



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

Earlier this year in *The Christian Century*, Samuel Wells, a prolific author and serving Anglican priest, wrote that “Christianity in a renewed Europe can’t be claiming Constantinian dominance or cultural superiority or historical entitlement. It must prove itself by acts of mercy, peace, and grace; by evident wisdom, understanding, and love; by facilitating education, reconciliation, and healing.” What Rev. Wells observed of the faith in a Europe in flux is true in the States, too: Christianity only has a future if we live our lives in such a way that people conclude it is worth the effort to follow the way of Jesus. How do we do that? With so many options available to those seeking spiritual fulfillment or simply a way forward in a chaotic, confusing world, how do we convince people that the church might have something to offer?

I believe the answer lies first and foremost in our actions. Yes, how we preach the word is important. The way in which we order our worship has implications. But if we are not treating each other with kindness and care, if we do not make the effort to help those in need, if we close our hearts to those in pain, if we choose to make our faith all about us, then we are being bad evangelists—not to mention missing the whole point of being followers of Jesus.

The days when Christianity was the cultural norm are behind us, and this is especially so for our mainline Protestantism. Nobody is going to show up on a Sunday because it is the expected thing to do. The church now finds itself a competitor in the marketplace of belief and non-belief, just one of many voices clamoring for attention. We will have to work to draw people into our fellowship. And that may not be such a bad thing, for in making the effort we may be reminded of what drew us to Jesus and his church.

I have said before that one of the most powerful experiences for me as your pastor is watching what happens in our Parish Hall on the fourth Sunday of each month. There, as members and friends of our

Continued on Page 7

SUNDAY SERVICE



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Monday,
November 21,
7:00 pm

West Lebanon
Congregational Church

All are welcome to share in this annual community worship service, hosted this year by our friends in West Lebanon. Clergy and congregations from across the Upper Valley will participate in this faithful observation of Thanksgiving.

Please join us as we give thanks together as a community in worship!

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, November 27, 5:00 pm

Leader: Marcy Chong

We're grateful to Marcy Chong and friends for leading this month's dinner! Please consider helping out with this vital service to our neighbors.

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

Worship Transportation

A Congregational Service

Some members of our congregation have difficulty getting to Sunday worship on their own. Many others of us have plenty of room in our cars and could easily offer rides. We need to get these two groups together!

If you need assistance getting to church, or if you're willing to give a ride to someone else who does, please contact the Church Administrator.

Christmas Decorating Party!

Sunday, November 27
Following Worship

Yes, CHRISTMAS!! Advent begins on the last Sunday in November. Plan to stay after worship that day to help hang wreaths, string lights, listen to music and have fun getting the church ready for this festive season.

No need to RSVP, but bring some refreshments or treats to share!

New Members Welcome!

Have you worshiped with us a few times? Have you returned because you've found a welcoming, spiritually nourishing church home here? If so, we warmly invite you to join our community of faith as a covenant member.

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

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

No experience or special training is required for these important roles in leading worship! If you'd like to serve in either capacity, please contact the church office.

** We are particularly in need of liturgists! **

Your congregation will thank you!

Queued for Coffee Hour

November—Women of the Church

December—Board of Governors

January—Stewardship (*Help Needed!*)

NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10a Worship and Church School 3-5p UVIP Micah Award Ceremony (Claremont)	31 HALLOWEEN 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	1 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	2 11a UVIP Senior Stories 6p UVPRN	3 7p Choir	4 3:30p Kathy Andrew Violin Master Class 6-9p Leb Rec Quilt Retreat	5 8a Men's Breakfast 10a Juneberry Music Class 10a-5p Leb Rec Quilt Retreat 7:30p Classicopia: Four-hand Ferocity
6 10a Worship (Communion) and Church School 11:15a MSA 2p Juneberry Comm Chorus	7 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	8 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	9 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN No Christian Ed Committee 7p Boy Scouts Comm Meeting	10 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn 7p Choir	11 7p K. Andrew/V. Dobrushina Student Recital	12 10a Juneberry Music Class 1p K. Andrew/V. Dobrushina Student Recital 7p FCC Movie Night!
13 10a Worship and Church School 2p Juneberry Comm Chorus	14 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves) 7p Diaconate	15 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/Troop Committee	16 6p UVPRN	17 7p Choir	18 7p Danaher/Spivakovsky Concert	19 9a CPR Training 10a Juneberry Music Class
20 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Board of Governors	21 10a-6p NH-WIC 3p WCBH After-school Group 7p Ecumenical Thanksgiving (at West Leb Cong. Church)	22 7p Boy Scouts DECEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	23 6p UVPRN	24 THANKSGIVING	25	26 10a Juneberry Music Class
27 ADVENT 1 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Christmas Decorating Party 5p Community Dinner 7p K. Andrew Student Recital	28 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	29 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	30 6p UVPRN	1 7p Choir	2	3 8a Men's Breakfast 10a Juneberry Music Class 7:30p Classicopia: Vagabond Violin

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

DIACONATE

At the Diaconate's late-September meeting, Barb Jones recognized that everyone has many obligations beyond their deacon service, which can lead to stress within the group. Noting the deacons' role as spiritual leaders of the church, Barb urged everyone to communicate directly with one another and be mindful of the blessings and strengths that each deacon brings to the group.

Steve Silver has reached out to **Eliot Fay** with regard to our serving as his home church on his faith journey to ordination. Steve will keep the deacons apprised of how we can best support Eliot in this.

Our effort to strengthen FCC's identity as an **Open and Affirming** congregation continues, with lapel ribbons and brochures available in the Sanctuary; pew inserts will be coordinated with newly updated FCC welcome brochures. Steve Silver will inquire about a rainbow

strip that can be added to the church sign on the front lawn.

The Diaconate will be responsible again for leading Sunday-afternoon **worship services at the Genesis Lebanon Center** in November. Supplies and bulletins will be available in the church office.

Deacons will volunteer for dates throughout the month.

In considering another request for **gas and food cards**, it was noted that demand has been extremely high this year. The deacons inquired about how many families we serve with this type of assistance, and the church office later reported that through mid-October 2016, we've distributed 69 gas cards and 58 food cards (each card having \$25 on it), along with over \$900 in assistance for rent, utilities, and other living costs.

Biff Simpson noted that **more movie nights** would be planned for the coming months, explaining

the licensing requirements and costs. To minimize costs, it was agreed that we would offer only popcorn and drinks, rather than pizza as well. There was some question about whether movie nights should happen monthly or bi-monthly.

In his **pastor's report for October**, Steve Silver reported on our small but enthusiastic participation in this year's Horton Center retreat in late September. The ecumenical Thanksgiving service this year will happen on Monday, November 21, at West Lebanon Congregational Church. The following Sunday is the first of Advent; several events are programmed for the season.

Steve continues to be quite involved in wider-church activities, serving as moderator of the Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association and supporting the work of both the Congregational Library and the UCC's Historical Council.

Sing to the Lord: Worship, Giving, Service— Stewardship 2017

In 2 Samuel 6 we read of the joyful abandon and prayerful generosity that David exhibited in bringing the ark to its new home. Giving, prayer, and exuberance all inspired a moment of ecstatic worship. Each fall we are encouraged to consider the many gifts, large and small, that we receive from our amazingly generous God. This year, may we respond to that generosity, like David, in a spirit of joyful thanksgiving. Let us be inspired by David's example to pray, to serve, and to give with a sense of life-affirming, joyous possibility.

We come to know the joy of the Christian life through the love of God, a never-ending, life-sustaining, redemptive, and freely given gift. We come to know this joy through prayer, service, fellowship, pastoral care, sharing and receiving. It is a joy that inspires us to be active stewards, returning to God and giving to God's people some of what he has so generously shared with us.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 20. Please consider your commitment, prayerfully and honestly, to the mission and ministry of our church in 2017, and join us as we dedicate our pledges later this month.

