



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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Night Tree at FCC7



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The Pastoral Perspective

The Feast of the Resurrection is behind us, but Eastertide continues right through Pentecost on May 20. This season of the church recalls the appearances of the Risen Christ to the disciples and others among the faithful, in the wake of the miracle of the empty tomb. It will end only when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church on Pentecost. And then what? Months of Ordinary Time, until we once again reach Advent and begin telling the story once again.

So what? Why do we do this? Why relive this cycle endlessly?

Part of it is because we are a people bound in time and a people who remember things through reenactment. Doing something is more powerful than simply recalling it. Part of it is so that the story may remain fresh. Our hope is that in living out the liturgy, we may discover new things and gain a deeper appreciation of what God in Christ has done for us. And part of it is because we just don't get it. Despite attending Sunday school, despite all of the preaching, the devotionals, the art, the music, I'm not convinced we ever truly get what God has done for us in Jesus.

And, honestly, how can we? The love and grace that God has showered on us are really remarkable, something that is unearned. But that doesn't matter to God: he chose, and chooses, to give it to us anyway. You in your life may not feel it. But it's there. Or, you feel it so much that you unintentionally take it for granted, or you are in danger of missing it. None of this is to say you're doing anything wrong, or that you are "bad."

God knows we need some help accepting his gift. That was why he came to us in Jesus. And that is why the Spirit makes itself known in the church and through the saints whom we have come to know through their many actions and selfless dedication, the people who serve on committees, who visit the ill and lonely, who help with worship, and who are kind to the stranger.

Continued on Page 5

SUNDAY SERVICE

New Members to Be Received SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Open House—Sunday, April 15, 11:15 am

Have you found a welcoming, spiritually nourishing church home here? Would you like to get more involved in our programs and ministries? If so, you are warmly invited to join our community of faith as a covenant member.

If you're interested in learning more about this invitation, please join Rev. Steve Silver and members of the Diaconate for an informal conversation after worship on April 15.

We will receive new members on Sunday, April 22.

Questions? Contact Steve Silver or the church office.

COMMUNITY DINNER Sunday, April 22, at 5:00 pm *Leaders: FCC CHOIR*

Many thanks to our first-time leaders from the choir for this month's dinner effort! All are invited to help out as we provide a vital service to our neighbors. Please look for sign-ups in the Parish Hall.

Never helped before but interested in trying? Make THIS your month!

Musical Guests This Month

April 1 (Easter)—Joshua Pauly (*Trumpet*)

April 8—The Evergreen Singers

April 15—Bel Canto Chamber Singers

April 22—Mike Parker (*Saxophone*)

April 29—Leslie Stroud (*Flute*)

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

Ever wonder how your friends got to hand out bulletins on Sunday? Or deliver the call to worship and read scripture? Or walk gracefully from pew to pew to collect the offering?

No experience or training is required for these important roles in worship!

If you'd like to serve as either a liturgist or a greeter/usher, please contact the church office.

Your congregation will thank you!

Queued for Coffee Hour

April—Mission and Social Action

May—Women of the Church

June—Board of Governors

Thank You

From the Children of Our
Church School!

This year's **LENTEN LUNCH BAG OFFERING** raised an even \$900, which will be split between supplies for David's House and support for the schoolchildren of San Jose Villanueva.

Many thanks to all those who participated!

Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday

On Sunday, May 13, we are pleased to participate once again in the **CWS Blankets Program**, a special mission project by which Church World Service provides blankets and other essential relief supplies to people in crisis around the world (for details, please visit cwsblankets.org). Please consider making a contribution of any amount, in honor or memory of the mother(s) in your life.

Dedications will appear in the bulletin on May 13.

To contribute, look for the bulletin insert later this month or contact the church office directly with your contribution and dedication information (no later than Thursday, May 10).

APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER 6a Sunrise Service 6:30a Community Breakfast 10a Worship and Church School	2 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Wolves) 7p Wysocki String Ensemble	3 7p Boy Scouts	4 12:30p UVIP 5:30p Cub Scout Pack Committee 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	5 7p Choir	6 9a UVIP 6-9p Leb Rec Dept Quilters	7 8a Men's Breakfast 10a-5p Leb Rec Dept Quilters 7p Headrest Benefit w/Acacia Chamber Music
8 10a Worship and Church School 1p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	9 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Wolves) 7p Diaconate	10 7p Boy Scouts	11 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers 7:15p Christian Ed Committee	12 12:30-4p G-O-S Assn CoCM 6:30p NoPipeline Group 7p Choir	13 7p Juneberry Music Circlesing	14 9:30a UVIP 7p Valley Improv Benefit for Open Door Ministry
15 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a New Members Open House 2p Classicopia: Four-hand Festival	16 7p Wysocki String Ensemble	17 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/Troop Committee	18 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto	19 7p Choir	20	21
22 10a Worship (New Members) and Church School 11:15a Bd of Govs 5p Community Dinner	23 7p Wysocki String Ensemble	24 7p Boy Scouts	25 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	26 10a-6p NH-WIC 7p Choir	27 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	28 7:30p Bel Canto: Take Me to the Water
29 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Music Committee 4p Bel Canto: Take Me to the Water	30 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Wolves) 7p Wysocki String Ensemble	1 7p Boy Scouts	2 5:30p Cub Scout Pack Committee 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Annual Mtg	3 7p Choir	4 7:30p Classicopia: Music from the Underground	5 8a Men's Breakfast 2:30p UVMC Suzuki Recitals

If your event is missing or incorrect, please notify us at church@fccleb.org or 603-448-4281.

COMMITTEE NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

At the March meeting of Board of Governors, John Gilliatt reported that a recent inspection of the **Parsonage** chimney determined that it requires nothing except to be cleaned next year. With that cost avoided, it was suggested that we instead get an energy audit of the Parsonage. Walter Scott suggested using the local Weatherize Lebanon campaign, which can lower the cost of the audit significantly.

John is working on getting an estimate for updating the **kitchen** cabinets. Many who use the kitchen are interested in more comprehensive renovations, including the oven and range, the floors and countertops, the sink, and other appliances and equipment. Walter Scott will seek estimates for these possibilities.

Walter is also investigating options for installing an **elevator** to improve accessibility in our building. In this we will consider all options, from just a chair that goes up and down the stairs to a full addition to house the elevator.

We have received an estimate for refinishing the **Sanctuary floor**, but it excludes the significant cost of

moving pews out of the way, which will have to be accounted for. The Board is also assessing carpeting estimates, which vary considerably based on the type of carpet.

The Board determined that the annual **Spring Clean-up** will occur somewhat later this year, on June 2. We will solicit ideas about what we should accomplish that day. The Board will also be addressing the storage of historical records and documents, currently kept in the basement utility room but in need of more stable, secure storage.

CHURCH COUNCIL

At Council in March Corrine Erskine reported for Mission and Social Action that about twenty-five people came to the open discussion about **immigration** on March 18. We will be getting a banner that welcomes immigrants to FCC, pull together resources, and have another meeting. Steve Silver will also be going to the Listen board.

Valerie Nevel noted for the **Trustees** that we had received our annual distribution from the Waldo Trust. **Treasurer** Terry Ellison has been

April Meetings

Mission/Social Action	4/8, 11:15
Diaconate	4/9, 7:00
Christian Education	4/11, 7:15
Church Council	4/17, 7:00
Board of Governors	4/22, 11:15
Music Committee	4/29, 11:15

May Meetings

Mission/Social Action	5/6, 11:15
Christian Education	5/9, 7:15
Diaconate	5/14, 7:00
Church Council	5/15, 7:00
Board of Governors	5/27, 11:15

monitoring church funds closely and noted that we need to transfer money from Trustee accounts. He would like Council to look at how we contemplate our capital budget, not just for the next year but for two or three years in advance.

Pete Mason reported for **Memorial Gardens** Committee that Ginger Smith will be interred in the front garden later in the year.

Barb Teeter reported on a brief **Diaconate** meeting in March with no major issues. The Deacons planned for Holy Week and Easter and talked about what they might do to follow up on our being a gun-

A CAMPAIGN FOR FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LEBANON

Celebrating 250 Years of Our Congregation

Church Council has voted to form a committee that will explore the potential for a campaign during our congregation's 250th anniversary year, which begins this September. The committee will look at the feasibility of a campaign, the case for support, and the needs and dreams we would like to fund.

This will be a multi-stage process, offering plenty of opportunity for the congregation to participate.

If you would like to serve as a leader and be involved in this first stage, or if you have creative ideas about campaign strategy and goals, please be in touch with Amy Driscoll (Moderator), Jon Scott (Stewardship Chair), or Steve Silver (Pastor). For those who are interested in history, a working group will also be formed!

COMMITTEE NOTES

free zone. We will also receive new members on April 22, with an orientation the previous Sunday.

