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The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

Last fall I and other members of our church were blessed to participate in a mission trip to San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador, where we built a house for a local family. Though we were there for just a week, each of us was profoundly touched by the experience. For me, a particular highlight was making pastoral care visits with Mike Jenkins, the on-site leader of Epilogos (and, with his wife Suzie, the heart and soul of the enterprise). We called on people in their homes in SJV and in a hospice in El Salvador, praying, sitting, sharing, and receiving the love of God. Those were grace-filled days, and I looked forward to returning to do even more such work later this fall. Then the violence erupted.

Crime was already at troubling levels during our visit, and gangs were a feature of daily life for the locals. But in the intervening months, this plague of lawlessness has metastasized, like a malignant cancer on El Salvador's civic body. This small, beautiful country is now wracked by levels of violence last seen during the terrible civil war of the 1990s, making travel there dangerous. Consequently, I will be spending my study leave in the safe precincts of the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge and the Congregational Library in Boston, where the greatest threat I will face will be the notoriously bad local drivers.

I must confess that while I believe the decision to stay in the States is the prudent thing to do, it weighs heavily on my heart. I, like all of those who travel to El Salvador and many other at-risk places around the globe on mission trips, enjoy the luxury of avoiding mayhem. Those we go to serve, and meet, do not have that option. Most are trapped; some are able to emigrate legally, while others choose to flee, making arduous, life-endangering journeys north in the hopes of finding a better life.

This Thanksgiving season, I invite you to join me in praying for our sisters and brothers around the world whose lives are plagued by violence, who seek only to enjoy the peace, quiet, and stability we so take for granted. I also hope that we as individuals and as a community can

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SUNDAY SERVICE

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 22

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 2016. On November 22, we will dedicate our pledges and celebrate our community with thanksgiving and fellowship. **Thanks to all for your stewardship!**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 *Native American Sunday* *Neighbors in Need* UCC Special Mission Offering

The Neighbors in Need program supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of this offering funds local justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. The remainder funds the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries, continuing a long tradition of support for Native American populations.

Please share in this special worship service and contribute as generously as you can!

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, November 22, 5:00 pm

Leaders: MARCY CHONG AND ALDEN HALL

Please participate in this vital service to our neighbors! Thanks to Marcy and Alden for leading this holiday effort—let's help them out by donating ingredients, serving, and cleaning up. **Sign-ups to be posted on the Missions board in the Parish Hall.**

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

Queued for Coffee Hour

November—Women of the Church

December—Board of Governors

January—Stewardship Committee



A CONVERSATION ABOUT COMMUNION

Sunday, November 22
Following Worship

What does this sacrament mean to you? How have you experienced it, here and elsewhere? How does our communion process at FCC inflect your participation?

The Diaconate invites everyone to join in this open, informal discussion about our communion practice.



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 23, at 7:00 pm

FCC Sanctuary

All are welcome to share in this annual community worship service, which our church will host this year. Clergy and congregations from across the Upper Valley will participate in this faithful observation of Thanksgiving. **Please join us!**

Christmas Decorating Party!

Following Worship on Sunday, November 29

Yes, CHRISTMAS!! Advent 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!**

NOVEMBER 2015 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10a Worship (Communion) and Church School 11:15a MSA	2 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Bears)	3 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves) 7p Boy Scouts	4 6p UVPRN	5 6p Handbells 7p Choir	6 6-9p Leb Rec Dept Quilters	7 8a Men's Breakfast 10a-5p Leb Rec Dept Quilters 10:15a Juneberry Music
8 10a Worship and Church School (Native American Sunday)	9 3p WCBH After-School Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Bears) 7p Diaconate	10 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves) 7p Boy Scouts	11 6p UVPRN 7p Christian Ed Committee	12 8a-4p NH-WIC 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn 6p Handbells 7p Choir	13	14 10a-5p Directory Photo Session 2 10:15a Juneberry Music (last) 7p Aged to Perfection
15 10a Worship and Church School 3p Letitia Quante, Violin	16	17 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/Troop Committee	18 6p UVPRN	19 6p Handbells 7p Choir	20 7p Classicopia: Four-hand Piano	21 10a Recital: Piano Students of Eva Barker
22 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner	23 10a-7p NH-WIC 3p WCBH After-School Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Bears) 7p Ecumenical Thanksgiving	24 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves) 7p Boy Scouts DECEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	25 6p UVPRN	26 THANKSGIVING No Handbells No Choir	27	28 12p Harry Reed Memorial
29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Christmas Decorating Party	30 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Bears)	1 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves) 7p Boy Scouts	2 6p UVPRN	3 6p Handbells 7p Choir	4	5 8a Men's Breakfast

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who helped with our Community Dinner on October 25. A special thanks to the children who were super table-setters and food servers!

