



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

Each November it has been our tradition to gather with the members of other local churches for an ecumenical service of Thanksgiving. Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, and Congregationalists have come together to offer gratitude and praise to God in word and song. This year, though, we're going to do something a little bit different: we are expanding the circle of worship to include other faith communities in the Upper Valley. As of this writing, we anticipate Buddhists, Muslims, Jews, and Christians coming together to observe our nation's one truly shared religious holiday.

Thanksgiving, though characterized today by parades, football, sales, and feasts, is rooted in the act of thanking a bountiful Creator, the God who faithfully provided for his people. Despite differing, even conflicting theologies, this act is something good and valuable that people of varying faiths can do together. Considering how often religion is used in our contemporary world to divide communities and diminish or even deny the humanity of others, it is indeed vitally important. When people, especially the younger among us, believe that religion is inherently violent, it is incumbent upon us to show that this is not the case. This is especially true for us in the Christian church.

The days of winning people over to Christ by trashing the other guy's belief system are thankfully over. If we are to effectively respond to our call to be evangelists, we need to offer a positive vision of why following the way of Jesus is worth the commitment of time, energy, emotion, and faith. We need to show with grace and joy how the love of God made known to us in the Risen Christ has fed us and transformed us. We need to stand for Someone, and not against something. One way to do this is to show others that we are not threatened by them, that we have enough confidence in what we believe to venture out into God's big, diverse world.

Continued on Page 5

SUNDAY SERVICE

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 23

In the spirit of God's gift of Christ to us, we are all invited to prayerfully consider our commitment to the church's mission and ministry in 2015. On November 23, we will dedicate our pledges and celebrate our community with thanksgiving and fellowship. Thanks to all for your stewardship!



Sunday, November 23, at 7:00 pm
West Lebanon Congregational Church

Please join us for this annual community worship service, which this year will be a truly inclusive, interfaith observation of Thanksgiving. Clergy and congregations from our area's Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, and Congregational churches will participate, along with local Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist communities. **All are welcome!**

Christmas Decorating Party!

Following worship on Sunday, November 30

Yes, **CHRISTMAS!!** We are indeed approaching Advent, which this year officially begins on the last Sunday in November. Plan to stay after worship that day to help hang wreaths, string lights, and have fun getting the church ready for this festive season. **No need to RSVP, but bring some refreshments or treats to share!**

Queued for Coffee Hour

November—Women of the Church

December—Board of Governors

January—Stewardship

February—Christian Education

JUST WAR. HOLY WAR. ANY WAR?

Adult Education—Nov. 9 and 16, 9:00 am

As Christians marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, we have an opportunity to reflect not only on that conflict but on the phenomenon of war itself. What do Scripture and our Christian faith teach us about war? What has been the Christian experience of war? How are we called to respond to war?

Join us in the Parlor before worship for this two-week adult-education forum, which will run concurrently with a three-week sermon series.

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, November 23, at 5:00 pm

Thanks to JOHN BOURGON for organizing this month's dinner!

Please consider donating food or volunteering to set up, serve, or clean up. Our service is vital to those in our local community who look forward to this meal every month—**particularly during the holiday season.**

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

Save the Date!

All-Church Forum and Potluck

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

**Reflections from
El Salvador and Guatemala**

Photos and stories from our October mission trip participants! *More details on Page 7.*

