



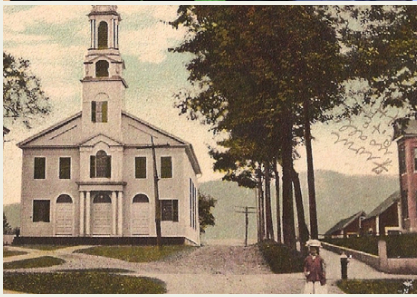
Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

1768 • CELEBRATING 250 YEARS • 2018

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Celebrating 250 Years6-7



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The Pastoral Perspective

This year, World Communion Sunday falls on October 7. Though it's not an official feast or celebration of the church like Christmas or Michaelmas or Trinity Sunday, this day has taken on great significance in the mainline Protestant church. Hymns are selected, sermons crafted, the unity of the world-wide church lifted up as the Lord's Supper is offered in congregations around the world.

It's a nice idea—but is it missing the point? Shouldn't we celebrate World Communion Sunday every week, or at the least, if the Eucharist is shared monthly, at least twelve times a year? The obvious answer to that question is “yes.” We should be celebrating and, more importantly, striving to make real the wholeness of the Christian church all the time. But we don't.

All too often, we prefer to exalt our particularities of worship or theology, to declare that *we* are right and, well, sorry, but *they* are not. Yet when did Jesus ever call us to be particularist in our thinking or praxis? In English, when did Jesus ever give his blessing to denominationalism? Yet going our own way is a recurring motif of Christian history. Most of us are familiar with the Great Schism between Rome and Constantinople, West and East, that rent the church in 1054, and with the splintering that began with the Reformation 501 years ago. And we're still at it. Frankly, we ought to be observing Christian Disunion Sunday.

One of the things I like about the United Church of Christ is that it was born out of a belief that a common commitment to Jesus Christ mattered more than one's preferred form of worship or ecclesiology. The church's hope, in the words of John, “that they may all be one,” which serves as our denomination's official motto, is a testament of a worshiping people who, at least for a moment, got “it.” In the years since the denomination was formed, the theological emphasis has shifted in a different direction and the UCC has gone off on its own “right” way. But the impetus that motivated the Congregational

Continued on Page 5

SUNDAY SERVICE

Kate Semple Barta to Lead Conversation on Immigrant Needs

Sunday, October 14, Following Worship

All are invited to join a coffee-hour conversation on immigrant needs with Kate Semple Barta, Director of the Welcoming All Nationalities Network (WANN) of the Upper Valley, which provides legal help to NH and VT residents in humanitarian immigration cases. An experienced immigration attorney for over two decades, Kate has coordinated WANN's work since 2011, after she helped to complete a United Way-funded assessment of the needs of foreign-born individuals in the Upper Valley.

Kate will help us understand who our immigrant neighbors are and what they need, as we follow our congregational commitment to support the NH Immigrant Solidarity Network. Please join us after worship on October 14!

Community Dinner

Sunday, October 28, at 5:00 pm

Leaders: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thanks to the **Christian Education Committee** for organizing this month's dinner! As we provide this vital service to our neighbors, please consider lending a hand—particularly if you haven't before!

Look for sign-ups in the Parish Hall.

* * *

Leaders Needed for November!

We are still looking for a volunteer to organize the November 25 dinner. Please consider serving in this important role, and contact the church office if you're interested. Thanks!

Queued for Coffee Hour

October—Mission and Social Action

November—Women of the Church

December—Board of Governors

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

Neighbors in Need

UCC Special Mission Offering

NEIGHBORS IN NEED supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of this offering funds local initiatives, advocacy, and direct service. The rest funds the UCC Council for American Indian Ministries, continuing a tradition of support for Native American populations. This year's program focuses on a simple, fundamental imperative to "Love Your Neighbor."

Please contribute as generously as you can, either on October 21 or at www.ucc.org/nin.

Guest Preacher: Randall Balmer

Sunday, November 4

Next month we welcome prize-winning author and historian Prof. Randall Balmer to FCC as our guest preacher. As both a priest and a distinguished scholar of American religion, Randy is uniquely suited to help us celebrate our 250th anniversary.