Our Church School class has so far learned about Ruth, Jonah, and David. During Advent we will learn more about Jesus. The children very much enjoyed the visit from harpist Judi Byron on October 18. They each had a chance to play and sing with the harp.

The children's choir will be singing in worship on November 15. We hope you'll be able to come to the service to enjoy their music!

CHURCH COUNCIL

Amy Driscoll reported to Council that the **Nominating Committee** would try to bring some new and exciting energy to the nominating process this year. Committees will be asked to offer more engaging descriptions of their work, as many in the congregation remain unaware of their duties. It was proposed that descriptions be included in bulletins and worship announcements. Committees will also be asked to suggest candidates for nominees.

Perhaps the most pressing need is now our **Treasurer position**. Nan Parsons has asked to step down from that position because of personal obligations, and so we are in need of a successor.

Corrine Erskine reported for **Missions** that the CROP Walk lunch went very well, although attendance was definitely down this year because of CHaD and other competing events. Leftover food went to Headrest and the Haven. Also, the MSA Committee will distribute a missions survey to the congregation in early November.

Jon Scott reminded everyone that **Stewardship Sunday** is November 22. We hope to improve the stewardship process and materials and maintain transparency. The pledge form will hopefully be clearer and simpler.

Don Rowell reported for the **Board of Governors** that repairs will be made to the corner of the church office building, where a Casella Waste truck backed into it. Casella addressed the incident expediently and accepts full responsibility. Also, the Fall Clean-Up will be October 31, this year with help from Cub Scout Pack 279. With the mention of carpet cleaning downstairs, it was noted that drainage issues in the basement have not yet been adequately addressed.

Reporting for the **Diaconate**, Jon Scott and Susan Montmagny discussed the directory photo sessions as a means of reaching out to more occasional or marginal members. They also noted the communion discussion to be held after worship on November 22; after receiving this congregational input, the Diaconate will make a

From Church Council and the Nominating Committee

Are You Being Served?

Have you found an ideal service opportunity for yourself at FCC?

Have you considered working on a new program or committee?

Do you have creative ideas or suggestions for particular aspects of our congregational life or governance? We want to know!

If you're interested in serving or learning more about an FCC program or committee, please contact the church office or

Amy Driscoll (603-448-0976 or amykdriscoll@gmail.com).

November Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action and Stewardship</i>	11/1, 11:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	11/9, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	11/11, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	11/17, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	11/22, 11:15

December Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action and Stewardship</i>	12/6, 11:15
<i>Christian Education</i>	12/9, 7:00
<i>Diaconate</i>	12/14, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	12/15, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	12/27, 11:15

Finding Our Hearts: Stewardship 2016

“Time, talent, and treasure” is a common way of describing stewardship. It is a familiar, easy formula, but it is also misleading, for it suggests that time and talent are not treasures like money. How we choose to spend our time and make use of our talents—like how we invest our financial resources—is not simply a matter of setting personal priorities. It is an expression of faith, of where our hearts can be found.

By participating fully in the ministry of stewardship, each of us has the opportunity to “store up treasures in heaven,” to make a place in our hearts for God’s grace and love. Our faithful stewardship, of time, talent, and financial treasure, enables and enhances everything that we do at FCC.

Stewardship Sunday is November 22. Please consider your commitment, prayerfully and honestly, to the mission and ministry of our church in 2016, and join us as we dedicate our pledges later this month.

recommendation for our process for communion going forward. The Deacons are also debating the NH Conference’s position on BDS (*see below*), considering in particular how that position may affect our relationship with local Jewish congregations.

A **new offering collection process** has now been implemented, with two Deacons each week counting the offering and leaving it for the Church Administrator to record and deposit. One challenge has been getting the full participation of Deacons who are concerned about the confidentiality of giving and their availability to share in the hospitality of coffee hour.