NOVEMBER 2014 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10a Worship/ Church School 11:30a LIGHT Presentation 5p Community Dinner	27 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bear) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Wolf)	28 7p Boy Scouts 7p Quicksilver Rehearsal	29 6p UVPRN	30 5p Headrest Support Group 7p Choir	31	1 8a Men's Breakfast 9a Bible Study 10:15a Juneberry MS 7p Ensemble Zephyrus
2 10a Worship and Church School (Communion) 11:15a M&SA 1p Classicopia: Beethoven's Cello	3 3p WCBH After-school 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bear) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Wolf)	4 7p Boy Scouts 7p Quicksilver Rehearsal	5 6p UVPRN	6 5p Headrest Support Group 7p Choir	7 6-9p Leb Rec Quilters Retreat	8 9a Bible Study 10a-5p Leb Rec Quilters Retreat 10:15a Juneberry MS
9 10a Worship/ Church School	10 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bear) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Wolf) 7p Diaconate	11 7p Boy Scouts 7p Quicksilver Rehearsal	12 8a-4p WIC 6p UVPRN 7p Christian Ed Committee	13 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange 5p Headrest 7p Choir 7p Oneness VT Meditation	14	15 9a Bible Study 10:15a Juneberry MS
16 10a Worship/ Church School	17 3p WCBH After-school	18 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts	19 6p UVPRN	20 5p Headrest Support Group 7p Choir	21 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	22 9a Bible Study 10a Student Piano Recital: Lisa Amundsen
23 10a Worship/ Church School 11:15a B of G 5p Community Dinner 7p Interfaith Service (WLCC)	24 9:30a-5p WIC 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bear) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Wolf)	25 7p Boy Scouts	26 6p UVPRN	27 THANKSGIVING (FCC office closed) 5p Headrest Support Group No Choir	28	29 9a Bible Study
30 ADVENT BEGINS Christmas Decorating Party!	1 3p WCBH 5:30p (Bear) 6:15p (Wolf)	2 7p Boy Scouts	3 6p UVPRN	4 5p Headrest Support Group 7p Choir	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast 9a Bible Study

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

DIACONATE

At the October meeting of the Diaconate, Deb Scott reported on her visit with Ken Steinke, who continues his recovery in a rehabilitation facility following a brain infection and minor stroke. Deacons also have sent cards to the children of Naomia Gibson and Regina Sweet, who recently passed away. (Both had a long connection to FCC.)

Steve Silver reported on group preparations for the El Salvador mission trip, including the collection of items to be brought for donation. Rev. Heidi Hoskin will preach in his absence on October 19. Steve also noted that Lebanon clergy are planning to expand the annual Thanksgiving service to include other faith communities, making it a truly interfaith service.

Steve will attend a meeting at the NHC-UCC offices in Pembroke to discuss a pending "Resolution of Witness Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." Mark Rowell will be discussing his

ordination paper at the next meeting of the Grafton-Orange Association's Council on Church and Ministry.

The Deacons also considered planning for a youth ministry program in the future, agreeing that this would require active support from adult members. Relatedly, the congregation would benefit from increased participation by younger adults, perhaps in collaboration with other faith communities.

Our regular caregivers in Church School, Emma Petersson and Ashley Oronte, have submitted a list of needs that they feel are vital to a safe and welcoming child care environment. These needs include outlet covers, first-aid items, and fire-safety measures, as well as updated toys, books, and craft supplies. Members of the Diaconate will discuss these items with Marcia Corkins.

Ron Bailey and Steve Teeter reported that there are two functioning programs addressing aging in the community—SASH

in Vermont and LIGHT in Lebanon. Representatives of the latter will offer a presentation after worship on October 26.

Six adults (and one dog!) enjoyed a beautiful afternoon exploring Farnum Hill on the most recent Spiritual Walk, led as always by Ron Bailey.

The Diaconate will collaborate with Mission & Social Action to host an after-worship forum and potluck on December 7. Those who participated in recent trips to El Salvador and Guatemala will share their experiences with the congregation, in stories and photos.

**NOVEMBER 23
is
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY!**

November Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action and Stewardship</i>	11/2, 11:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	11/10, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	11/12, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	11/18, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	11/23, 11:15

December Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	12/8, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	12/10, 7:00
<i>Mission/Social Action and Stewardship</i>	12/14, 11:15
<i>Church Council</i>	12/16, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	12/28, 11:15

FCC Seeks Assistant Treasurer

Lee Ann Marsh and her husband will soon be moving from the area, and we will miss her for many reasons. In practical terms, though, we are looking for someone to succeed her as Assistant Treasurer. This important position is responsible for collecting the weekly offering, recording and depositing all receipts in the bank. Some computer experience is helpful. **If you're willing to serve the church in this way, please contact Todd Heatherton (603-448-4646/todd.f.heatherton@dartmouth.edu).**

COMMITTEE NOTES

New Water Heaters Installed

If you've visited a church restroom recently, you might have noticed a mysterious mechanical unit spliced into the plumbing under the sink. You might also have noticed that the faucet produces hot water more easily and quickly than before.

