

I've got a childhood friend who lives outside of New York. It's crazy to think that he's married and has a daughter in college. Wow. Yet we've maintained contact for so many years, and I'm grateful we have. Even if we don't see each other much, I know we're friends. Jesus is like that, too. We may be too busy for Jesus, we may be distracted, we may have other priorities, but Jesus will always have time for us. I promise.

Hymn 495 (p. 6) *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

Beecher

Scripture Lessons

Acts 10:44-48. ⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

John 15:9-17. [Jesus continued,] ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Sermon

"Best Friends Forever"

Stephen R. Silver

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing. Help keep our prayer list current by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office to add or remove names.

Today we offer ongoing prayers for Pete, Arlene, Evelyn, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Duane, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, and Steve.

Patient, abiding God: You have reached out to us in love, offering us salvation, acting in grace, showing us the way to live. You have done this out of love, and for that we are amazed. We know that we do not merit your attention, but still we have it. Help us to lead lives that will please you, to open our hearts to you, to remember that in Jesus we

always have a true friend. And as he was ready to sacrifice for us, help us to be prepared to do likewise for all those we call companions in our lives.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering of Gifts

Remembering those who are without, who are in need, who are often ignored, we invite your support of our ongoing ministry in and for the community.

Offertory

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

Doxology (*Unison*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (*Unison*)

Bountiful God: You have poured out your love upon the world, offering grace, hope, and life to one and all. With joy and gladness, we now respond to your extravagant generosity by presenting our gifts and ourselves to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.

Invitation and Communion Prayer

Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most
High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 576 (p. 7) *For the Healing of the Nations* Westminster Abbey

Benediction

Postlude *Basse et Dessus de Trompette* Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • The FCC Choir • Betsy Alexander, Liturgist
Phil Hammond and Stacey Steele, Ushers • Dominic Watson, Zoom Greeter

If you wish to have a joy, concern, or prayer request lifted up in the service, or if you know of someone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email prayer@fccleb.org or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Join the fight against poverty and food insecurity in the Upper Valley by leaving contributions in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall, benefiting a variety of local service organizations.

This month, we're collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of:

THE UPPER VALLEY HAVEN

For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/ or see the list that is attached to the shopping cart itself.

Direct financial contributions to any Upper Valley service organization are always needed and much appreciated. Thanks for fighting local poverty and hunger!

Celebrate the Children's Community Corner—Children's Sunday (JUNE TBD)

The **Children's Community Corner** is excited to lead worship and mark the end of the school year. Please join us for one of the annual highlights of our communal church life!

If you and/or your children are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Rachel Silver (rachelsilver@live.com) or the church office.

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Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

DUKE STREET L.M.

John Hallon, d.1793

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Doth his suc -
 2 For him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on his

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; His name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es

shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name. A-men.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
 The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
 The weary find eternal rest,
 And all the sons of want are blest.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
 Peculiar honors to our King;
 Angels descend with songs again,
 And earth repeat the loud Amen.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

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Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min - is - tries of grace,
2 Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
Let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
Help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
That sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con - quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor-er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-enge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

For another key, see 43, 368

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Henry Purcell, c. 1680
 Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842



Bel Canto Chamber Singers: Your Soul Is Song—Sat., May 4, at 7:30 / Sun., May 5, at 4:00

Director Jane Woods and Bel Canto celebrate the hope and renewal of spring in a program for choir, piano, and strings, featuring music of J. S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Eric Whitacre, Joan Szymko, Ola Gjeilo, and more. *Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; for more, visit belcantosingers.org.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse: Season Finale!—Friday, May 10, at 7:30 pm

Our community venue for live folk music wraps up its fourth season before taking the summer off. Come and go as you please; food and drink available. *Free admission; more at anoncoffee.org.*

Harmony Night: An A Cappella Celebration—Saturday, May 11, at 7:00 pm

Harmony Night, the Upper Valley's multi-generational *a cappella* community chorus directed by Mark Nelson, offers a spring program drawn from a variety of eras, cultures, and genres. Music of Estonia, Georgia, Ireland, and India—along with a few surprises! *Free-will donation.*

Cameo Baroque Benefit: Sonatas, Suites, and Psalms—Sunday, May 12, at 2:00 pm

This superb ensemble (Ernie Drown, Beth Hilgartner, Leslie Stroud, and Laurie Rabut) shares some “unusual” French music by François Couperin, Marin Marais, Jean-Baptiste Quentin, and Jacques de Bournonville. *Free-will donation to benefit WISE; more at wiseuv.org and cameoarts.org.*

Upper Valley Music Center Sing & Play Festival—Saturday, May 18 (various times)

A celebration of music-making by each other, for each other! Recitals and class performances will happen at FCC and elsewhere around town. *Free to all; full details at uvmusic.org/events.*

Classicopia: Fabulous Females—Sunday, May 19, at 2:00 pm

Siblings Emmanuel and Frances Borowsky (violin and cello), soprano Laura Compton, and pianist Daniel Weiser celebrate women composers, including Rebecca Clarke, Mel Bonis, and NH's own Amy Beach. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

Brooks Hubbard: A Benefit for Good Neighbor Health Clinics—Sunday, May 19, at 7:00 pm

Now a nationally recognized artist, singer-songwriter Brooks Hubbard developed his particular folk-rock sound as a kid in Enfield, NH. He'll perform for the benefit of Good Neighbor Health Clinic, a vital community health resource. *Adults \$25; more at goodneighborhealthclinic.org.*

Cantabile Women's Chorus: Early Voices—Saturday, June 1, at 4:00 pm

This outstanding ensemble shares a captivating program of music from the Baroque and earlier. They'll sing G. F. Handel, Thomas Tallis, Claudio Monteverdi, and Antonio Vivaldi, the last with string quartet. *Admission by donation (\$15 suggested, or pay-as-you-can); more at www.cantabilewomen.org.*

Register Now for Classicopia's Music Camp at FCC/UVMC!—August 5-10, 9a-3p Daily

This immersive program offers instrumental and vocal instruction to students aged 8-18, with outstanding faculty and guest artists. *More details and registration at classicopia.org/summer-camp/.*



Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday

We are pleased to participate once again in Church World Service's **CWS BLANKETS** program, a special mission project that provides blankets and essential supplies to people in crisis worldwide. (For more, please visit www.cwsblankets.org.)

If you'd like to honor or remember the mother(s) in your life with a contribution to **CWS BLANKETS**, please complete this form and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church (PO Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766). The suggested minimum donation is \$10, but any amount is welcome!

Dedications must be received by noon on THURSDAY, MAY 9 to be included in the bulletin for MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 12.

Given by _____

In honor of _____

Please send a card (include address on back)

In memory of _____

Contribution: _____ (payable to FCC, memo "Blanket Sunday")

Welcome!

We are a Christ-centered community that celebrates the love of God. Although we are of varied minds, with varying measures of belief and unbelief, we are one body, bound together in Christ. We recognize the uniqueness of every individual as God's beloved child. We seek to respond faithfully to God's call for justice for all creation. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance. We seek to create a sanctuary where all will know they are welcome and included.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, race or ethnicity, physical or mental ability, or economic circumstance, you are invited into the full life and ministry of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, including its worship, sacraments, and rites.

Join us as we grow together in God's love.

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist and Choir Director • Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • Barbara Jones, Moderator

Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed)

603-448-4281 • church@fcclb.org • prayer@fcclb.org • music@fcclb.org • www.fcclb.org