

THE GOOD News

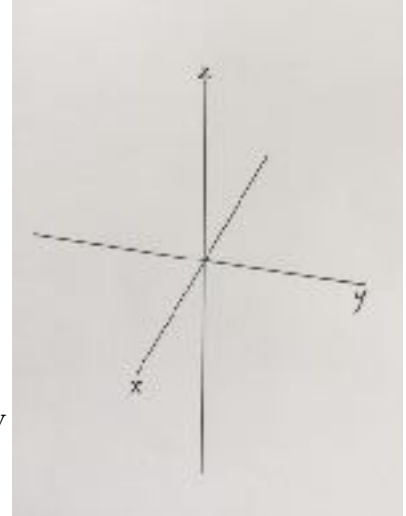
NOVEMBER 2020



X, Y, and Z

Three hundred years before Jesus was born, a man by the name of Eratosthenes pondered the mysteries of the universe and sought to answer some very big questions. Is the earth round or flat? How big is the earth? How far away is the sun? What kind of system could we devise to create accurate maps? Why do we have seasons?

Eratosthenes would become the chief librarian in Alexandria, Egypt. He answered all of the questions listed above and probably many more. The system of parallels and meridians (latitude and longitude) was just one of his creations; latitude and longitude are, naturally, based on the idea of an x-axis and a y-axis. It was not until the 1920's that the z-axis came into play. The z-axis gave a third dimension to work with and a means of incorporating height and depth measurements. Scientists had decided to use the beginning of the alphabet (a,b,c...) for variables that could be assigned a value and the end of the alphabet (x,y,z) for "unknowns." What I find most fascinating in all of this is that x and y were chosen first, not y and z, as if that last letter z was held in reserve for something that was not yet known.



Humanity has learned a great many things. Humanity has forgotten a great many things, too, it seems to me. A sense of knowing that there is more yet to learn is, I believe, an indication of true wisdom. There is no single word for this (that I know of) but we find an illustration of such wisdom in the "naming of the unknowns" and, in particular, how the last letter was held in reserve for what was not yet known.

If you are reading this, then it is safe to say that you are a spiritual seeker. We both are. In our seeking and in our learning, may the unknown represent possibility and potential, a place where the not-yet-knowing is giving way to the knowing, and a place where change can be experienced from a place of curiosity and not fear. We can accomplish this when we orient ourselves according to the teachings of our Christ.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; on your own intelligence, rely not."

— Proverbs 3:5

Tracey May

P.S. The axes of x, y and z all pass through a common point. That point is called the origin. Draw your own conclusions about that!

Visit 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 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

I just logged off from a marvelous workshop put on by the NH-UCC Conference entitled “Advent Workshop,” offered to explore the possibilities for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany in this time of pandemic. It was hosted by Maren C. Tirabassi, a now semi-retired NH pastor from Madbury, an author, a poet, and a UCC Still Speaking contributor. She is the co-author of the most used resource book in my Sunday School Bookcase.

The book is *The Gifts of Many Cultures*, written in 1995; my copy is very well-loved – coffee stained, pages dog-eared, probably 15 scraps of paper sticking out marking pages, scores of words underlined or highlighted. Exactly what a resource book should look like! Her workshop was equally as resourceful.

The fact that our treasured holidays are looming on the horizon is depressing and scary. As a Church, we need to find a way to somehow connect to everyone in our community to let the Light of Christmas shine brighter than ever before during these dark days. That means somehow getting our beautiful creche visible to all. It means having a Children’s Pageant. It means

lighting an Advent Candle each of the four Sundays prior to Christmas Day. It means having a Christmas Eve Service for our entire community, bringing the Light of the Christ Child into the world.

