

Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

What's Inside

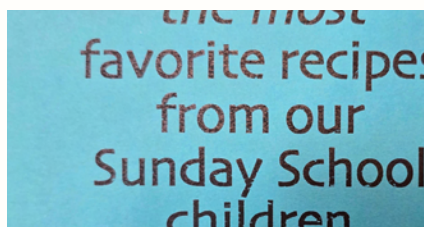
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The ~~Pastoral Perspective~~ Administrator's Angle

With Rev. Steve Silver on sabbatical, other FCC staff take turns in this spot...

"Where are you going this year?" That was the question when I told friends I'd be taking another weeklong road trip with my daughter Grace. This is now the fifth summer she and I have done a trip like this, following a new itinerary each time. We describe the trips as "seasons," like for a TV show—Season 5 is a tour of the Berkshires, in western Massachusetts.

Like many people, I'm comfortable in routines. That includes vacations, which I haven't always been good about taking. I know it's healthy to give oneself a break, seek out new experiences and places. Vacations, though, disrupt our routines—indeed, that's often their explicit intent, as if routines were a prison from which we need liberation.

My road trips with Grace have surely been vacations, opportunities to enjoy the relaxed pace of summer and go somewhere we've never been. Each one, however, has happened around the same week in July, on the same five days of the week, covering roughly the same number of miles. We listen to the same Spotify playlist, many (many) hours long. In other words, our vacations have featured a certain consistency and predictability. Routines.

So, am I truly getting a break, a new life experience? Or are my vacations just another set of routines in disguise? Well, in planning each trip, I do take advantage of a proven template that works well, and Grace and I are both happy with it. But for all their consistency, these trips have been delightfully varied and individualized—the template may be the same, but we fill it each year with new roads, towns, landscapes, historical sites, gardens, food, quirky attractions. Each season of our "show" brings similar storylines but new characters, scenes, narratives, plot twists. Even the playlist evolves annually, with some songs removed and many others added.

In my position at FCC, I manage our calendar and publicize events on a schedule that is very consistent from year to year. The seasons come and go, and we rely on repetition, a rhythm from one month to the next. Except for Easter's variable date, the liturgical calendar does not change. Boring? Only if we allow it to be. The challenge, like coming up with new itineraries for my road trips with Grace, is animating that routine calendar with new experiences, unexplored destinations, and fresh energy and perspective.

So where are we going this year?

—Brian

SUNDAY SERVICE

All Are Welcome to Worship at FCC Sundays at 10:00 AM (Sanctuary/Zoom)

Coffee Hour Served Weekly!

New volunteers welcome to provide food and serve for our weekly post-worship fellowship time.

Ushers, Zoom Greeters, Liturgists Needed!

Congregation members sing in the choir, serve as ushers and Zoom greeters, and read as liturgists. Additional options include reading prayers, sharing stewardship messages, or even leading children's moments. **All are invited to serve in these essential roles, and no prior experience is needed.**

If you're interested in these opportunities to serve, please contact the church office.

Steve Silver on Sabbatical Until September

For his second sabbatical, Rev. Silver looks forward to pursuing theological study, mission experience, and regional travel—along with a “sabbath” of rest.

SUMMER PREACHING SCHEDULE

July 6	Rev. Gail Dimick
July 13	Candy Darcey
July 20	Rev. Gail Dimick
July 27	Rev. Gail Dimick
August 3	Rev. Bob Ross
August 10	Rev. Beth Hilgartner
August 17	Rev. Gail Dimick
August 24	Phil Hammond
August 31	Rev. Gail Dimick

Community Dinner Is Served!

Sunday, July 27, at 5:00 pm

Leaders: CORRINE ERSKINE & LINDA JACOBS

Sunday, August 24, at 5:00 pm

Leaders: THE SCOTT FAMILY

All are warmly invited to come, eat, and share fellowship, regardless of need or affiliation.

Consider Leading a Future Dinner

If you're interested, menu resources are available, FCC can reimburse costs, and you'll *always* have help! **Questions? Contact the church office.**

Our monthly dinners are vital to our outreach, and anyone can join in leading one—friends, coworkers, teams, book groups... ANYONE!

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL UCC MISSION OFFERING



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH supports the growth of ministry and local congregations across the country. This year's theme—“Great and Wide”—suggests the diversified purpose of establishing new churches and supporting existing ones. Renewing faith communities and funding fellowships for young, emerging leaders, the program is vital to the health of our denomination.

*Contributions welcome until Labor Day.
Please contribute as you are able. Thanks!*

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!
for
LISTEN Community Services
Please consider a donation, and thanks!

Join the fight against local poverty and food insecurity by leaving contributions in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall, to benefit area service organizations. We're now collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items for LISTEN Community Services. For a list of their current and ongoing needs, visit listencc.org.

