



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

Those familiar with the ways of the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches will know that their liturgical calendars are filled with feast days for the saints, those men and women recognized by the church universal for their faith and service to the Lord. Today, the majority of saints are unfamiliar to many Christians (especially we Protestants), but a few retain their fame: St. Nicholas of Myra, the inspiration for St. Nick or Santa Claus, patron saint of children; St. Patrick, the man who brought Christianity to Ireland; and, of course, St. Francis of Assisi, who inspired the current Pope's name and who has gained popularity and visibility in this time of heightened environmental awareness.

Each year, the Feast Day of St. Francis falls on October 4. At First Congregational Church of Lebanon, most years we've observed his day sometime in the spring to accommodate the CROP Walk, which by long-standing tradition is scheduled for the first Sunday in October. I think that this is okay—the meaning of the day and the saint, rather than the actual date, is what matters. Francis' love of nature, especially God's creatures, is appropriate to lift up at any time of year.

Care of the environment has become a hot topic in recent years, especially with our increased focus on the impact of climate change. Rollbacks in regulations governing clean air and water have reminded us that progress isn't guaranteed to be permanent. Those of us of a certain age remember when smog covered our cities and, to offer an especially egregious example, may recall when the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland actually caught fire. We thought this kind of environmental degradation was behind us but know that those days might return.

So what can we do? Is bringing our pets to church for a blessing enough? Or is it a panacea, a distraction from a larger problem? I think seeking God's blessing for the animals with whom we have chosen to share our lives is something that Christians ought to do. They, like we, deserve the invocation of God's favor. But we need to ask ourselves if we are doing enough to care for and love our pets or farm animals. What kind of environment, at home and the world at large, are we giving them?

We all remember the first chapters of Genesis with its majestic litany of God's work in fashioning the world. As Christians, we are obligated to

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SUNDAY SERVICE

2019 Lebanon CROP Walk

Sunday, October 6—Register 12:30/Walk 1:00
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. CROP Walks across the US raise about \$9 million annually to combat hunger, 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, and we need help!

Donate!—Sponsor a walker, or give online at www.cropwalk.org.



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

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

All are invited to join the fight against local poverty and food insecurity by leaving contributions in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall. FCC designates a different cart beneficiary each month.

During the month of October, we are collecting pet food and supplies on behalf of the

UPPER VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Many who struggle to provide for themselves can't afford to keep their beloved pets, whose friendship is vital in difficult times. UVHS seeks to address this need, and this month we can help.

Thanks for your generosity in fighting poverty and hunger in our community.

Queued for Coffee Hour

October—Mission and Social Action

November—Women of the Church

December—Board of Governors

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Neighbors in Need

UCC Special Mission Offering

NEIGHBORS IN NEED—inspired this year simply by our communal “Love of Children”—supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a range of local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. The rest goes to the Council for American Indian Ministries, continuing a long, proud tradition of support for Native American populations.

Please contribute as you are able, either on October 20 or at www.ucc.org/nin.

Community Dinner

Sunday, October 27, 5:00 pm

Leaders: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Many thanks to Nan Parsons and the Christian Education Program for organizing this month’s dinner! Please lend them a hand as needed, as we provide this vital service to our neighbors.

Look for sign-ups soon in the Parish Hall.

New Members to Be Received

Open House—Sunday, October 13, 11:15

New Members Received—Sunday, October 20

Have you found a welcoming, spiritually nourishing church home here? Would you like to get involved in our programs and ministries? If so, we invite you to join our faith community as a covenant member.

If you’d like to learn more about this invitation, please join Rev. Steve Silver and members of the Diaconate for an informal conversation in the Parlor after worship on October 13.

Questions? Please speak with Rev. Steve Silver or contact the church office.

OCTOBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10a Worship and Children's Program	30 5:30p Cub Scouts (Webelos/Girls)	1 7p Diaconate 7p BSA Troop 279	2 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	3 7p Choir 7p Valley Improv	4 7:30p Classicopia: Viennese Violin	5 8:30a BSA Leader Training 5p UVMC Cello Festival
6 10a Worship and Children's Program (Communion) 11:15a MSA 12:30p CROP Walk	7 5:30p Cub Scouts (Webelos/Girls)	8 7p BSA Troop 279	9 8a-4p NH-WIC 5:30p Cub Scout Pack Committee 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	10 7p Choir 7p Valley Improv	11 7:30p Anonymous Coffeehouse	12
13 10a Worship and Children's Program 11:15a New Members Open House 6:30p McKasson/McDonald/McLane	14 5:30p Cub Scouts (Webelos/Girls)	15 7p Church Council 7p BSA Troop 279/Committee	16 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	17 12:30p Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn (CoCM) 7p Choir 7p Valley Improv	18	19 8a-4p NHC-UCC Annual Mtg (Concord)
20 10a Worship (New Members) and Children's Program 7p LOH on Location: Veronica Swift	21	22 7p BSA Troop 279	23 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	24 10a-6p NH-WIC 7p Choir 7p Valley Improv	25 7:30p Anonymous Coffeehouse	26 2:30p UVMC Suzuki Pie Night
27 10a Worship and Children's Program 11:15a Bd of Govs 3p Micah Awards (Claremont) 5p Community Dinner	28 5:30p Cub Scouts (Webelos/Girls)	29 7p BSA Troop 279	30 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	31 HALLOWEEN 7p Choir 7p Valley Improv	1 6-9p Leb Rec Dept Quilters	2 9a-5p Leb Rec Dept Quilters
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If your event is missing or incorrect, please notify us at church@fccleb.org or 603-448-4281.