As impossible as it all seems as I sit in my kitchen right this minute, I am absolutely certain that it can – and will – happen. One of the participants in the break-out chat room I was a part of in today’s workshop equated COVID with *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (Definitely one of my December Sunday School lessons!) The Grinch found out he couldn’t steal the Christmas that lived in the hearts of all the people in Who-ville. And COVID can’t steal the Christmas that lives in the hearts of all the people in our beautiful community. It will be fun and exciting to imagine how our beloved Church will make Christmas happen.

“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”
— Matthew 19:26.

Stay tuned! God’s involved!

Love,
Yummy

MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

On a sunny after-worship morning on October 4, our Board of Trustees met in person for the first time since February 16. In the beauty of our Garden Sanctuary, with the rooster next door punctuating our discussions, we came together to take care of “business.” The fact that the business of the Church had been successfully carried out by emails and phone calls for nearly eight months can be attributed to one important factor: the governing structure of the DCC.


We come together the fourth Sunday of each January to elect our four church officers and fill any vacated seats on the five designated boards, tweak our by-laws as deemed necessary, civilly discuss matters before the congregation, and agree on a responsible fiscal budget for the coming year; we are all involved. It has worked well for a long time - and proven to really, really work well during these unprecedented times. Nowhere in our bylaws is there a specific clause as how to handle a global pandemic! But because the bylaws were originally crafted so thoughtfully and prayerfully, with the clear understanding that they may need adjustments as time and circumstances go by, our beloved church has the foundation upon which to survive trying situations. Even a virus that has crippled the world.

There will, somehow, be an Annual Meeting on 1/24/2021. A slate of officers and new board nominees will be voted upon, matters before the congregation discussed and, after lots of civil conversation – again, somehow a responsible 2021 budget will be passed. A most grateful Church Family will thank God for the wisdom of those who crafted our COVID-proof bylaws that have enabled us to successfully move forward as our New Way of Being the Church — and pray for the day when we can have a whole lot of the Old Way of Being a Church back! When that blessed day happens, we will emerge stronger and more united than ever.

This sort of needs to end with a big AMEN!

MONTHLY VOLUNTEERS

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

| | <i>Deacon</i> | <i>Reader</i> | <i>Greeter</i> | <i>Lift</i> | <i>Flowers / Coffee Hour</i> |
|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| 11/1 – | Janice Moore | Karen Conrow | Nancy Jackson | Libby Haddock |  |
| 11/8 – | Tim Clark | -TBA- | Mary Loftis | Phil Gammons | |
| 11/15 – | Margaret Flick | Margaret Flick | Frances May | Bill Goodwin | |
| 11/22 – | Beth Karlicek | Bruce Fox | Bob Meissner | June Brening | |
| 11/29 – | Hilary Dillen | Ruthie Gammons | Susan Stover | Laurie Jameson | |

MESSAGE FROM THE STEWARDS — May Clark

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

— Matthew 18:20

We might have only two or three visible at any one moment, but God is always with us, and we are all carrying Christ’s message of love, especially in this time of COVID.

The Stewards’ Annual Pledge Campaign officially kicks off October 25. You will receive your pledge card during that week. We ask that you return your pledge card, either directly to the office or by mail, by November 22.

Your pledge represents your commitment to our church family and to our promise to do Christ’s work. When we know what money we can count on, we can plan an accurate budget. No commitment is too small! We will need at least \$160,000 to make the church fully functional. Last year, our pledges came to \$95,000 – isn’t that incredible for our big-hearted group? I hope we can do as well this year, though we all know times are hard. We will come together to do the best we can, and I know we will pull it off.

We came across a haiku on the internet, thanks to Steffie Kyte, that goes like this: “We isolate now, So when we gather again, No one is missing.” Our church is strong, in spite of the distancing and loss of physical closeness. We are much more than the building. And now we are gathering in all sorts of new ways, in the garden sanctuary, on Zoom, and in our hearts. We even pulled off a pop-up rummage sale, and made well over \$2000. Not to mention sending a truckload off to NuDay Syria for the refugees.