Having earned his Ph.D. from Princeton, Randy taught for many years at Columbia, took visiting positions at numerous universities, and now holds the John Phillips Chair in Religion at Dartmouth. He has published widely in scholarly journals and the popular press, including op-ed pieces in papers ranging from the *New York Times* to our own *Valley News*. He has authored more than a dozen books, including *Redeemer: The Life of Jimmy Carter* and *God in the White House: How Faith Shaped the Presidency from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush*. His second book, *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: A Journey into the Evangelical Subculture in America*, was made into an award-winning, Emmy-nominated, three-part documentary for PBS. Randy has been an ordained Episcopal priest since 2006 and has served churches in Washington, DC, and Connecticut.

Please join us November 4 as we continue celebrating FCC's 250th Anniversary!

OCTOBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10a Worship and Church School <i>(Guest: Charles Buck)</i>	1 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Webelos) 7p Baroque String Ensemble	2 7p Boy Scouts/Cubs (AofL)	3 5:30p Cub Scout Pack Committee 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	4 2:30p WCBH After-school Group 7p Choir	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast
7 10a Worship and Church School (Communion) 11:15a MSA 12:30p CROP Walk <i>(Lunch at FCC Following)</i>	8 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Webelos) 7p Diaconate	9 7p Boy Scouts/Cubs (AofL)	10 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers 7:15p Christian Ed Committee	11 12:30p Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn (CoCM) 2:30p WCBH 6:15p Pastoral Relations <i>(etc.)</i> 7p Choir 7p Valley Improv	12 7:30p LOH ON LOCATION! Youssra El Hawary	13
14 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a K.S. Barta on Immigration	15 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Webelos) 7p Baroque String Ensemble	16 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/Troop Committee/Cubs (AofL)	17 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	18 2:30p WCBH After-school Group 7p Choir	19	20 8a-4p NHC-UCC Annual Conference (Concord) 7:30p Classicopia: Jewish Jazz 3
21 10a Worship and Church School <i>(Neighbors in Need Special Offering)</i> 12:30p Outing Club: Balch Hill	22 3p WCBH After-school Group 7p Baroque String Ensemble	23 7p Boy Scouts/Cubs (AofL)	24 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	25 10a-6p NH-WIC 2:30p WCBH After-school Group 7p Choir	26	27
28 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Bd of Govs 3p Micah Awards <i>(Claremont)</i> 5p Community Dinner	29 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Webelos) 7p Baroque String Ensemble	30 7p Boy Scouts/Cubs (AofL)	31 HALLOWEEN 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	1 2:30p WCBH After-school Group 7p Choir 7p Valley Improv	2 6-9p Leb Rec Dept Quilters	3 8a Men's Breakfast 10a-5p Leb Rec Dept Quilters

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

Reporting to Council for the **Board of Governors**, John Gilliatt noted the installation of lighting in the balcony stairwell; repair of a crack in the Parish Hall ceiling; trimming of bushes on the front lawn; and pruning of the apple tree at the parking lot entrance to improve visibility. John also supplied an updated list of pending projects at both church and parsonage, with cost estimates.

Brian Clancy updated Council on the **Cub Scouts'** needs for space and extra keys. Currently, there are three dens meeting, two simultaneously on Mondays and one during the Boy Scouts' Tuesday slot. This is the same schedule as last year, and the Cub Scouts have two keys for those dens, in addition to the Boy Scouts' two keys. There was general agreement that was enough keys for current needs. The Scouts have inquired about installing a lock-box outside, in which to keep their keys. Several opposed this idea, noting that it presents complications of security, supervision, maintenance, and fairness to other users. No one present supported the idea.

Corrine Erskine updated Council on **CROP Walk preparations**. Jim Oronte will be making his famed sausage soup, and Steve Silver will contact the Lebanon Diner for vegetarian soup.

Steve Silver received a document from **campaign consultant Bob Barr** with suggested approaches to congregational involvement. A possible alternative to a campaign visioning forum would be to post

sheets of easel paper in the Parish Hall, each labeled with a different campaign purpose, and invite the congregation at any time to place stickers on the purposes they most strongly support. Steve will distribute Bob's memo to Council and urged the primary campaign planning group to meet soon to determine which purposes should be on the sheets. He again emphasized the general feeling that our campaign can't simply be about acquiring new things—it's a chance to identify and fund the church we want to be, the mission we want to pursue.