COMMITTEE NOTES

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, OCTOBER 23

The special meeting to discuss our alternative witness resolution drew 30 members of the congregation, enough to satisfy the quorum of 25 mandated by the by-laws. Corrine Erskine served as moderator.

Jon Scott read aloud the proposed resolution that our church bear an alternative witness to the UCC's recent resolutions on boycott and divestment in the West Bank. **Jon offered a motion to accept it, seconded by Barbara Jones.**

In discussion, Jon first emphasized the statement's bilateral character, affirming that our church does not wish to single out one side in the complicated Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He also noted our hope

that the UCC bring future similar proposals forward without the bias of a predetermined preference, as seems to have happened in this case. Third, Jon referred to the present issue as a reminder that our UCC tradition does not obligate individual churches to follow or agree with every policy statement issued by the national church.

Ron Bailey expressed a belief that the actions of the UCC and NHC regarding the West Bank are inconsistent with Jesus' advocacy of peace and reconciliation. Ron offered his support of the proposed statement of alternative witness, which he feels does reflect Christian emphasis on peace and reconciliation. He posed the question, however, of how our response today will be conveyed the UCC and NHC.

Biff Simpson offered the gratitude of the congregation to Hilary Ryder, Jon Scott, and others who have worked hard on this issue, raising everyone's awareness and bringing it to a vote today.

The congregation was asked to vote on the motion to adopt the proposed resolution of alternative witness. **The motion passed unanimously.**

In subsequent discussion, several addressed Ron's question of how the church would proceed from this resolution. Hilary invited the congregation to share suggestions and responses in this regard. Steve Silver added that the immediate actions would be to communicate our alternative witness in letters to John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the UCC, and to the clerk and conference minister

OUR ALTERNATIVE WITNESS TO UCC RESOLUTIONS ON THE WEST BANK

At a special meeting on Sunday, October 23, 2016, the congregation of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, voted unanimously to approve and act on the following resolution:

"The Diaconate and Church Council recommend that the church vote to offer an alternative witness locally, regionally, and nationally to the resolutions of the 30th General Synod of the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the New Hampshire Conference (NHC) to 'boycott and divest' from companies doing business in the West Bank, and to the process that led to these resolutions.

- We affirm that First Congregational Church of Lebanon does not support the UCC's partisan resolutions in favor of boycott and divestment, which can make peace harder to achieve.
- We call upon the UCC instead to take an active role as true peacemakers, working to develop ties with and encourage **both sides**, acknowledging that the best future for **all** residents of the Middle East is a peaceful future.
- We ask that future UCC actions on the Middle East reflect these peacemaking principles; refrain from positions favoring one side over another; acknowledge the rights of all peoples to live with peace, justice, freedom, and dignity; and incorporate diverse perspectives and robust, open, and inclusive debate in its decision processes."

COMMITTEE NOTES

of the NH Conference. Steve noted that there has been some concern and apprehension among local Jewish congregations that our church might share the UCC's stance against Israel; thus, he also pledged to discuss our resolution with Rabbi Edward Boraz.

Several asked how we might further strengthen our connections and interaction with the Upper Valley's Jewish community. Some suggested musical events and congregational exchanges, in addition to continued conversation around peacemaking and reconciliation. Considering the possibility of statements in the *Valley News* and other public forums, it was generally agreed that we should focus first on a discussion within the faith community before broader communication to the general public. It was also noted that our alternative witness would be conveyed on our website and social media.

FCC Outing Club at Farnum Hill



November Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	11/6, 11:15
<i>Christian Education</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Diaconate</i>	11/14, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	11/15, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	11/20, 11:15

December Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	12/4, 11:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	12/12, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	12/14, 6:30
<i>Board of Governors</i>	12/18, 11:15
<i>Church Council</i>	12/20, 7:00

CALVIN COOLIDGE, CONGREGATIONALIST.

