

## Week of October 22, 2023



**From Woody:** Amidst the tragic news from the Middle East comes a ray of hope, which is applicable to many of the world's problems. It was on the front page of THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SUNDAY NEWS yesterday. It is a story written by Shawne K. Wickham about two men from Amherst. The title is *WITH WAR RAGING IN THE HOLY LAND, THESE NH FRIENDS PRAY FOR PEACE*. It is about two local men who have been friends for more than 20 years. Mohammed Ewless, who owns a Middle Eastern restaurant and Paul

Moverman, who attends a synagogue in Nashua, are two friends who resolve not to let the current war in the Middle East disrupt their long friendship.

Their long friendship began when Moverman came to Ewless' restaurant and he and his wife ordered roast beef sandwiches without the bread. It was during Passover when observant Jews can only eat unleavened bread. Ewless came out and apologized for not having unleavened bread on hand. Their friendship grew from that first day, and over 20 plus years they have eaten together, traveled together and been friends. They both share the sadness that has come over the tragic situation in what is the Holy Land for both of their religious faiths, as well as our Christian faith. I share a small portion of the article as a key to avoiding the hatred between Israel and Hamas and really a key to trying to avoid and/or resolving conflicts between human beings:

*Both like traveling and eating. "We've gone down to New York, to Jewish delis and to Queen's hookah bars," Moverman said. The two friends haven't talked much about the war in the Holy Land. But Moverman said, "Both of us feel the same way. People need to recognize and respect each other as people, and communicate.. The bottom line is thousands of people are dying because people won't just talk to each other.*

We need to learn from this friendship. By talking as opposed to shooting and bombing we citizens of the world can work towards solving problems together and learning to laugh together, to share our burdens together and to work together to make life better for all of the inhabitants of this tiny planet. Thanks to Shawne for a great article and to these two neighbors for giving us a model friendship which is a beacon of hope.



**Welcome New Members:** We will be welcoming two new members on Nov. 12. If you would like to join as well, please let Woody know.



**Halloween Trick or Treat:** Please check your calendars to see if you can help on Halloween Night as we entertain hundreds of trick or treaters coming through the church. If you can help, contact Woody at 487-3643. **We also need lots of candy!**



**Holiday Food Baskets:** Thanksgiving Dinner Basket time is just around the corner. The Distributions will take place on **Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023** and we will be collecting donations on **Friday the 17th..** Sign up sheets are coming out soon and we'll let you know as soon as they are posted. In the meantime, if you know of a local family that is struggling and needs a food basket, please reach out to Woody. Also, if you come across any banana boxes in your travels, we will be needing many to put together our baskets.

We've been so blessed to be surrounded by such a generous and caring community and none of this could happen without you. Thank you so much!

Any questions, please reach out to Kim Borges (603)325-3091 or Colleen Jorczak (603)660-8966



**We are looking for volunteers in several areas. There are sign up sheets on the church bulletin board. Or you can let Barbara Woodland know (603-487-3643):**



**Greeters:** We are looking for greeters for Sunday worship. The job includes lighting the candles, getting water for Woody on the pulpit, and most importantly welcoming people as they come in the front door. We have had a number of new people recently and we want them to feel welcome.



**Sanctuary Flowers:** Volunteers are needed to provide flowers for the altar on Sunday. There is a signup list outside the office door at church, or you can email Ellen at [andersel@njms.rutgers.edu](mailto:andersel@njms.rutgers.edu) It is a wonderful way to contribute to the service; one can give in memory of someone or some event as well.



**Refreshments for Coffee Hour:** We are looking for people to provide refreshments after church for the coffee hour. They can be homemade or bought and do not need to be elaborate. Again, this is a way to make people feel welcome.



**Peace Quote:** People are too worried about labels, instead of worrying about people, and getting along together.....*Paul Moverman*