After months in the conceptual stage, two new instant-hot-water units were installed in mid-October. These efficient, effective, electrical units heat a minimal volume of water on the spot. They also remove the bathrooms from long, boiler-fed water lines—thus, we will no longer use heating oil every time someone washes their hands!

While formally implemented by the Board of Governors, this improvement evolved from discussions over breakfast at Men's Fellowship.



Inspired by a desire to cut heating expenses and improve our environmental stewardship, the men's group generously pitched in to cover the cost of installing the new heating units. **Thanks to all those who contributed!**

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

Have you dreamed of handing out bulletins on Sunday? Or delivering the call to worship and reading scripture from the lectern? Or walking gracefully from pew to pew collecting the offering?

We can make that dream a reality!

No experience or training is required. **If you'd like to serve as either a liturgist or a greeter/usher**, please contact the church office.

New Members Welcome!

Have you worshiped with us regularly? Have you found a welcoming, spiritually nourishing church home here? Would you like to become more involved in our programs and events?

We warmly invite you to formally join our community of faith as a covenant member.

If you would like to learn more about this invitation, please contact Rev. Steve Silver or the church office.

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

When we gather with our neighbors in West Lebanon on Sunday, November 23, we will come not just from different communities but with a variety of understandings of God. By coming together in worship, we will not dilute or deny our own belief systems but instead recognize the wondrous, bewildering, amazing complexity of God's Creation as made known in humanity. Talk about a reason to give thanks!

Yours faithfully,

Steve

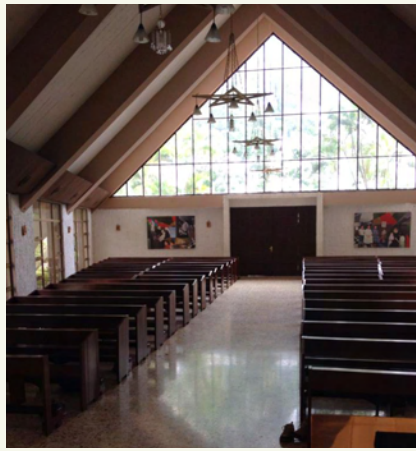
EL SALVADOR MISSION



Recuerdos de San Jose Villanueva



EL SALVADOR MISSION



A few thoughts and significant moments...
from Ron Bailey

“We first gathered with the Lopez family when we arrived on the site, before construction began. We gathered with them again at the end of our week, after the walls, roof, and most of the cement floors were in place. A celebration table was set up inside their nearly completed home—a very moving time for both the Lopez family and the volunteers....”

“We treasured the camaraderie that our group developed throughout our stay. We were grateful also for the beautiful hilltop site and wonderful people at the Catholic retreat where we stayed....”

“In San Salvador we stood in the exact spot where Bishop Oscar Romero was standing when he was assassinated in 1980. From that spot, behind the altar, we looked toward the door where the gunman had appeared....”

“We prayed together over the body of a recently deceased woman at the local hospice, providing some comfort to her daughter....”

Save the Date—All-Church Forum and Potluck on DECEMBER 7! *Reflections from El Salvador and Guatemala*

Following worship on Sunday, December 7, please plan to join us for an engaging, enriching presentation by those who participated in the recent mission trips that our congregation so generously supported. Deb Scott will share her experience providing medical care in Guatemala, and members of the Epilogos team will reflect on their week with the Lopez family in SJV. Photos, souvenirs, and stories will bring these faraway places to life in the Parish Hall—don't miss this opportunity to share in FCC's wider mission!