Barry Schuster reported that the **Trustees** had been reviewing our participation in UCC investment programs at both the state and national levels. A primary concern is the fees that we pay for these investments, and the Trustees feel that we could perhaps be more cost-efficient in our investing.

Brian Clancy noted a busy schedule for **Music at the Meetinghouse**.

There followed general discussion about expenses for these concerts, the cost of heat in particular. Brian responded that performers don’t all pay for these expenses to the same degree, based on a variety of factors (e.g. their non-profit status, the regularity of their using the church, whether they come to us or are invited, etc.). It was suggested that as the concert series has grown, we might consider seeking grants or other funds to support these costs directly.

DIACONATE

At their October meeting the Deacons discussed their roles in the church directory project and photo sessions. Deacons will help register people and verify their contact information as they arrive, and they will contact all those on their individual member lists to encourage participation. They’ve also passed on some suggestions

of images for the directory’s introductory program pages.

On Sunday afternoons in November, teams of Deacons will lead worship services at Lebanon Genesis Center, with about 20 residents expected to attend each week. We will supply bulletins and hymn booklets. At FCC on November 22, Deacons will lead the congregational conversation on our communion practice following worship.

The Diaconate will discuss the NH Conference’s resolution on so-called BDS (Boycott, Divest, and Sanction) strategies for applying pressure in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Steve Silver has forwarded reading material to all Deacons in preparation for the discussion, by which they hope to determine a course of action our congregation might take on this issue.

In his pastoral report, Steve Silver highlighted the Horton Center retreat; it seems clear after three years that we have developed real ties with the congregations from

LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT 2015

Sunday, November 29, 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.

Sunday, December 13, 11:30 am (Following Worship)—FCC Community Caroling

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

Sunday, December 20, 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.

Thursday, December 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

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

Sunday, December 27, 5:00 pm—Christmas Community Dinner

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

Meriden and Hooksett. He also looked ahead to worship services in November, including Native American Sunday (11/8), Stewardship Sunday (11/22), the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving service here on November 23, and the first Sunday of Advent. Steve further reported on the work of APD's Ethics Committee (on which he serves) on end-of-life directives, on which the committee hopes to engage the wider community. Lastly, he noted that he would be attending the NHC-UCC Clergy Convocation in Maine in late October.



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 Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

think about what kind of witness we might offer and action we might take to reduce violence far away—and closer to home. There are a plethora of opinions on positions and policies to adopt regarding guns, immigration, and any number of other pertinent issues. We in the church may not have the policy prescriptions to offer, but we can share a testimony rooted in God's love and grace, one that shows we are true and faithful disciples of the one we call the Prince of Peace.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

ADVENT

Devotional Reflections

Advent begins November 29.

If you wish to receive Rev. Steve Silver's devotional messages by email during Advent, please let him know or send an email to

revsrs@live.com.

One more chance to... Get Photographed!

Smile for FCC's New Church Directory

The most recent edition of our church directory, with photos and contact information for the entire congregation, was produced in 2010. In the nearly six years since, our community has changed quite a bit—and all agree that it's time for a new directory!

Lifetouch Inc. is producing our new directory **at no cost to the church, and everyone will receive a printed copy free of charge.** Lifetouch (which in 2011 acquired Olan Mills, publisher of our 2010 directory) is a nationally respected professional portrait studio with extensive experience in producing church directories. The new directory will follow the same format as the current one, with introductory pages highlighting our congregational life and programs, pages of individual and family photos, and an alphabetical list of contact information (home address, phone numbers, and emails).



DIRECTORY PHOTO DAY!

Saturday, November 14, 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Arrange your photo appointment in one of two ways:

- 1) Sign up online: <https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/firstcongregationalchurch13/index.php?page=10>
- 2) Sign up by contacting the church office.

**WE NEED EVERYONE PHOTOGRAPHED.
So sign up today if you haven't already!**

SOME IMPORTANT DETAILS:

Everyone in the FCC community—full church members, regular visitors, or otherwise self-identified participants in our congregational life—may be included in our directory!

All families (or couples, individuals, etc.) will receive **one complimentary 8x10 print.** You may purchase additional prints in a variety of packages and sizes.

You may arrange for several different photos, including variations that aren't necessarily for the directory (e.g., just children)—that is, photos may be taken for any purpose.