Steve Silver delivers a presentation at the Congregational Library and Archives in Boston on November 1, on the only Congregationalist ever to serve as President. Coolidge, most famously remembered today as a taciturn advocate of limited government, was also a man of deep faith, with a strong commitment to racial equality. **Video of Steve's presentation will soon be available.**



LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT 2016

Sunday, November 27, 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 4, 5:15 pm—FCC Choir at La Salette

Our choir will sing a brief program for the Christmas Light Festival at the La Salette Shrine in Enfield.

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

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

Sunday, December 11, 7:30 pm—Elizabeth Borowsky and Bob Cafaro

Pianist Elizabeth Borowsky welcomes Bob Cafaro, cellist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Mr. Cafaro, who has written a book about living with multiple sclerosis, will share both his music and his experience.

Friday, December 16, 7:00 pm—Christmas with William Ögmundson

Former FCC music director Will Ögmundson celebrates the Advent season with a lively program of piano virtuosity. Will will surely offer us the gift of an audience-request medley!

Sunday, December 18, 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 18, 6:00 pm—Messiah Sing!

Organized by Jennifer Hansen and conducted by Jane Woods, this annual tradition features local soloists and chamber orchestra. All are welcome to join the chorus (scores available!) or simply to listen.

Saturday, December 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

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

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 am—CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 25, 5:00 pm—CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DINNER

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

congregation collaborate to prepare a meal for our Upper Valley neighbors, a new community comes together. For a short time we have a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven, where boundaries are overcome, distinctions set aside. It is not perfection. But I find it is a start.

We are now coming to the end of a bitter, divisive election season. There are far too many reasons to fear that the acrimony will remain with us long after the last vote is cast. It is in this environment that the church may offer its witness of healing, grace, and reconciliation—not by demanding that people listen, not by expecting that they will pay attention, but by modeling actions that show a different, better way, grounded in service and love and God's peace.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

ADVENT

Devotional Reflections

Advent begins November 27.

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.

Music in the Air

Report from the 215th Annual Meeting of the NH Conference, UCC

Linda Jacobs, NHC Delegate for FCC

Be the church. Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Forgive often. Reject racism. Fight for the powerless. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Embrace diversity. Enjoy this life. Love your God.

The 2016 Annual Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. after a hot breakfast. Following brief announcements and instructions, Rev. Richard Slater greeted all present and made introductions. There were 95 out of 105 churches represented by ministers, adult and youth delegates, as well as 51 visitors, a total of roughly four hundred attendees.

During a very enjoyable morning worship service, Rev. Brian Sirchio delivered the keynote address. An ordained UCC minister and a contemporary Christian singer/songwriter, Rev. Sirchio defies convention, creating original music in a variety of different styles and singing from the heart. Since the age of 17, he has been writing music that expresses and reflects on his own spiritual journey, life experiences, and love of his faith. He has traveled all over the world for the past 22 years with his ministry, *Crosswinds Music*, teaching, inspiring, entertaining, and spreading his faith. I cannot say enough good things about his keynote address, which included a lot of music for us to hear or sing. Here are the words to one song:

I want to open my heart a little wider,
Let the spirit in a little deeper,
Love with a love that is on fire,
And be fully alive.
Let there be peace among us [3x],
Let there be true peace, peace that flows from God.

Rev. Sirchio suggested that when we give a hug or give of ourselves, to be **in** it! He also said it should be the same with songs—he believes that churches have lost their songs, that we all need to have songs that touch us, not just ones that seem to go with the sermon.

I have always loved the worship service at annual meeting. As a Table Deacon, I was able to dedicate

the offering from our table and serve communion to each person, always a moving experience.

After the Pastoral Prayer we joined in “Celebrating the Church Triumphant.” Rev. Norman Dubie’s name was read with his birth and death dates, along with seven other ministers.

Rev. Gary Schulte next spoke on the State of the Conference. He reported that the Conference needs to be supported financially much better than it has been. Several positions have been cut back in hours or cut entirely. He stated that God is at work in the conference and in our churches, encouraging us not to give up. Our hope is, “He is not here; He is risen.” Rev. Schulte reminded us to pay attention to all the ways we see the risen Christ, remembering that Christ wants us to fight against the injustices in this world.