Please bring a potluck dish to share. If you'd like to help with this event, contact the church office.

LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT 2014

Sunday, November 30, 11:30 am (Following Worship)—Christmas Decorating Party

Come help hang wreaths, string lights, and have fun getting the church ready for this festive season.

Saturday, December 13, 7:30 pm—Christmas with Counterpoint

Vermont's premier professional chorus brings its superb ensemble sound to Lebanon to celebrate the season.

Sunday, December 14, 11:30 am (Following Worship)—FCC Community Caroling

Bring some Christmas fellowship to homebound church members and nearby friends and neighbors.

Sunday, December 14, 4:00 pm—Will Ögmundson's The Night of Las Posadas

Local favorite Will Ögmundson revives this Christmas musical, based on Tomie de Paola's book.

Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 pm—Lebanon High School Choral Concert

Support the various ensembles of our local high school's fine music program, directed by Dan Signor.

Sunday, December 21, 4:00-6:00 pm—Christmas Party and Carol Sing at the Parsonage

All the congregation is invited to enjoy fellowship, delicious food, and Christmas cheer on Kimball Street.

Sunday, December 21, 6:00 pm—Messiah Sing!

Join the chorus (or just the audience!) for a complete run of Handel's beloved oratorio, with local soloists.

Wednesday, December 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Service at 5:00, Lessons and Carols at 8:00, and Candlelight Communion at 11:00.

Sunday, December 28, 5:00 pm—Christmas Community Dinner

Help serve a festive, home-cooked meal to our neighbors who rely on this monthly dinner.



Christmas Gifts to Our Community

This year FCC will once again sponsor families for Christmas through Listen Community Services, with a Giving Tree collection of clothing and grocery vouchers.

Look for collection information in the Parish Hall in mid-November, or contact Barb Teeter (603-448-4529 or barbara.j.teeter@hitchcock.org).

The 2014 CHRISTMAS MARKET with a Difference...

Thursday-Friday, November 6-7, 10a-6p / Saturday, November 8, 10a-1p

Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, 40 College Street, Hanover

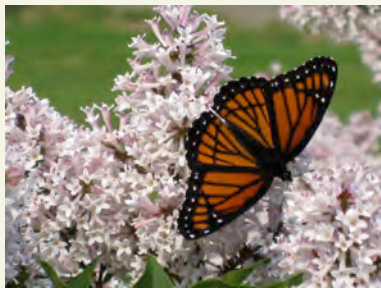
Each November the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College hosts the *Christmas Market with a Difference*, a venue for artisans from around the world sponsored by non-profit, self-help groups. This alternative gift source offers crafts, jewelry, ornaments, creches, clothing, toys, and other items.

The market is NOT a fundraiser—all proceeds return to the artisans who create the items.

For more, call 603-643-3150 or visit www.facebook.com/ChristmasMarketWithADifference.

OUR CHURCH'S LOCAL MISSION

Local Interdisciplinary Geriatric Homecare Team



LIGHT PROVIDES PARTICIPANTS WITH THE FOLLOWING:

Person- and family-centered care
Health assessment and education
Individualized care plans developed by interdisciplinary team
Resource information and referral
Coordination with primary-care teams and community agencies
Service provided without insurance or other payments

LIGHT MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to provide respectful, proactive, person-centered care to older adults in our region. We will accomplish this by partnering with our clients' medical team and with other agencies that serve them. LIGHT will seek to provide a community-focused, best-practice safety net to assist older adults who wish to remain in their homes.