JULY-AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10a Worship 2p Oak Hill MF: Schubert Octet (Hanover)	30	1 1p Cameo Baroque	2	3 7p NA Group (7p Leb Rec Concert Series: RAIN LOCATION)	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5
6 10a Worship (Communion)	7	8 <i>No Church Council</i>	9 8a-4p NH-WIC	10 7p NA Group (7p Leb Rec RAIN)	11	12
13 10a Worship	14 <i>No Diaconate</i>	15 1p Cameo Baroque	16	17 7p NA Group (7p Leb Rec RAIN)	18 7:30 Classicopia: Mendelssohn Mania	19 7p Counterpoint: In the Good Old Summertime
20 10a Worship	21	22 No Cameo Baroque	23	24 11a-6p NH-WIC 7p NA Group (7p Leb Rec RAIN)	25	26 UVMC Trad Music Festival (all day)
27 10a Worship 2p UVMC Trad Music Festival 5p Community Dinner	28	29 1p Cameo Baroque	30	31 7p NA Group (7p Leb Rec RAIN)	1	2 9a-12p UVC Leadership Training
3 10a Worship (Communion)	4 9a-3p Classicopia Music Camp	5 9a-3p Classicopia Music Camp	6 9a-3p Classicopia Music Camp	7 9a-3p Classicopia Music Camp 7p NA Group (7p Leb Rec RAIN)	8 9a-3p Classicopia Music Camp 7p CMC Faculty Concert	9 10a CMC Student Concert (LOH Nexus RAIN)
10 10a Worship (LOH Nexus RAIN)	11 <i>No Diaconate</i>	12 1p Cameo Baroque <i>No Church Council</i>	13 8a-4p NH-WIC	14 7p NA Group (7p Leb Rec RAIN)	15	16
17 10a Worship 2p Classicopia: The Sound of America	18	19 1p Cameo Baroque	20	21 7p NA Group (7p Leb Rec RAIN)	22	23
24 10a Worship 5p Community Dinner	25	26 1p Cameo Baroque	27	28 11a-6p NH-WIC 7p NA Group	29	30
31 10a Worship	1 <i>Labor Day</i>	2 1p Cameo Baroque	3 6p Bel Canto Auditions	4 7p NA Group	5	6

If you have questions or corrections regarding any event, please notify us at church@fccleb.org or 603-448-4281.

NEWS AND NOTES

DIACONATE

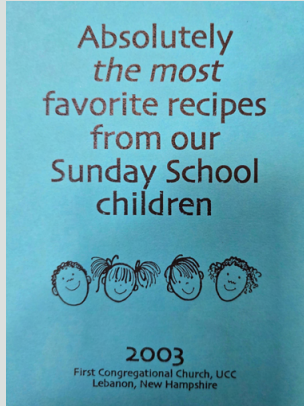
Sue Pratt opened June's Diaconate meeting with a devotion and prayer about people near and far coming together and moving forward. She asked that God grant them courage.

There have been several pastoral-care issues in the congregation this summer, including Jeff Williams' illness and the passing of Bruce Laro, whose remains were interred in the FCC memorial garden on June 19. During Rev. Silver's sabbatical, all congregant concerns are passed on to the Diaconate, with the assistance of the Church Administrator.

Deacons also discussed Community Dinners and coffee hour. With all summer dinners covered, the group considered that a congregationally focused meal could serve as a fundraiser. It was further suggested that the congregation convene to draft a fundraising case statement. Needs include upgrading the kitchen and the Sanctuary sound system. Some also expressed interest in organizing a curated yard sale.

Deb Scott anticipates submissions for an updated edition of "Children's Favorite Recipes" from 2003.

Do Your Children Have a Favorite Recipe to Share?



Deb Scott recently re-discovered an important FCC artifact—a Sunday-School recipe book from 2003, when Board of Governors chair Walter Scott was in 3rd grade. Deb would like to collect some new recipes from current FCC kids for a 25th-anniversary edition in 2028.

If your children have an “absolutely most favorite” recipe to share, please pass it along to the church office, or to Deb Scott directly (dscottnh@gmail.com). Thanks!

Please Send Us Your Directory Photos!

Our newly-digital directory, easily updated as our congregation grows and changes, is distributed to everyone monthly as a PDF file (printed copies also available upon request). Please be sure to submit **current photos** (along with any updated contact details) to the church office. Photos should be JPG or PNG files, in frontal, head-and-shoulders format clearly showing faces (like these fine examples!).

EVERYONE who feels a connection to FCC is included in our directory—whether or not they have formally joined as covenant members.



Get the NHC-UCC Weekly Newsletter

If you'd like to receive notices and information from the NH Conference of the UCC, please contact communications@nhcucc.org.



INFRASTRUCTURE (EVERY) WEEK? In addition to ongoing construction of the fire station, the City of Lebanon rebuilt a crumbling retaining wall along Church Street. Meanwhile, our front porch and steps have been replaced, significantly enhancing FCC's public face.

OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION

Many Thanks for Mothers and Blankets!