Rev. Mollie Landers-Hatt gave a report on the State of Outdoor Ministries. There was a 20% increase in campers in 2016, along with 21 more deans and counselors. There was or will be a new Arts on the Mountain session, a fantastic family camp and confirmation retreat. In 2017 there will be another family camp during the week of July 4, a clergy Sabbath day in June, an adventure sampler camp, and an archery camp. The Horton Center is open to anyone from anywhere; 30 campers came from Vermont this year. There is collaboration with the Maine conference, as well as “green and white unite” exchanges between Vermont and New Hampshire. The Horton Center does need help from UCC churches, in the form of the adopt-a-cabin initiative, work days, counselor and dean volunteers, scholarship support, and many capital needs on the list. There will be an open house on June 10 for more information.

Ann Desrochers reported on a National Youth Event in Orlando. There were just five youth Deacons at the conference; the conference would like all churches represented.

During lunch we all adjourned to the focus group of our choice. I attended the “Racial Justice Mission Group,” where we heard from Rev. Renee Rouse, a person of color and pastor of the Warner United Church of Christ. Rev. Rouse said several things that we all might take to heart:

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

- We should first admit that history books do not often tell the truth regarding bigotry, slavery, racism, etc.
- Calling someone *black* dehumanizes that person; *people of color* is a much better term.
- Some police truly do have racial bias, and we must face that fact.
- Even if we've never felt guilty of racism, we truly are even if we have stayed neutral, which consists of racism through ignorance.
- We must be active in the fight against racism, not just complain about it, in order to become part of the solution, not part of the problem. We must “wake up”—there is no more middle ground. Be an interrupter.
- All churches should have books in their libraries with children of color, dolls and toys that depict children of color, etc.
- This problem won't be solved in a day, a month, or even a year. It is the journey of a lifetime.
- Rev. Rouse suggests the documentary *The House We Live In* and the books *Waking Up White* and *Slavery and the Underground Railroad in New Hampshire*. (More resources are listed in the conference materials in the Parish Hall.)

Rev. Rouse told us a true story about two sisters from a racially mixed family at the grocery store. The “whiter” sister finished shopping first, paid with a check, and took her groceries to the car. When the “blacker” sister put her groceries on the

check-out counter and started writing a check, the cashier said, “Oh, we don't take checks here.” She went out to the car to get cash, whereupon her sister asked what was going on. She then went back into the store with her sister and said, “What do you mean you don't take checks here? You took my check, so why aren't you taking my sister's?” Surprised that the two were sisters, the cashier finally accepted the second check.

We returned to the main room for the afternoon business session. The first item of business was a series of “speakouts,” announcements of no more than three minutes each about local church events and relevant issues. These included performance notices, stewardship and mission appeals, news of ONA and transgender ministries, and advocacy for social and economic justice.

The next order of business was a vote on the spending plan, which passed close to unanimously. Douglas Hatfield and Deborah Knowlton then spoke about the need to form an exploratory committee for a capital fund campaign, which was approved by vote. We then voted in new officers and participated in their installation. The names of those celebrating ministerial anniversaries were read; I knew two, Louise Bastille (35 years) and Carol Atwood-Lyon (45 years).

The meeting adjourned with a benediction at 3:30.

Linda has left folders of conference materials in the Parish Hall for anyone who wishes to look at them.

Our thanks to Linda and Ike for representing FCC in this important way!

Give Thanks for Our New Church Directory!

At long last, we have been able to produce our new church directory. My apologies again for the many months of delay (!!!), and thanks to all for your patience. As of this writing, Lifetouch has received confirmation of the final proof, and we should be receiving our printed directories shortly after Thanksgiving.

Everyone listed in the directory—whether or not you're a full covenant member, and whether or not your photo is included—is entitled to a copy (one per household, please). The printed directories will be available in the Parish Hall.