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

At Council last month Jon Scott expressed his appreciation for the September 16 vigil for immigrant rights, which UVIP organized on FCC's front lawn. All agreed that it was an important public gathering, and it reflected well on our church's willingness to engage with issues in the wider community.

Jon noted that he would have more to report on both **Stewardship** and **campaign planning** at the October Council meeting. **Treasurer** Terry Ellison reported that our income figures look good, while expenses are well under budgeted levels.

For the **Board of Governors**, John Gilliatt noted only minor repair of the front steps and sidewalk and continuing insulation plans. The planned altar railings should be installed sometime this fall.

Kathy Beckett reported **Mission and Social Action's** discussions of how to deepen our long relationship with Epilogos Charities and San Jose Villanueva, with a particular focus

on education as a way out of poverty. It's been suggested that our church school children can help build this relationship, in addition to direct appeals to the congregation.

Building on comments about the vigil, Kathy related MSA's response to immigrant-rights demonstrations in White River Junction, observing that disruption of daily routines may well be necessary to effect real social change. She also noted FCC's role in UVIP's efforts to support local immigrant families. We have helped financially, but we may be able to use the monthly shopping-cart collection to help these families directly, perhaps with a basket just for them. The cart drive has been fairly successful each month, and the long-established donation to Headrest might be added into the monthly rotation; many agreed that should be possible, as long as we're clear about what items the recovery facility needs. The MSA Committee will discuss these options.

Looking toward October, Kathy noted plans for our **CROP Walk**

October Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	10/1, 7:00
<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	10/6, 11:15
<i>Church Council</i>	10/15, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	10/27, 11:15

November Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	11/3, 11:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	11/5, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	11/19, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	11/24, 11:15

lunch on October 6. Shaw's will be donating some items, the Lebanon Diner will provide soup, and King Arthur Flour will donate bread.

Lastly, Kathy mentioned the **Micah Award** ceremony in Claremont on October 27. While several in our congregation plan to support Marcia Corkins at the event, some Council members shared reservations about ongoing responsibilities of choosing honorees and selling tickets.

For **Christian Education**, Nan Parsons noted a fun and successful Kick-off Sunday, thanking the many



NHC-UCC ANNUAL MEETING 2019

Step Up and Speak Out: From Complicity to Courage

Saturday, October 19, 8:00–4:30 / Online Registration Open

Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH

All are invited—lay and ordained church leaders, congregation members, friends, and visitors—to attend the 218th Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the UCC. This year's theme draws from an adaptation of Deuteronomy 31: "Be strong, bold, and courageous as you lead, for God goes with you." The keynote speaker will be the **Rev. Traci Blackmon**, the UCC's Assoc. Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries, a lifelong student and advocate of communal resistance to systemic injustice.

FCC will pay for up to four delegates to attend. Participants worship together, share communion and fellowship, and address the business of the NH Conference. For complete details, visit the meeting page on the Conference website (www.nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2019-annual-meeting).

COMMITTEE NOTES

volunteers who helped out. Nan described a new curriculum based on “Godly play,” and she intends to email families weekly updates about the Children’s Community Corner (the new name that kids have given to Church School). Nan hopes to reinforce ideas and build continuity from week to week, and welcomes more adult volunteers.

Brian Clancy noted a full **concert schedule** this fall, including a total of six Anonymous Coffeehouse dates. He has booked a November concert by the NH Master Chorale, featuring a new piece based on the words of disenfranchised social groups.

In his **pastor’s report**, Rev. Steve Silver appreciated the great energy of Kick-off Sunday and thanked all who helped. He is hopeful about the new children’s curriculum and also plans a new adult-education forum this fall, for which he seeks input about preferable times. He too appreciated the well-attended vigil for immigrant rights and the positive community impression it made on behalf of FCC.

Steve explained that for various reasons, no one from FCC was

able to attend the multi-church **Horton Center** retreat this month. Given our waning participation in recent years, he suggested that we thoughtfully reconsider this event before committing next year.