Steve continued with his **pastor's report**, appreciating the success and great energy of Kick-off Sunday and thanking Marcia Corkins and volunteers for making it happen. He noted that Anniversary Sunday would feature guest preacher Peggy Bendroth from the Congregational Library, a special commemorative bulletin, and coffee-hour festivities hosted by the Diaconate. Several banners celebrating our 250th anniversary will be hung from light poles along South Park St, thanks to a donation from a member of the congregation.

Steve noted that in addition to his pastoral responsibilities and various **wider-church activities**, he continues his service as Moderator of the Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association until next spring. He intends to step down from the UCC's Historical Council, feeling that his energy might be better spent in other roles. He also asked whether there might be specific issues, such as BDS or Open & Affirming, on which the congregation wishes to focus.

Lastly, Pete Mason noted the need to replace the filter in the **basement dehumidifier**. Brian Clancy added that the unit seems to be leaking as well, although he has been unable to find someone who would be able to service it, given its age.

DIACONATE

Denise Moriearty opened the September Deacons' meeting with an anonymous devotional reading regarding healing. It was suggested that these **opening devotions** (or their sources) might be shared with prayer ministry.

Barb Teeter refreshed the current stock of cut bread, loaves, and juice for **communion**. Kathy Beckett has volunteered to provide bread each month as a ministry, while Phil Hammond will provide gluten-free rice cakes each month. The current approach to providing a gluten-free option has brought no complaints.

October Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	10/7, 11:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	10/8, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	10/10, 7:15
<i>Pastoral Relations</i>	10/11, 6:15
<i>Church Council</i>	10/16, 7:00
NHCUCC Annual Mtg	10/20
<i>Board of Governors</i>	10/28, 11:15

November Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	11/4, 11:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	11/12, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	11/14, 7:15
<i>Church Council</i>	11/20, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	11/25, 11:15

COMMITTEE NOTES

Would You Like to Participate in Worship?

The Diaconate and Rev. Steve Silver invite greater lay participation in our worship service. Congregation members already sing in our choir and serve as greeters, ushers, and liturgists. Additional possible roles for lay leadership include reading prayers of invocation or dedication, sharing stewardship messages, or even leading children's moments.

No experience or training is required for this important service!

If you're interested in this opportunity to serve, please speak with a deacon or Rev. Silver, or just contact the church office.

The Deacons also discussed their plans for the special coffee hour on **Anniversary Sunday**, September 23. Indian pudding, sheet cake, fruit, and other options will lend a festive atmosphere for this commemoration. Peggy Bendroth, Executive Director of the Congregational Library, will preach. Steve Silver reviewed other planned anniversary observations, including other guest preachers and a visit in March by composer Paul Ayres, who will present a newly commissioned piece and lead a choral workshop.

Barb Teeter and Steve Silver gave an update from a recent meeting on the **Community and Parish Nurse** program. Services are being offered in Lebanon, where clients tend to be older and poorer than in

Hanover. The project is undergoing a reorganization that likely will broaden its board. FCC is expected to continue as a sponsor and have two representatives (currently Barb Teeter and Alyson Danyew-Ellison) on the Board.

Steve Silver asked whether any **new topics** should be given the level of close consideration we devoted to BDS and Open and Affirming. Continuing education around racism was suggested, for which Jon Scott has identified a potential facilitator. Another topic featured in recent news is the opioid crisis.

Steve Silver asked for comment on his use of the lavalier **microphone** during the Children's Moment. Using the clip was suggested because

of volume sensitivity, but that would preclude amplifying the children's comments. Steve will work on fine-tuning this. It was also suggested that liturgists be reminded to speak into the lectern microphone.

New deacons need some clarification regarding the **offering collection**.

The key principles are engagement of two people and securing the offering promptly after worship. It is the DOM's responsibility to find a helper and complete the process. Money should be deposited in the office to be retrieved later by the Church Administrator.

Fall was identified as a logical time for Deacons to send notes to those on their assigned **member lists**. Barb Teeter agreed to cover Susan Montmagny's list until a new deacon is selected. It was agreed that notes should be sent to non-attendees regardless of the distance of their current residence.