From the Pastor
 There are many ways to follow a church's vision of theological engagement, including individual and corporate prayer, social justice, and community development. The congregation is encouraged to pray for the church's vision and to support the vision through prayer and action. The church's vision is to be a community of faith, hope, and love, and to be a source of blessing and healing for all people.

Our Ministry Team
 The Rev. Stephen R. Miller
 Pastor
 Rev. Stephen R. Miller
 Rev. Stephen R. Miller
 Rev. Stephen R. Miller

Mission, Service, and Community Engagement
 Photos of church members engaged in various activities, including a community meal, a service project, and a church event.

Directory Listing:
 A large grid of names and photos, organized by initials (E, F, H, K). Each entry includes a name and a small photo.

OUR LOCAL MISSION



2016 CROP Walk



5TH ANNUAL UVIP MICAH AWARDS

On October 30 in Claremont, over 200 people joined to celebrate “Micah Heroes” from the faith communities and service organizations that comprise the United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP). This festive annual event connects community leaders from across the region. Affirming the prophet Micah’s call to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God,” it recognizes the service and social engagement of the honorees and the institutions they represent. **Congratulations** again to Barb and Steve Teeter, who represented FCC with distinction and grace!



Christmas Gifts for Our Community

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

Look for collection information in the Parish Hall in mid-November or contact Barb Teeter (603-448-4529).



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music at the Meetinghouse

NOVEMBER AND ADVENT

In the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

Henry Danaher and Alexander Spivakovsky—Friday, November 18, at 7:00 pm

Our own Henry Danaher and violinist Alex Spivakovsky offer a lovely program of W. A. Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Pablo de Sarasate, Henryk Wieniawski, and more.

Classicopia: Vagabond Violin—Saturday, December 3, at 7:30 pm

Violinist Paul Chou joins pianist Dan Weiser for folk-influenced music by Bedrich Smetana, Manuel de Falla, Edvard Grieg, Fritz Kreisler, and George Gershwin.

Elizabeth Borowsky and Bob Cafaro—Sunday, December 11, at 7:30 pm

Pianist Elizabeth Borowsky welcomes Bob Cafaro, cellist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Mr. Cafaro, who has written a book about living with multiple sclerosis, will share both his music and his experience.

Christmas with William Ögmundson—Friday, December 16, at 7:00 pm

Former FCC music director Will Ögmundson helps us celebrate the season of Advent with a lively program of piano virtuosity. He will surely offer us a gift-wrapped audience-request medley!

Messiah Sing!—Sunday, December 18, at 6:00 pm

Organized by Jennifer Hansen and conducted by Jane Woods, this annual tradition features local soloists and chamber orchestra. All are welcome to come and listen, or even join the chorus (scores available!).

FCC Choir to Sing at La Salette Shrine

Our church choir has been invited by Father John Sullivan, Director of the La Salette Shrine in Enfield, to sing a brief concert as part of their month-long festival of Christmas lights. All are welcome to attend this seasonal ecumenical event!

For more on the La Salette Shrine and festival, visit www.lasaletteofenfield.org/events.html.



JAZZ COMBO ENRICHES WORSHIP. Henry Danaher, Jon Scott, and friends accompanied the choir and played at various points during church on October 16, offering us a new musical perspective on worship. We're grateful for these and many other excellent musical guests on Sundays!



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



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

NOVEMBER AND ADVENT

In the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

Henry Danaher and Alexander Spivakovsky—Friday, November 18, at 7:00 pm

Classicopia: Vagabond Violin—Saturday, December 3, at 7:30 pm

Elizabeth Borowsky and Bob Cafaro—Sunday, December 11, at 7:30 pm

Christmas with William Ögmundson—Friday, December 16, at 7:00 pm

Messiah Sing!—Sunday, December 18, at 6:00 pm



Ecumenical
Thanksgiving
Service

Monday,
November 21,
7:00 pm

West Lebanon
Congregational Church

Stewardship 2017

Sing to the Lord:
Worship, Giving, Service

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 20

Please consider your commitment to FCC's mission and ministry, and join us as we dedicate our pledges this month.