Steve also confirmed that a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training session will be led by the Lebanon Police at Hope Bible Fellowship in West Lebanon on October 3. He invited members of the congregation to attend with him, encouraging a reasonable level of preparation in this area. He repeated an intention to hold a **fire drill in worship** this fall, and there was a discussion about revisiting and updating our evacuation plan.

Lastly, Steve reported that the Rev. Jeff Scott plans to retire early next year as pastor of West Lebanon Congregational Church.

DIACONATE

After opening the Diaconate’s September meeting with prayer, Rev. Steve Silver introduced plans to preach this fall on less common passages (e.g., Romans). He invited

openness to new experiences and situations. Steve added that Nan Parsons, who has worked hard with Ashley Oronte to prepare for a new program year for Children’s Education, will share her thoughts at a future Diaconate meeting.

The church’s welcome brochure is in need of significant updating, and Steve hopes to share a draft at the October Diaconate meeting. An update of the church’s membership rolls has been pushed to the fall.

Steve further reported that Eliot Fay has transitioned to a chaplain role in Florida. With Diaconate input, Eliot has submitted the paperwork now required in his preparation for a call, and he ultimately plans to return to New Hampshire.

Adult Education Next Month!

Simply Christian

A November Book Discussion

This fall we will do a book study of *Simply Christian*, by acclaimed theologian, author, and retired Anglican bishop N. T. Wright. Over three or four Sundays next month, we’ll read and discuss this short yet powerful book, which many have compared to C. S.

Lewis’ *Mere Christianity*.

To offer this reading group, we need people to commit to it. If you’d like to join, RSVP to Rev. Steve Silver at revsrs@live.com by OCTOBER 25.

Dates and times TBD, depending on participants. Simply Christian is available in paperback for under \$9; FCC will help you buy it if needed.

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

recognize who has made the birds, bees, lizards, flowers, and so on: the Lord we know through Jesus Christ. While St. Francis might be embraced by the secular world because of his love of nature, he wasn’t motivated by a fuzzy devotion to Spaceship Earth; he was responding to the glory of the Creation that had been fashioned by an almighty and loving God. In short, being a faithful Christian requires that we be good stewards of the environment—because it’s not our world, but God’s. Happy St. Francis Day!

Yours faithfully, *Steve*

OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION

8th Annual UVIP Micah Awards Ceremony

Sunday, October 27, 2:00 pm, Claremont, NH

FCC's own **MARCIA CORKINS** will be recognized with all of this year's Micah Honorees on October 27 at the Claremont Senior Center. This event offers UVIP member groups, and supportive businesses and non-profits, a festive opportunity to connect and build support for community engagement. FCC has tickets available for anyone who'd like to attend—\$25 in advance or \$30 at the door (\$10 in either case for children); proceeds support the vital work of UVIP.

Assistance available; please contact Steve Silver or the church office.



VIGIL FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS. FCC hosted this lively community forum, organized by UVIP.

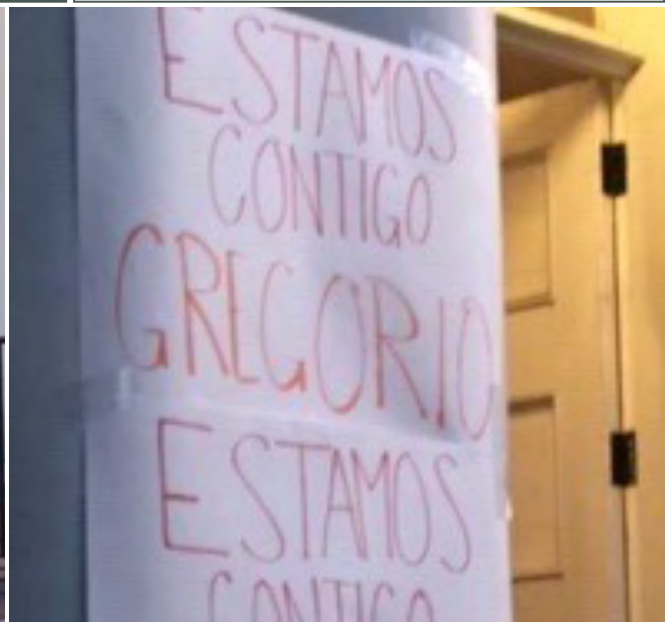
Useful Tools for Aging with Dignity

Thursdays, October 17, 24, and 31, 10:30-12:30

Black Community Center, Hanover

Do you have an advance directive? Have you appointed a medical power of attorney? Do you know where all of your important documents are located? Have you communicated this information to your family? If you answered “no” to any of these questions, then you might consider this three-week class led by certified trainers and highly recommended by our own Barb Jones and Sue Pratt! The cost is \$40; assistance is available from FCC (contact the church office).