Photos will be **available in time for use as Christmas cards** and gifts. For non-directory photos, you may also include favorite objects, hobbies, or even pets.

Photo order discounts! Anyone who signs up for a photo session online will get \$10 off photo orders. Seniors, military, and first-responders also receive a 20% discount. Lifetouch also offers its "Feed the Need" discount of \$5 as thanks for a food donation (more information on this discount still to come).

To make this project a success, we need EVERYONE to schedule a photo session, show up, and update contact information. Stand up! Be counted! Get photographed!

HELP! I can't make the photo date! What do I do? To arrange a Lifetouch photo shoot at an alternate location/date, call toll-free 1-866-756-0281 and provide our account number (130795).

OUR LOCAL MISSION



4TH ANNUAL UVIP MICAH AWARDS

On October 25 at the Listen Community Center in White River Junction, over 170 people joined to celebrate “Micah Heroes” from fifteen local faith communities and service organizations—including our own Pete Mason, introduced by Rev. Steve Silver.

Organized by the United Valley Interfaith Project, this festive annual event connects community leaders from across the region. Lifting up the prophet Micah’s call to “do justice and love kindness,” it affirms the service and social engagement of both the honorees themselves and the many institutions they represent.

Free Family Workshop

Tuesday, November 10, 6:00-8:00 pm

Conference Room, Headrest, 14 Church Street (*behind the Fire Station*)



Headrest offers addiction recovery services and programs, residential treatment, and a crisis hotline that fields tens of thousands of calls annually from across northern New England.

Headrest is also our neighbor, right across Church Street from the church office.

This family workshop on November 10 is open to all those who are trying to come to terms with a family member’s substance abuse, the loss of a family member to addiction, or simply the desire to ask questions and find answers. The last two years have been particularly difficult in New Hampshire for families in these situations, who deal with so much yet lack sufficient resources to do so.

Two of our very dedicated and qualified staff members will facilitate this workshop: Sara Poisson, PhD/MLADC/LCMHC, and Clarisse Charland, Med/MLADC. Both women have over twenty years of experience in the field of substance use disorders.

Please plan to join us for this night of answers and support. For more information, please call Headrest at 603-448-4872 x105.



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 (mrands.j@comcast.net / 802-296-8251) or Steve Silver.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music at the Meetinghouse

NOVEMBER CONCERTS

All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

Saturday, November 14, 7:00 pm—An Evening with Aged to Perfection and Friends

Come enjoy this sensational women's quartet, special guests Fast Track, and other great *a cappella* groups. The evening's entertaining program will offer tight, rhythmic harmonies in a variety of musical genres, including gospel, doo-wop, jazz standards, and barbershop. *Free-will donation.*

Sunday, November 15, 3:00 pm—Letitia Quante, Violin, with Claire Black, Piano

Acclaimed violinist Letitia Quante, playing a J. B. Vuillaume instrument loaned by a Lebanon-area family, offers a delightful program for a broad audience with works by Bach, Bartok, Ravel, and Faure. Sponsored by Vermont Violins. *Free.*

Friday, November 20, 7:00 pm—Classicopia: Four-Hand Piano

Dan Weiser again joins friend and fellow pianist Philip Liston-Kraft, a duo that never fails to entertain. Program TBA. *Suggested donation \$20, FCC members \$10, under 12 free; please visit www.classicopia.org.*

Saturday, November 21, 10:00 am—Piano Recital, Students of Eva Barker



Children's Moments. Harpist Judi Byron plays David's instrument during worship on October 18; Steve Silver leads a most unusual "Children's" Moment on October 4; and Marcia Corkins and the Church School kids serve Community Dinner on October 25.

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

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Music
at the
Meetinghouse

NOVEMBER CONCERTS

All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

Saturday, November 14, 7:00 pm—An Evening with Aged to Perfection and Friends

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*For more information, see Page 11 inside or contact the church office
at 603-448-4281 or church@fccleb.org.*



**Ecumenical
Thanksgiving
Service**

Monday, November 23, at 7:00 pm
FCC Sanctuary

All are welcome to share in this annual community worship service, which our church will host this year. Clergy and congregations from across the Upper Valley will participate in this faithful observation of Thanksgiving. **Please join us!**