The LIGHT team consists of a team coordinator, an outreach worker, and a wellness nurse. **For more information, please contact Jane Conklin at 603-448-1835 or jconklin@gcscc.org.**

5th Annual Service of Remembrance

Saturday, November 8
DHMC Auditoria A-D

10:30 Registration / Welcome

11:00 Service

12:00 Refreshments / Reflection Room

Organized by DHMC's Chaplaincy Department
and Perinatal Bereavement Committee

All are invited to join in this collective memorial for perinatal and infant losses, whether in the recent or distant past. The service will include music, readings, and reflections. A time for refreshments and conversation will follow, and a "reflection room" will offer the chance to engage in writing, crafts, and memory-making activities. *Children are invited to attend and participate; childcare available.*



Called to Care offers special assistance to those in our congregation who need it, for whatever reason—illness, loss of a loved one, loneliness, depression, aging issues, and divorce, to name a few. We offer support in the form of cards, phone calls, visits, meals, and transportation.

Now with just eight caregivers, **Called to Care** needs help! If the Spirit moves you to join this rewarding group, please contact Linda Jacobs (mrandmrs.j@comcast.net / 802-296-8251) or Steve Silver.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

Right: Jim Oronte presides over the stove at the CROP Walk lunch on October 5. Jim's renowned sausage soup was once again a hit, as community members filled the Parish Hall (*below*) to share fellowship, conversation, and great food. Many thanks to Jim for this annual act of service, and to many others who made this day a success!

Below right: Marcia Corkins, Shelley Shipley, Amy Driscoll, Kailyn Rappaport, Grace Clancy, and Chip Silver serve up Community Dinner on October 26. *Below left:* Henry Danaher, Jennifer Grant, Ron Bailey, and Jon Scott enjoy a perfect fall day on Farnum Hill, the FCC Outing Club's latest venture on October 12.



3rd Annual UVIP Micah Awards

On October 26 at the Listen Community Center in White River Junction, over 170 people joined to celebrate “Micah Heroes” from ten local faith communities and service organizations. Among this year’s honorees were our own Ron Bailey, introduced by Rev. Steve Silver—both of whom had just returned the previous night from El Salvador.

Organized by the United Valley Interfaith Project, this festive event celebrated what Meriden’s Rev. John Gregory-Davis called a subversive and “dangerous” determination not to accept society’s status quo—personified not only by the Micah Heroes themselves but also by the many congregations and institutions they represent.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music *at the* Meetinghouse

FALL CONCERTS

All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

Saturday, November 1, 7:00 pm—Ensemble Zephyrus: Madrigals of the Nightingale

Directed by Lindsey Warren, this sixteen-voice choral group offers a selection of madrigals from the 16th-18th centuries, all inspired by the nightingale. Poet and author **Jim Schley** will add discussion and readings to complement the bird's musical portrayal. *Free-will donation.*

Sunday, November 2, 1:00 pm—Classicopia: Beethoven's Cello

Pianist Dan Weiser and cellist Lawrence Stomberg share with us an all-Beethoven program, part of a weekend-long survey of all nine of the composer's works for piano and cello, in which the latter enjoyed new prominence as a solo instrument. *Suggested donation \$20, church members \$10, children free.*

And coming during Advent...

Saturday, December 13, 7:30 pm—Christmas with Counterpoint

Vermont's premier professional chorus brings its superb ensemble sound to Lebanon to celebrate the season.

Sunday, December 14, 4:00 pm—Will Ögmundson's The Night of Las Posadas

Local favorite Will Ögmundson revives this Christmas musical, based on Tomie de Paola's book.

Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 pm—Lebanon High School Choral Concert

Support the various ensembles of our local high school's fine music program (Dan Signor, director).

Sunday, December 21, 6:00 pm—Messiah Sing!

Join the chorus (or just the audience!) for a complete run of Handel's beloved oratorio, with local soloists.

Quicksilver Comedy Players Benefit for Windsor County Partners

Saturday, November 8—Damon Hall, Hartland, VT

The Quicksilver Comedy Players—featuring FCC's own **Biff Simpson!**—bring their unique brand of improv to Hartland. Pasta dinner at 6:00, performance at 7:00. Dinner \$10 for teens and adults, \$5 for children 5 and up, under 5 free. Admission to show only by donation.

Questions? Call 802-674-5101 or e-mail info@wcpartners.org.

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sunday, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12
10 South Park St., 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