Several **recent visitors** have described our service and congregation as very welcoming. In addition to a follow-up letter, Sue Pratt has suggested a ministry that drops off baked goods to visitors. Pew literature aimed at visitors still needs updating.

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

Christian church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church to join together—a need to show the unity of Christians—remains as true today as it did sixty years ago and should not be forgotten.

We will not have a service commemorating World Communion Sunday this year, nor do I plan on one marking Christian Disunion Sunday. But I do hope and pray that we'll think of the wider Christian church the first Sunday of October, and on all the days that follow, and work to make it come to be.

Yours faithfully,



OUR 250TH ANNIVERSARY

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LEBANON, N. H.

1768 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ORGANIZED, CONSISTING OF SIX MEMBERS, SEPTEMBER 27.

1772 ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT, CONFESSION OF FAITH, AND COVENANT, ADOPTED JUNE 24.

1772 REV. ISAIAH POTTER CALLED AS MINISTER JULY 6.

1825 FIRST SABBATH SCHOOL ORGANIZED.

1828 THE FRAME OF THIS BUILDING ERECTED APRIL 24.

1828 THIS CHURCH WAS DEDICATED AUGUST 13. TOTAL COST, INCLUDING LAND, \$3,162.00. ARCHITECT, AMMI B. YOUNG OF LEBANON. THE SQUARE BALCONY WAS THE FIRST OF THIS DESIGN.

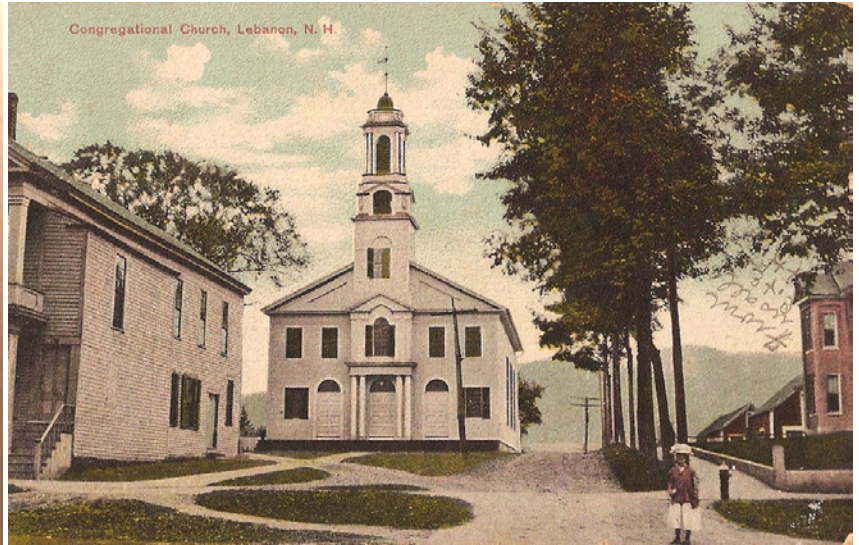
1828 VOTED TO SETTLE A MINISTER IN THIS CHURCH DECEMBER 10.

1871 THE BOX PEWS WERE REPLACED BY THE PRESENT PEWS.

1881 PRESENT BELL GIVEN BY COL. B. L. KENDRICK NOVEMBER 19.

1886 THE FIRST PIPE ORGAN GIVEN BY WILLIAM S. ELA.

IN MEMORY OF
JANET M. MOORE
1912-1972



VIEWS from ca. 1890 (*top*), ca. 1910 (*middle*), and 1928 (*right*), the last taken when our meetinghouse was *only* a century old.



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Celebrating
250 Years

1768-2018

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS. On Anniversary Sunday (September 23), we welcomed guest preacher Peggy Bendroth from the Congregational Library, who examined the spiritual value of the practice of telling stories. A festive coffee hour (*next page*) featured period-inspired food such as Indian Pudding, Gloria and Phil Hammond in historical dress, and the return of old friends—Kathy and Warren Belding, Laura Place, Closey Dickey, and others.

