

## Week of April 23, 2023



**From Woody:** . . .I had the honor of doing a service celebrating the life of Ken Barss after our worship service on Sunday. Ken was a former Fire Chief in New Boston as well as a former assistant Police Chief. He and John Ballou were great friends and former Chief Ballou, in answer to my question, told me how he became Police Chief. He told me that his friend Ken Barss called and told him that he had to go to the Board of Selectmen's meeting that night. Ken picked him up and on the way down to the Town Hall he asked Ken why he had to go to the meeting. The answer was that the Selectmen wanted Ken to be Police Chief but since he was already the Fire Chief they then wanted John to be the Police Chief. It was a very different time. Now retired Chief Ballou had shared some amazing stories of his adventures as head of the New Boston Police Department, often accompanied by his friend, Ken Barss. Those two men represent some great qualities in New Boston life. Things like friendship, family and serving the common good in our wonderful town. These qualities still live in both the Fire and Police departments as well as in other town and school officials. It was a different time but one that can inspire us still. I'm sure everyone didn't always agree on everything but it also was a time when people came together to do their best for the common good.

Last week there was a rash of shootings across our country of innocent people who went to the wrong door to pick up younger brothers or sisters and those who mistakenly drove up the wrong driveway or got in the wrong car in a parking lot. We all are tired of the carnage which seems to be fueled by both hatred and fear of each other. What can we do? We can help exemplify people like Ken Barss and John Ballou, who with a sense of service and also a sense of humor, gave countless time and effort to make New Boston and our country a place of respect for one another. They are lights from our past and I believe people like the two of them can be beacons of hope for our future. Their service to our community reminds us that we are all in this together and that we can come together for the common good. Thanks to them both for their service to the town and for inspiring us all with the values that call us as citizens of New Boston and as citizens of the United States, to return to a time of more trust, less anger, and a time when we can disagree about things and still be friends..

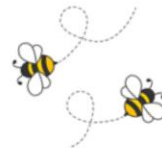
## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Organ Concert:** All are invited to a free organ concert on Saturday, May 6 at 3 pm. This is in celebration of 100 years of music from our organ. The organ was purchased and installed in our church in 1923. The concert will be given by David and Permelia Sears. The Sears specialize in playing historic 19<sup>th</sup> century tracker organs.

## Family Sunday

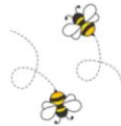
Sunday, May 21  
10:00 am



You and your family are invited to join us for a 'playful' Sunday worship service to celebrate the end of the Covenant Kingdom school year.

Bring a picnic lunch, blanket, and chairs because after service we will have a picnic lunch on the lawn outside of church!

Drinks and dessert will be provided.



**Peace Quote:** . Some men see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not.....*Robert F. Kennedy*