

October 24, 2021

What are we doing here?

Bill Lincoln

We are worshipping in a church that conducts well crafted, bible centered, meaningfully delivered services not only for those there in person but also for those who take advantage of virtual attendance and those who prefer to read e-mailed messages after the fact.

Joining with other UCC parishes in area wide, nationwide and worldwide missionary efforts to alleviate suffering, meet human needs and deliver Christ's message of salvation and hope to a world that needs it as never before. We are ever mindful of UCC 's missionary efforts.

WWDH? (What are We Doing Here)

Supporting a missionary effort providing educational opportunity for young people in Kenya. For those who built the program and supported it over the years, Thank You! You are making a difference!

Providing a source of affordable used clothing, household goods, equipment and furniture for people here in Newburyport but also, for folks throughout the area. Our Thrift shop is a Godsend for many and is making a difference in the lives of others and in the financial support of the Church.

Providing small groups the opportunity to meet to study the bible and engage in personal spiritual growth and in the spiritual life of the Church.

Encouraging prayer chains to uplift those in need of spiritual support. When the going gets tough, it's heartening to know there are folks out there praying for your welfare.

Utilizing church property to provide the community a source of wholesome cultural entertainment and enrichment. The Roots Music Concert Series has brought many fine programs to the area, much to the delight of those of us who find it difficult to travel to enjoy high quality programs like the ones the program brings to our very own sanctuary.

Supporting the food shelf program at the Newbury church with funds, products and volunteers. People who might otherwise be going hungry are being fed because we care.

Providing transportation, shopping service and supportive phone calls and emails for shut-ins. We are an aging congregation so this effort is needed and will need to be expanded in the future.

Conducting weddings, christenings and funerals, not only for our own members, but also for those who have no official church affiliation. We are ever mindful of our mantra, "Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Participating in community celebrations such as July 4 and especially Memorial Day. Our Churches history is closely related to our nation's past and such days and Holidays deserve to be celebrated with prayerful observance.

Encouraging lay participation in church services by greeters, choir members, scripture readers, prayer leaders, lay worship leaders and providers of refreshments. The ongoing social life of the church is never forgotten here.

Attending to the physical and social life of the church. We are the active kind of institution our ancestors intended us to be as a Congregational Church. May we continue to carry that banner proudly!

We are following a path set for us by an ever patient, caring Minister who encourages and supports our being engaged in all the activities and experiences I've outlined and many more I'm sure I've left out. Thank you, Ross! You've kept us ever mindful that we are a church family with many responsibilities to each other and to those less fortunate ourselves. We hope we've been the kind of congregation you set out to serve those twenty years ago and hope you can forgive us for the times we missed chances to provide you the support you deserved.