John Gilliatt reported for the **Board of Governors** that another chimney expert had been called to the Parsonage for a second opinion, and further work is not needed on the chimney. We are also looking for an energy auditor for the Parsonage; Corrine offered a list of options from Vital Communities. The Board has also cleaned up the utility space in the church basement and the custodial closet, which will need insulation. John reported that the interior insulation would be a priority (once the closet is cleaned), but this work has not yet been scheduled.

DIACONATE

Barb Teeter opened the Deacons' meeting in March with a warm remembrance of Ginger Smith, who had passed away a few days earlier. The group briefly discussed the need to find a successor for her on the Diaconate.

New Diaconate Treasurer Alyson Danyew-Ellison reported a healthy balance in the Deacons' Fund. It was unanimously agreed to purchase additional gas and food cards for the Open Door Ministry. Alyson also asked whether the offering collection should remain the responsibility of the Deacon of the Month. After some discussion, the group agreed that it would.

Rev. Steve Silver reported that in addition to his usual ministerial activities, he was planning for Holy Week and Easter. He especially sought Diaconate participation in the Maundy Thursday service. He also invited the Deacons to join the congregational discussion about immigration after worship on Sunday, March 18. The Deacons also discussed how they might take action in light of Council's recent decision to declare our church a gun-free zone.

Lastly, it was decided that the church would offer to receive new members on Sunday, April 22. Deacons were asked to participate in an informal new-member orientation after worship on April 15.

Women of the Church
invites

All Seniors in the Church Family

to be our guests for

Luncheon

served in your honor

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2018

Coffee, Tea, and Fellowship Starting at **11:00 am**
Performance by the LHS Superlatives at **11:30 am**
Luncheon Served at **12:00 Noon**

Save the Date!

BIKE & BUILD RETURNS



FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 15-17

Please consider helping out with meals and plan to meet this amazing group of young advocates for affordable housing!

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

Easter is all about the impossible becoming possible, of the miraculous made into the stuff of everyday life. We proclaim that Jesus was raised from the dead and that he now lives and reigns, sitting at the right hand of the father. Just words? No way. They're a blessing, they're the truth, and I hope and pray you experience this in the days and weeks and years to come.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

Valley Improv Benefit Show for the Open Door Ministry

Saturday Evening, April 14, at 7:00 pm
\$10 Suggested Donation

Biff Simpson's comedy troupe will entertain us with a variety of skits—many requiring audience participation!—all in support of our church's vital OPEN DOOR MINISTRY, which offers food and gas cards and other modest assistance to anyone in need in the greater Lebanon community.

CASA of NH

Lebanon Training Program Begins May 2

CASA of NH trains compassionate, concerned citizens to advocate for abused and neglected children in the courts. Offering their common sense, skills, and experience in just 10-15 hours a month, these advocates help ensure that children have the chance to grow up in a safe, permanent home.

For more, contact Diane Valladares at 800-626-0622 or diane@casanh.org. Volunteer application at www.casanh.org/onlineapplication.



Volunteer at David's House

David's House is the dream of a little boy named David Cyr, who passed away in 1984 after struggling with acute leukemia. During his treatments at the children's hospital in Hanover, David and his father Dick met families who were determined not to leave their sick

children but had nowhere to stay locally and couldn't afford a hotel. Soon after David's passing, his parents and friends began raising funds to establish David's House, which in 32 years has welcomed over 14,000 families from around the world, while their children get the specialized care they need at DHMC next door.

David's House is generously supported by a variety of sources—including our Church School kids and their Lenten Lunch Bag collection!—but volunteers are essential to its operations. If you are interested in volunteering at David's House, please contact Jill Ross (603-643-2298 or jill.ross@davidshouse.org).



A SUNDAY IN THE PARISH HALL. While a children's moment brings smiles all around, an after-worship forum on immigration and the sanctuary movement in NH prompted a more serious and challenging conversation.

What's WIC?

Getting to Know One of FCC's Regular Guests

For almost four years, First Congregational Church has hosted twice-monthly clinics of New Hampshire's Women, Infants, and Children Program—popularly known as WIC. Subject to certain income guidelines, families can obtain free health screenings, nutritional education and advice, breastfeeding support, and service referrals. (And despite the name, fathers routinely utilize WIC services, too!) An itinerant program with limited resources, WIC depends on sites across the state that offer enough space for its clinics at minimal cost.