Enrollment is limited! Register online at reg130.imperisoft.com/Dartmouth/ProgramDetail/3733383531/Registration.aspx.



THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



KICK-OFF SUNDAY!

Another great year of children's programming started up in festive fashion with the Blessing of the Backpacks, pizza lunch, and a bounce house and outdoor games. The newly named Children's Community Corner is up and running!

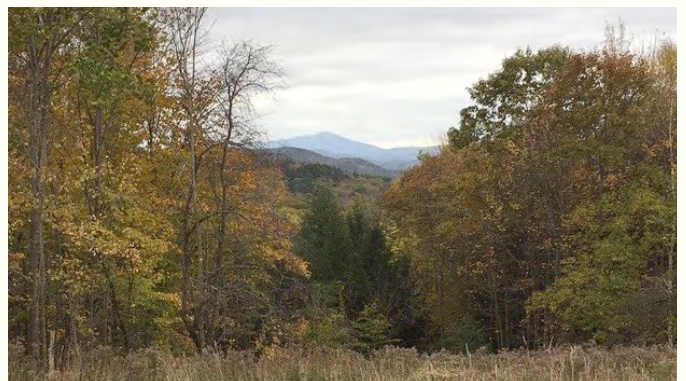


FCC Outing Club: Signal Hill

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 (RAIN DATE 10/20)
Meet at Signal Hill Trailhead at 12:30 pm

Plan to join this next adventure of FCC's Outing Club, led by our in-house park ranger, Ron Bailey! Our fall expedition on Signal Hill above Lebanon will follow a 1.5-mile loop on conservation land rich in local history. A moderate climb to a cleared summit offers great views west toward Vermont.

Meet at the trailhead on Stevens Rd (off Hardy Hill Rd).
Bring a picnic lunch, water, and appropriate clothing.



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

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

UPCOMING CONCERTS

at First Congregational Church

Classicopia: Viennese Violin—Friday, October 4, 7:30 pm

Violinist Roseminna Watson and pianist Daniel Weiser play a thrilling program inspired by the Austrian capital, with music of W. A. Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Johannes Brahms, Fritz Kreisler, and more.

Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; for more, visit classicopia.org/concert/viennese-violin/.

Upper Valley Music Center Cello Festival—Saturday, October 5, 5:00 pm

We are excited to welcome Sara Bennet-Wolfe's advanced Cello Choir from Connecticut for a performance of various modern tunes. UVMC's cello studio will join them for a few Suzuki standards and a piece from the Harry Potter movies. Free admission; for more, visit uvmusic.org/event/cello-festival.

The McKasson/McDonald/McLane Trio—Sunday, October 13, 6:30 pm

Upper Valley Music Center presents this innovative, eclectic, and highly entertaining folk trio, comprised of Ryan McKasson on fiddle, Eric McDonald on guitar and vocals, and Jeremiah McLane on accordion.

Adults \$20, under 18 free; for more, please visit uvmusic.org/event/mckasson-mcdonald-mclane-trio.

UVMC Faculty Concert: Ben Kulp and Jennifer Turbes—Saturday, November 9, 3:00 pm

Classicopia: Jazzical—Friday, November 15, 7:30 pm

NH Master Chorale: Voices of the Silenced—Friday, November 22, 7:30 pm

LOH ON LOCATION RETURNS! Infinitus—Thursday, November 7, at 7:00 pm

Our friends at Lebanon Opera House bring us this high-energy, beatboxing string trio from Vancouver, with its incomparable mix of classical repertoire, hip hop, and jazz. Performing both familiar masterworks and original compositions, these classically trained musician-educators have established themselves among North America's premier chamber ensembles. Their concert will culminate a four-day residency working with students and faculty at UVMC, who will collaborate on part of the program. Admission ranges from \$10-23; for tickets and more information, please visit lebanonoperahouse.org/events/infinitus/.

Back this fall...The ANONYMOUS COFFEEHOUSE—Oct. 11 and 25, Nov. 8 and 23, and Dec. 6, 7:30 pm

FCC is delighted to bring back this exciting venue for live, local music! Conceived as an informal "listening room" for established and emerging musicians, each show features several acoustic acts, and patrons may come and go as they please. Baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks available. And it's all free of charge, so please come and enjoy! For more information, please visit anoncoffee.org or email anoncoffeehouse@gmail.com.

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

Simply Christian

Fall Book Group—Contact Steve Silver

FCC Outing Club: Signal Hill

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 (RAIN DATE 10/20)
Meet at Signal Hill Trailhead at 12:30 pm

2019 CROP Walk

Sunday, October 6

Registration/Walk 12:30
Lunch Following at FCC

Walk! Serve! Donate!

Questions? Contact the church or www.cropwalk.org



**Music
at the
Meetinghouse**

UPCOMING CONCERTS

at First Congregational Church

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