We are grateful to report that **Blanket Sunday** this year brought in \$680 from our congregation and friends. Thank you for so generously honoring your mothers and mother-figures, past and present!

For more about CWS Blankets, visit cwsblankets.org.



Upper Valley
Habitat
for Humanity®

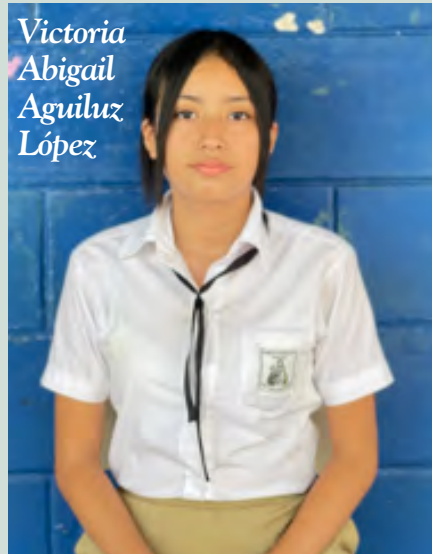
THANK YOU!

This year's **SHELTER SUNDAY** collection raised \$559 for Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity. We're grateful to have celebrated our fathers once again with this generous donation.

William
Steven
Aldana
Pérez



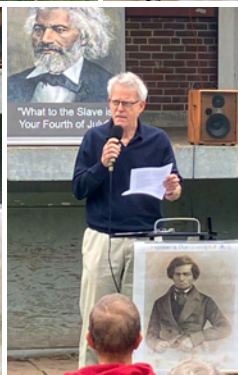
Victoria
Abigail
Aguiluz
López



Meet Our Epilogos Students!

Each year half our **Lenten Lunch Bag** offering collection funds scholarships through **EPILOGOS CHARITIES, INC.**, serving the town and school of **San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador**. (The other half of the Lenten offering supports **WISE** of the Upper Valley.) FCC's donation in 2024 has supported these students, who both started 10th grade in January. Epilogos scholarships from FCC and elsewhere now support more students in SJV than ever before!

Thank you for so generously supporting this important relationship with San Jose Villanueva each year! For more information about Epilogos Charities, please visit www.epilogos.org.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS SPEAKS ANEW.

Several members of FCC's congregation joined in the annual reading of "What to the Slave Is Your Fourth of July?" This impassioned 1852 speech struck readers and listeners as painfully relevant in 2025.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



SCENES OF SUMMER. With Rev. Steve Silver on sabbatical, lay preachers from the congregation have offered inspiring words from the pulpit each week, nicely complementing the guest leadership of Rev. Gail Dimick, our longtime friend. Worship music hasn't quite taken the summer off, featuring a few favorite voices and impressive young pianist Jamyang Dorell. Of course, it's also a fun season of anniversaries in our church family!



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



**Music
at the
Meetinghouse**

Late Summer Concerts

All in the Sanctuary at First Congregational Church

Classicopia: The Sound of America—Sunday, August 17, at 2:00 pm

Dan Weiser welcomes back the sensational violinist Tim Schwarz for a delightful survey of the rich diversity and energy of American music, from folk tunes and Black spirituals to ragtime and blues, Jewish traditions and jazz to musical theater. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse: Season Six!—Friday, Sept. 12, and Saturday, Sept. 27, both 7:30 pm

Our comfy community venue for live music returns for a sixth season! An informal “listening room” for the finest folk musicians in New England, each show features several acts. Come and go as you please; baked goods and hot drinks available. *Free admission, donations welcome. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org/.*

Classicopia Summer Music Camp at FCC/UVMC—August 4-9, 9a-3p Daily

This immersive but seriously fun program offers instrumental and vocal instruction to students aged 8-15, with outstanding faculty and guest artists. *Details and registration at classicopia.org/summer-camp/.*

Faculty Concert—Friday, August 8, at 7:00 pm / Student Concert—Saturday, August 9, at 10:00 am



MUSIC IN ABUNDANCE. From Cameo Baroque and Classicopia to the Oak Hill Festival and three choral concerts—with Cantabile’s crowd rising for “O Canada.”

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 • Music: music@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

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

SPECIAL UCC MISSION OFFERING

Contributions Welcome Through Labor Day

Rev. Steve Silver on Sabbatical Until September

Summer Worship Schedule on Page 2



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Summer Concerts

All in the Sanctuary at First Congregational Church

Classicopia: Mendelssohn Mania—Friday, July 18, at 7:30 pm

Counterpoint: In the Good Old Summertime—Saturday, July 19, at 7:00 pm

Classicopia: The Sound of America—Sunday, August 17, at 2:00 pm

The Anonymous Coffeehouse: Season Six!—Friday, Sept. 12, and Saturday, Sept. 27, both 7:30 pm

Classicopia Summer Music Camp at FCC/UVMC—August 4-9, 9a-3p Daily

Faculty Concert—Friday, August 8, at 7:00 pm / **Student Concert**—Saturday, August 9, at 10:00 am

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

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