Here’s a little finger play that you’ll be hearing a few times over the next few weeks: *“Here is the church, and here is the steeple.
Open the doors, and see all the people.”*

We might not be able to see all the people by opening the church doors, but we know they are here, all together in our good work we do every day. If you have any questions about the process, please ask a steward! We are: Nancy Jackson, Barbara Summers, Jeanne Sterling, Bob Kyte, and May Clark. Thank you and bless you all.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS — Tim Clark

As I write this in late October, we have successfully had four consecutive weeks of outdoor services. However, our luck with the weather can’t last forever. So the last Sunday in October (the 25th) will be our final outdoor Sunday service until warmer temperatures arrive next spring, or a safe and effective vaccine becomes available to all.

Our next step is to take services back into the sanctuary, but to begin, we’ll limit attendance to four: the minister, the reader, the music director, and a person to video the proceedings for our Facebook page, so that members of the congregation can watch, either live or at a later time. The first of those televised services will be Sunday, November 1, at 10:30; the date will be easy to remember because that is also the day we switch from Daylight Saving Time to Eastern Standard Time.

It would have been wonderful to bring everyone back inside at that point, but the truth is that it’s too risky. Total cases have been on the rise in most U.S. states (including New Hampshire) for the last few weeks, and experts have warned that this winter will be an dangerous time to let down our guard.

In the meantime, the board of Christian Education and the Deacons will be brainstorming creative ways to observe our holiday traditions, such as the Children’s Pageant, our Advent readings, and our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. If you have any ideas, let us know!

Community Supper To Go will not be held in November

*We wish you all a
Happy Thanksgiving.*



*Stay tuned for the next supper
news in this space.*

*All neighboring town residents are
invited, as well as townspeople.
We welcome all and serve food
that children love.*

Thank you, all our trusted volunteers and Rummage Sale shoppers, for emptying the sheds, sorting lots of ‘stuff,’ and helping us sell, repurpose, and recycle our neighbors’ treasures.

Two mornings of such work generated approximately \$2,500 for the Church. Once again, ‘contributions only’ had generous shoppers gratefully contributing to our Church Outreach.



DUBLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 1125 MAIN ST., PO BOX 308
 DUBLIN, NH 03444

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------------------|--|---|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| November 2020 | | | | | | |
| 1 No outside service, will be recorded indoors for online viewing | 2 Church Open 1-5 pm | 3  | 4 Church Open 11 am to 3 pm | 5 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm | 6 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm | 7 |
| 8 No outside service, will be recorded indoors for online viewing | 9 Church Open 1-5 pm | 10  | 11 Church Open 11 am to 3 pm | 12 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm | 13 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm | 14 |
| 15 No outside service, will be recorded indoors for online viewing | 16 Church Open 1-5 pm | 17  | 18 Church Open 11 am to 3 pm | 19 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm | 20 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm | 21 Bible Study, 8:30-10 am, Zoom |
| 22 No outside service, online viewing only Pledge Campaign ends | 23 Church Open 1-5 pm | 24 Community Supper To Go is canceled this month | 25 Church Open 11 am to 3 pm | 26 Happy Thanksgiving | 27 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm | 28 |
| 29 First Sunday of Advent, No outside service, online viewing only | 30 Church Open 1-5 pm |  |  |  | | |

**Dublin Community Church,
 United Church of Christ**
 An Open & Affirming Church
 1125 Main Street, PO Box 308
 Dublin, NH 03444
 (603) 563-8139
 dublinchurch@myfairpoint.net
 www.DublinChurch.org
 Traceymay Kalvaitis,
 Pastor (603) 715-0990

Rosamond Cady,
 Superintendent of
 Church School
 (603) 924-3120

Tom Martin,
 Director of Music
 (603) 563-8139

Wendy Douglass,
 Office Manager
 (603) 563-8139
 dublinchurch@myfairpoint.net
 Office Manager hours:
 Thurs & Fri: 9 am - 1 pm
 Newsletter: Margaret Gurney

