

UCC INSTALLS NEW SENIOR MINISTER

On Sunday, April 6, *The United Church of Christ* in Keene will celebrate the official installation of their new Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Gordon E. Ellis. Ellis, who began his ministry in Keene in November of 2007, will receive that day denominational recognition at a special 5:00pm installation service. At the service, the Cheshire Association of the *New Hampshire Conference* of the *United Church of Christ* will confer upon Ellis ministerial standing in the Cheshire Association and official install him as Senior Minister of the UCC in Keene.

Ellis is no stranger to Keene. A native of Orange and Bernardston, Massachusetts, Ellis is a direct descendant of 2 of the original 17 families who founded the Keene church back in 1738 and he still has many relatives in the area. Having served churches in Wallingford, CT and Seekonk, MA, Ellis comes most recently from serving as Senior Minister for over 17 years at *The First Congregational Church* in Southington, Connecticut. A large number of people from Ellis' previous church will be attending his installation ceremony, and his 3 former Associate Ministers, Rev. Richard Haverly, Rev. Cynthia Holden and Rev. Linda Fernandes-Bailey will all assist in leading the service, as will his current Assistant Minister, Ann Plumley, along with Rev. Bill Beardslee, Rev. Nancy Wood-Lyczak, Rev. Mark Ferrin, Rev. Paul Cullity and Owen Houghton, all from the Keene area. Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, the Executive Minister of the *Connecticut Conference* of the *United Church of Christ* will preach, and her New Hampshire counterpart, Rev. Dr. Gary Schulte, will assist as the Cheshire Association installs Ellis.

Ellis notes that the music at the service will be fabulous, provided by the Senior Choir and *Ringers on the Square* handbell choir from *UCC Keene*, as well as by *Branches*, Connecticut's premier worship band, also from Ellis' previous church in Southington. *Branches* will play from 4:30-5:00pm, ½ hour before the service, and Ellis encourages everyone to come early to listen and sing with them. Following the Service of Installation, a reception will be held for one and all.

The public is invited to attend this special service, the concert by *Branches* that precedes it and the reception that follows. Child care will be available. For more information, please call the UCC church office, 352-4136, or visit the church's website at www.ucckeene.org.