OUR 250TH ANNIVERSARY



REMEMBERING GINEE HOUGH. *Worshipping with us in September, Sarah Hough Rockett (left, with Barb Jones) was delighted to see our Sanctuary, which was restored and painted largely because of a bequest by her aunt Virginia Hough in 2015.*

FCC's 2018 Micah Honorees are Linda and Ike Jacobs

We join in congratulating Linda and Ike Jacobs, who were selected by vote of the congregation to be our UVIP Micah Honorees for this year. We can be proud of the many individuals among our congregation to whom this honor might just as easily have been given—in fact, eleven others received votes this year. Our church offers ample witness to Micah's exhortation to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly" with our God.



UVIP Micah Awards Ceremony—Sunday, October 28, 2:00 pm, Claremont, NH

Linda and Ike will be recognized with UVIP's other honorees at an event on October 28 at the Claremont Senior Center (5 Acer Heights Road, Claremont). This annual event offers UVIP member groups, along with supportive businesses and non-profits, a chance to connect and build support for community engagement. FCC has a limited number of tickets available for anyone who would like to attend—\$30 in advance, \$35 at the door (\$10 in either case for children 13 and under); proceeds support the vital work of UVIP. Assistance is available for anyone wishing to attend; please contact Steve Silver or the church office.

Dear All,

I wanted to write and share how welcome and comfortable I felt at your church. I honestly can't say I've ever felt this comfortable in a church before. People were very nice, but there was something more. The sermon was beautiful, yet simple enough for anyone to understand. I can't say it was because the subject was simple. It wasn't. The best way I can describe it is to say that I felt it was a message that is universal. One didn't need to be a Christian to sincerely accept the beautiful message. It's one thing to call on the bad others do to make a point; it's another to include ourselves and hold ourselves accountable, which I feel the sermon called on us to do.

I was also very much impressed that there was a portion of the sermon that was for the children. It's such a good way to cultivate community including the children.

Last, I loved the Mission and Social Action Committee. I was impressed that Pastor Stephen attends the meetings. It's such a good way for the church to work together to get things done.

I enjoyed coffee, chips, and guacamole, and I look forward to my cucumber that was shared from someone's farm.

We shall stay in touch!

All the best family,

Asma

Asma Elhuni, UVIP Lead Organizer



WORSHIP MUSIC IN SEPTEMBER. Flautist Leslie Stroud and saxophonist Mike Parker, beautifully complementing Henry Danaher, enriched our worship services last month.

OUR LOCAL AND NATIONAL MISSION

2018 Lebanon CROP Walk

Sunday, October 7

Walker Registration at 12:30, Colburn Park
Lunch Following at FCC

Begun in 1969 as a single walk in Bismarck, ND, the CROP Hunger Walk is now a national project run by Church World Service. Walks across the U. S. raise about \$9 million annually to combat food insecurity, and poverty worldwide.

YOU can help in one or more of these ways...

Walk!—Participate in the walk itself and get pledges and donations.

Serve!—FCC will again host a post-walk meal.

Donate!—Sponsor a walker or donate online.

Questions? Contact the church office or visit
www.cropwalk.org.



www.cropwalk.org

FCC Outing Club: Balch Hill

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

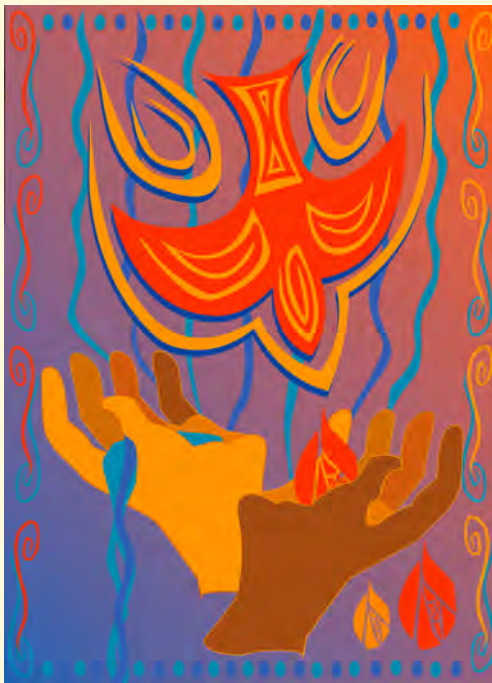
Meet at Trailhead Parking Lot at 12:30 pm

Plan to join this next adventure of FCC's Outing Club, led by our in-house park ranger, Ron Bailey! This expedition in Hanover offers a modest hike to the summit of Balch Hill, where we'll have a picnic lunch and enjoy views of the town and valley below.

