastime, where it will be looking out over the Town of Dublin from the front window of the church. Our treasured manger scene will be lit each night from dusk to midnight throughout the Season.

Our tradition of supporting Heifer International will also continue this year. Heifer has created our very own DCC Virtual Living Gift Market page! Enter this link into your browser:

<https://fundraise.heifer.org/campaign/living-gift-market-dublin-community-church-nh/c310225>.

(This will also be emailed to you throughout Advent).



If you scroll all the way to the bottom of the Heifer page you can get an overview of the amazing shopping experience you are invited to participate in. And thank you.

Our Sunday School Families will be providing us with a truly wonderful Christmas experience this much-altered year. All information will be forthcoming in Traceymay's weekly emails as to when and how you can access this amazing Gift of Love and Light.

Love,

*Yummy*

MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

It is with deep and abiding gratitude the Trustees can report that the tremendous opening of your hearts and wallets during the last 8 ½ months has kept our beloved DCC solvent. It is a remarkable show of love and faith that has brought us to this place.

Blessings to you all.

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It's time for May Clark, Margaret Gurney, and Mary Loftis to begin planning for the appointment of new board and committee members to be voted on at the annual meeting held at the end of January.

If you are hankering to have a spot on one of our boards or committees, please let one of us know!

We will begin asking shortly..

MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR — Tom Martin

I thought I would share the music selection process I have been using since we entered COVID times. For preludes, I have selected compositions to allow for quiet outdoor conversations, as well as providing contemplative moments in preparation for services. Music of the Baroque period (1600-1750) and early Classical (1750-1820) period is perfect for this. Composers selected have included François Couperin (1668-1733), Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764), Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), George Frederick Handel (1685-1759), Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach (1714-1788), and Josef Haydn (1732-1809).


For special music which replaces the anthem when there is no choir, I have been mostly using the Two-Part Inventions of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). J. S. Bach was an extremely prolific composer as well as a very accomplished performer on viola and keyboards. During his lifetime, the available keyboards were harpsichord, clavichord, and organ, the piano having not yet been invented.

Bach was a deeply religious person, which is reflected in the many pieces of sacred music he composed. He also wrote many secular compositions. For example, Bach's compositions for the cello are considered standard concert repertoire for any serious cellist. Jacob MacKay, one of our Summer Guest Artists Series performers, played selections from one of these. Bach's music is intricate and contemplative, yet seems to fit together in a deeply satisfying manner with cycles of consonance and dissonance.

For postludes, I have been playing some delightful sections of movements of W. A. Mozart's (1756-1791) for piano sonatas. His music sounds so simple, yet can be difficult to play. He was an extremely talented and very popular European touring musician. He was a prolific writer of very popular operas, symphonies, chamber music, sonatas for a variety of solo and combined instruments, along with a large body of sacred music. Imagine what enchanting compositions Mozart would have written had he lived past age 39!

MONTHLY VOLUNTEERS

*Volunteers are needed for flowers on the altar and Coffee Hour.*

Advent	Deacon	Reader	Greeter	Lift	Flowers / Coffee Hour
December 6	TBA	M. Gurney	Rosemary Weidner	Brian Barden	
December 13	TBA	Betsey Harris	Katharine Fox	Nancy Cayford	
December 20	TBA	Rick MacMillan	M. Gurney	Tim Clark	
December 27	TBA	Frances May	TBA	May Clark	

**Quietly At Work** — Nancy Good Cayford

The Church gardens are being put to bed for the winter, and that includes the Garden Sanctuary. A huge thank-you goes out to Phil Gammons who agreed to construct two plywood shields for the flat garden along the sidewalk. The plow and the sidewalk snow blower put a bunch of dirt and salt on that area, and I'm hoping that the shields will give adequate protection. Thank you Phil, for helping with that problem.



And, we have new curtains in the Church Hall! Your decorating sub-committee knew this was a good time to replace the curtains that were literally falling apart.

Nancy Cayford, Mary Loftis, and Rosemary Wolpe carefully went through samples of fabric, and we hope you all will love the new look.

Thank you to May Clark and Yummy Cady for joining me in sewing them. I must say, "They do look nice!"

Blessings, patience, and good health to all, during this difficult year.

**Community Supper To Go**  
*will resume in January*

*We wish you all  
Happy Holidays.*



**MESSAGE FROM OUTREACH** — Penny Smith

We continue to make deliveries to Hundred Nights Shelter every week or so. Thank you to everyone for your contributions.

The Board of Outreach has delivered seven Thanksgiving gift cards from Market Basket to Dublin families in need.

The Giving Tree (at right) is all set up. If you wish to take a tag or two, please stop by the Church on Thursday or Friday from 9 am to 1 pm between now and Friday, December 11. If these times are not good for you, please contact June or myself to arrange a better time.

Directions for choosing a tag are on the table by the tree, please follow them closely. All gifts need to be delivered back to Church on — or before — Sunday, December 13 at noon.

If you have any questions, please call June Brening at 563-8467 or Penny Smith at 563-7037. Thank you.

The Board of Outreach is composed of June Brening – Chair, Penny Smith, Jim & Ellen Bingham, Kirsten Colantino, Tim Conrow, Laurie Jameson, Maureen Hulslander, and Sally Hoover.



*The Giving Tree (above) lets everyone participate in the joy of the season.*

**MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS** — Tim Clark

We managed to squeeze in one more outdoor service on November 8, a pleasant sunny day, but by the following week we were back indoors. Still, keep an eye on your messages from Traceymay – if we have another unusually warm Sunday, we may go back out to the Garden Sanctuary. Kudos to Nancy Cayford for her prescient idea to create this lovely and useful outdoor space!

We're still trying to decide the best (and safest) way to celebrate the holidays. In a normal year, we'd have some of our church families deliver Advent messages during services starting November 29. If you're interested in recording such a message with your loved ones, pick a convenient date (11/29, 12/6, 12/13, or 12/20) and let me or Traceymay know. We'll get back to you with the reading and advice on how to do it.

**Here's wishing you and yours a warm and loving Thanksgiving and a memorable Christmas season!**

**MESSAGE FROM THE STEWARDS** — May Clark

Here's some great news: as of November 15, we have raised over \$61,000 in pledges, and we've gotten responses from 27 people! This is wonderful, and the campaign hasn't even quite closed yet.

We still have a ways to go, though, so if you haven't sent in your pledge card yet, please do so this week. It really helps us if we know how much money we can count on when planning the 2021 budget.

We will plan to start making reminder phone calls right after Thanksgiving.

DUBLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 1125 MAIN ST., PO BOX 308  
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## December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Church Open 11 am to 3 pm	3 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm	4 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm	5
6 No outside service, will be recorded indoors for online viewing	7 Church Open 1-5 pm	8	9 Church Open 11 am to 3 pm	10 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm	11 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm	12
13 No outside service, will be recorded indoors for online viewing	14 Church Open 1-5 pm	15	16 Church Open 11 am to 3 pm	17 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm	18 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm	19 Bible Study, 8:30-10 am, Zoom
20 No outside service, will be recorded indoors for online viewing	21 Church Open 1-5 pm, Drive-By Cookies, 3-4 pm	22 Community Supper To Go is canceled this month	23 Church Open 11 am to 3 pm	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27 No outside service, will be recorded indoors for online viewing	28 Church Open 1-5 pm	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Dublin Community Church,  
 United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Church

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