Practicing responsible healthcare and nutrition can be challenging for any family, but without WIC's support it would be impossible for many parents with limited means, working multiple jobs. WIC offers them vital assistance, and they in turn are tremendously grateful. "Thanks to WIC," says a typical client, "my children's health is on track."

By offering this important program the space it needs, our congregation extends the love and compassion that Christ modeled and asked us to share with each other.

For more, call 800-WIC4321 or, for Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Program (which runs clinics in Grafton County), 603-225-2050/800-578-2050. Alternatively, please visit www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/nhp/wic. Brochures are also available in the Parish Hall.

The NH Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

In addition to operating WIC clinics in Grafton County, the Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Program manages CSFP, a free healthy-food program for qualifying seniors. This state-funded resource offers up to \$50 worth of food monthly to anyone aged 60 years or older who needs help in stretching their food budget.

For more about CSFP, including required income guidelines, see the brochure in the Parish Hall or contact Belknap-Merrimack CAP (see phone numbers at left).



LOH ON LOCATION. Eclectic, Boston-based **Night Tree** delighted a large, enthusiastic crowd on March 16. All three events in this new partnership have been great successes for FCC and LOH!



THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



HOLY WEEK 2018



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Spring Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

Headrest Benefit Concert with Acacia Music Ensemble—Saturday, April 7, at 7:00 pm

Clarinetist Meghan Davis, flautist Leslie Stroud, and pianist Matthew Odell present a wonderful program of music by Arvo Pärt, Miguel del Águila, Olivier Messiaen, and others. Proceeds will benefit the efforts of our neighbors at Headrest, which offers 24-hour addiction and crisis support. *Suggested donation \$20.*

Classicopia: By George!—Sunday, April 15, at 2:00 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser presents a virtuosic solo program surveying the life and work of George Gershwin.

Music will include *Rhapsody in Blue*, *An American in Paris*, favorite songs from musical theater, and several lesser-known works by this beloved composer. *Admission \$20, FCC members \$10; more at www.classicopia.org.*

Bel Canto Chamber Singers: Take Me to the Water— Saturday, April 28, at 7:30 pm / Sunday, April 29, at 4:00 pm

Directed by Jane Woods, Bel Canto continues its 40th anniversary season with a choral celebration of water as nourishment, challenge, and inspiration. Program includes Handel, Mendelssohn, and Vaughan Williams, along with folk, jazz, and spirituals. *Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; more at www.belcantosingers.org.*

Classicopia: Music from the Underground—Friday, May 4, at 7:30 pm

Violinist Tim Schwarz joins Dan Weiser for a program of rare gems from minority and neglected composers, such as Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, William Grant Still, and Paul Schoenfield, as well as blues and spiritual arrangements. *Admission \$20, FCC members \$10; more at www.classicopia.org.*

Jacqueline Schwab: I Lift My Lamp—Sunday, May 13, at 3:00 pm

A renowned pianist in folk and classical traditions, Jacqueline Schwab has played for numerous Ken Burns documentaries. We welcome her to FCC on Mother's Day for *I Lift My Lamp*, a celebration of immigrant and multicultural contributions to American music. *Suggested donation \$15-20.*

Note: Jacqueline will also present a workshop on improvisation for pianists, *Expand Your Musical Bounds*, at UVMC on **Saturday, May 12, at 12:30 pm**. *Workshop fee: \$35; contact erin@uvmusic.org or (603) 448-1642.*

Upper Valley Music Center's Sing and Play 50k!—Saturday, May 19

Our neighbors at UVMC have planned a full day of music—50,000 seconds, or nearly 14 continuous hours!—to be sung and played by faculty, students, and audiences alike. *Events throughout the day at both UVMC and FCC; for the full schedule and contribution information, please visit www.uvmusic.org/sp50k. Proceeds will support UVMC's ongoing campaign to secure and renovate their new home on South Park Street.*

Harmony Night A Cappella Showcase—Saturday, June 2, at 7:00 pm

Cantabile Women's Chorus: Ladies on Stage!—Sunday, June 3, at 3:00 pm

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sundays, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12
10 South Park Street, P.O. Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766 • 603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org
Rev. Stephen R. Silver — silver@fccleb.org • Newsletter Submissions — church@fccleb.org



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

10 South Park Street

PO Box 230

Lebanon, NH 03766

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Valley Improv Benefit Show for the Open Door Ministry

Saturday Evening, April 14, at 7:00 pm
\$10 Suggested Donation

New Members to Be Received SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Open House—April 15, 11:15 am

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**Music
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Meetinghouse**

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