Meet in Hanover at the trailhead on East Wheelock St (up the hill, where it meets Grasse and Trescott Rds). Bring a picnic lunch, water, and appropriate clothing.



All church members and friends are invited to share this experience of God's creation!



NHC-UCC ANNUAL MEETING 2018

This Is the Day of the Poured-Out Spirit

Saturday, October 20, 8:00 am–4:30 pm

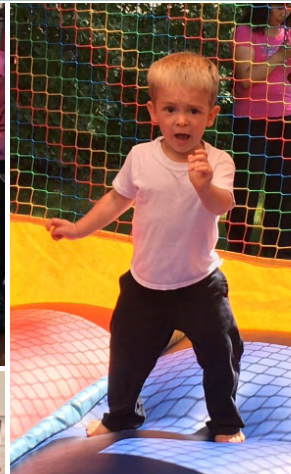
Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH

Online Registration Now Open

Be a part of the experience! All are welcome—lay and ordained church leaders, congregation members, friends, visitors, everyone!—to attend the 217th Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the UCC. The theme this year draws from Joel 2:28: “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.” The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray, Jr., president of Chicago Theological Seminary and an authority on systematic theology, African-American religion, and the intersection of religion, human rights, and politics. Conference participants will worship together, share communion and fellowship, and address the business of the NH Conference.

For further details and registration information, please visit the meeting page on the NH Conference website (www.nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2018-annual-meeting).

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



Kick-off Sunday!



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Upcoming Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

LOH ON LOCATION RETURNS TO FCC!

Youssra El Hawary

Friday, October 12, at 7:30 pm

Drawing inspiration from the revolutionary climate in her native Egypt, singer-songwriter Youssra El Hawary and her five-piece band have enjoyed great success with an eclectic blend of French *chanson*, indie rock, and jazz. They visit Lebanon on their debut U. S. tour. Continuing FCC's collaboration with Lebanon Opera House, this concert is also part of "Center Stage," a public diplomacy initiative of the U. S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. *Adults \$18.50, youth \$8.50; save \$5 with promo code EGYPT. Tickets and more at lebanonoperahouse.org/events/youssra-el-hawary/.*



Classicopia: Jewish Jazz 3—Saturday, October 20, at 7:30 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser and clarinetist Steve Loew return for another edition of this wildly popular concert, celebrating the exchange among Jewish culture, classical music, and jazz in the 20th century. They'll offer music of Benny Goodman, George Gershwin, Béla Kovács, Leonard Bernstein, and more. *Admission \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; tickets and more at classicopia.org/concert/jewish-jazz-3/.*

Classicopia: Spanish Serenade—Sunday, December 2, at 2:00 pm

Pianists Dan Weiser and Elizabeth Borowsky present a four-hand program with Spanish flair—though mostly by French composers, including Georges Bizet, Maurice Ravel, and Emmanuel Chabrier. *Admission \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; tickets and more at classicopia.org/concert/spanish-serenade/.*

Bel Canto Chamber Singers—Sat., December 8, 7:30 pm / Sun., December 9, 4:00 pm

Directed by Jane Woods and now in their 41st year, the Bel Canto Chamber Singers offer another well conceived program of choral music from a variety of periods, including seasonal selections. Come support FCC's "resident chorus" in December! *Program details TBA; more at www.belcantosingers.org.*

UVMC Messiah Sing!—Sunday, December 16, at 3:30 pm

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

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

**A Conversation on Immigration
with Kate Semple Barta**

Sunday, October 14
Following Worship

FCC Outing Club: Balch Hill

Sunday, October 21

Meet at Trailhead Lot at 12:30 pm
East Wheelock St at Grasse/Trescott Rds, Hanover



**Music
at the
Meetinghouse**

Upcoming Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

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Tickets and more at lebanonoperahouse.org/events/youssra-el-hawary/.

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