

August 27, 2025

from the New Ipswich Congregational Church
156 Main Street New Ipswich NH 03071



The Israelites moved on and camped at Oboth. Then they set out from Oboth and camped in Iye Abarim, in the wilderness that faces Moab toward the sunrise. From there they moved on and camped in the Zered Valley. They set out from there and camped alongside the Arnon, which is in the wilderness extending into Amorite territory. The Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites.

Numbers 21:10-13

Going the Distance

Most every name in the bible has a meaning behind it. In Numbers 21 the journey of the Israelites is recorded by the names of the places where they camped. Those who favor a literal interpretation of scripture would consider those names and perhaps seek a deeper connection. So, in essence the Israelites went from “water skins” to “ruins of the crossings” to “from my father” to “luxuriance” and finally arrived at “roaring stream.” What does all that mean? Absolutely nothing. Sometimes the bible just wants you to know they went somewhere and has no hidden meaning or significance.

I can relate to them in some small way! My life has been a journey in and of itself. If you were to ask to see the house I grew up in I would have to ask “Which one? There were at least seven of them!” I will never be able to say “I’ve been a member of this church for 40 years! Or 25, or 15 or maybe 10.” Neither could I say I worked for the same company for most of my life! My life just hasn’t gone that way. I’ve always been moving from one place to the next. Seldom understanding what the significance is of there “where.”

Even this week as I say goodbye to my ministry here at NICC, looking ahead to Greenville Community, ending my relationship with Fitchburg First Baptist and embarking on a new adventure with Heritage Christian school, if I squint my eyes just right, I can kind of see there is more beyond this.

The photo above is me. Taken in the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia at the top of Big Devil's Stairs by my daughter Ashley. Unlike NH where you start at the bottom and hike up, in the Shenandoah you start at the top and hike down!

We had been warned by park rangers that the descent down the “stairs” into the valley might be slick. So we were advised against trying to hike it on this particular day. With a “see it for ourselves” attitude, we left the car on Skyline Drive and hiked through the woods up a slight ascent into a heavy fog to the top of the trail.

As we reached the top we paused a moment to try to locate the blue trail blazes that would mark the point where we would begin the descent. I suddenly heard my daughter slip and crash onto the rock we were standing on. I had been facing the other way and at the sound my stomach immediately knotted up. Fortunately she was about 6' short of going over the edge! It was easy to see the rocks, dampened from the fog were as slippery as ice.

It was at that moment that the fog lifted enough to expose the sheer drop off into the valley below us. Both of us caught our breath. We knew-this was one hike we were going to have to miss. Treacherous was the best word I could come up to describe how the hike would go. We settled for a 3 day hike over what was called “Three Sisters” a steep up and down but much safer hike.

Going from ministry to ministry and church to church over the years the path before me was often foggy! It was hard to determine the reason or the purpose so I could only cautiously step out in faith following His guidance and direction and continually seeking His will. Looking back though, down the path from which I came, the view was much clearer and familiar. I could begin to recognize why He chose to send me in the direction He did.

So I have to confess NICC has been a fantastic ministry to have. I have truly enjoyed being your pastor and being involved in your community and your lives. Building friendships and growing in grace. What we have been able to do together here in Southern NH has become a sort of case study for new pastors my colleagues and I work with.

So in this, my last entry into the newsletter, I want to say “Thank You.” For all the fun, the growth, the freedom you gave me to pastor my way. For growing along with me as we went deeper into discipleship. For the feedback you gave on my sermons, the questions you asked for clarity and telling me how and when you applied it when the moment arose!

I will admit- its hard to let go of all this and to turn around to a path shrouded in fog (through which I can somewhat see the potential hazards) and step out in faith once again to follow Him. I have no doubt that both my future and yours continues from here even as we remain joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer. Thank you and God Bless

Pastor Ken

Church Calendar

Thur 8/28	Fr 8/29	Sa 8/30	Su 8/31	Mo 9/1	Tu 9/2	09/03/25
5-9pm Boy Scouts			10am Worship		6-7pm Girls Scouts	1030-1230 Senior Fellowship

Wednesday Senior Fellowship

Come at 1030 to visit, stay till 12 noon for lunch.

Our lively group continues to grow! Conversation, laughter and sharing information- its a great social time to get you out and about.

The lunch is always pretty good too.



The Cash Cow!

Kevin and the staff at St Vincent De Paul extend their heartfelt appreciation for all those who have donated funds to purchase ½ gallons of milk. You can continue to donate directly to them or through Margie Brown

Monday Night Dinners Return!

Our weekly free community dinner will resume on Monday September 8th!

On the menu; Lazyman Lasagna

Farewell Sermon and Lunch

August 31st will be Pastor Ken's last Sunday here at NICC.

please plan on staying after worship, bring something to share to say goodbye over lunch!

Pastor's Schedule August 28-31

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8-330 Heritage Christian	8-330 Heritage Christian	Final Moving Out Day	10am Worship 1130 Luncheon
4-6 NICC Office	If needed NICC Office		

CF Calendar Raffle

Stay tuned to Facebook and Karyn Veaser for the Final Four drawings!

Financial Health

Monthly recurring expenses June: \$5,791.58

Date	General Fund	Building Fund	Total	Special Gift
08/03/25	\$1,014.36	\$250.00	\$1,264.36	
08/10/25	\$1,660.00	\$400.00	\$2,060.00	
08/17/25	\$411.00	\$150.00	\$561.00	
08/24/25	\$1,282.00	\$150.00	\$1,432.00	

Building Fund!

We have several capital projects that need to be addressed soon!

New Septic System

Siding replacement

Roof repairs

Parking lot paving

Please designate your gift as "Building Fund" whether on line or in the offering.

Opportunities to serve!

Children's Bulletin Art! Signup outside the Sunday School classroom.

Email your art work to naomimay2015@yahoo.com

Senior Fellowship Lunch. See Naomi Petersen if interested in providing a meal.

Sunday School Teacher Schedule

August 31st A Walk on Water. Margie Brown

September 7th A Dogged Faith. Emily Trefflich

Save the Date!

"Friends of the Poor"

5K Run/Walk

Saturday October 4

Race starts and ends : New Ipswich Congregational Church

150 Main Street, New Ipswich NH

Adult Runner \$25 17 and under \$10 Walkers Free

Proceeds raised will benefit the Society of St. Vincent De Paul to help our neighbors in need! Runners who register two weeks before the race start date receive a premium long sleeve shirt. Walkers who register two weeks before the race start date receive a premium short sleeve shirt. Race day registration for runners and additional \$5. Runners and walkers encouraged to collect pledges.