



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020

“Being a Christian is not essentially about joining a church or being a nice person, but about following in the footsteps of Jesus, taking his teachings seriously, letting his Spirit take the lead in our lives, and in so doing helping to change the world from our nightmare into God’s dream.”

–Michael B. Curry

All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 5-8.

Call to Worship (*Unison*; Psalm 105:1-7)

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

Hymn 39 (*See below, p. 5*) *O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright* Puer Nobis Nascitur

Prayer of Invocation

Wondrous God, as you bring us together in and through your Holy Spirit, we lift up our praises, asking that you inspire our prayers and infuse all we do and offer with your grace, your love, and your power. Be with us during this time of worship, we pray, in the name of your Son. Amen.

Gloria (*Unison*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

During this time, we are not meeting in person. All are encouraged to stay in touch with one another by phone, email, or written cards. If you would like to organize a Zoom teleconference or telephone meeting, please be in touch with the Rev. Steve Silver (603-448-4281/silver@fccleb.org), and he’ll get you set up and ready to go.

Children's Moment

One of the recurring themes of the Bible is the need for people to repent. It doesn't matter if someone was a big deal, like King David, or just "one of the crowd," included among the people of Israel. All sinned against God and needed to make things right. People in Jesus' time were called to repent, too. That's not always easy to do. Who likes to admit he or she did something bad?

God knows this is not easy, but it is important for us to do, critical even. Because if we don't repent, if we don't admit we've done wrong, we can't start doing better. And that is what God really wants from us—to be his people, good and faithful and honest.

Hymn 540 (See below, p. 6) *We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed* New Beginnings

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 29:15-28. ¹⁵Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²²So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years." ²⁸Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52. ³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." [...]

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Sermon *“Bait and Switch” (See separate document)* Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 42 (See below, p. 7) *Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure* Winchester New

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

Note: As we hold our community members in prayer, please help us ensure that our weekly prayer list is current by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office with any changes.

On this day we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Jessica, Martha, Micah, Max, Joanne, Kelee, Tammy, Arlene, Ruth, Ryle, Emily, John, Shirley, Dan, Roger, Evelyn, Jim, Beth, Susan, Barbara, Max, Greg, Terry, Larry, Bryan, Pat, Chris, Edith, and Jon.

We pray for all those struggling with financial challenges, reduced hours and unemployment, and fears about the future.

We pray for the healthcare workers and first responders who are on the front line dealing with this pandemic.

We pray for reconciliation in this time of racial tension.

We pray for wisdom and humility from all our leaders.

Today we offer the following prayer:

God of the patriarchs and matriarchs, through times of turmoil and change, you have been with us. When life has been chaotic, when we have been in danger of losing our way, you have been with us. Through trials and tribulations, you have been with us. So, too, you have been with us during the triumphs and joys of our lives, never leaving us. Though we may not always recognize your steadfast presence, we give thanks to you for being there with each and with all of us, for accompanying us through our lives.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering of Gifts

Doxology (*Unison*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (*Unison*)

Generous Creator, in Jesus you showed us that to lead, we must follow; that to receive, we must give; that to know you, we must love others. In this knowledge, we present this morning's offering to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 6 (*See below, p. 8*) *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above* Lyons

Benediction

My friends, life is short. We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

Now go forth with the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Joys, Concerns, and Prayer Requests

If you wish to have a **joy, concern, or prayer request** lifted up in the service, or if you know of anyone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email prayer@fcclcb.org, or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.

Outdoor Service Planned for Sunday, August 9 (*Rain Date 8/16*)

In two weeks we hope to worship together on FCC's front lawn. We ask for your understanding as we consider what it means to resume worship in person—safety measures, changes in liturgical practice, singing and communal prayer, etc. Those attending will have to RSVP in advance and follow requirements such as health and symptom screening, physical distancing, and mask use. We will not have coffee hour following the service. **Full details will be forthcoming, but please contact the church office or Rev. Steve Silver** (silver@fcclcb.org) with any questions.

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

First Tune

Latin: *Splendor paternae gloriae*
 St. Ambrose, 340-397
 Tr. Robert S. Bridges, 1844-1930

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.
 Adapted by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

1 O Splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, O thou that
 2 O thou true Sun, on us thy glance Let fall in
 3 The Fa - ther, too, our prayers im - plore, Fa - ther of
 4 To guide what - e'er we no - bly do, With love all

bring - est light from light, O Light of light, light's liv - ing
 roy - al ra - di - ance; The Spir - it's sanc - ti - fy - ing
 glo - ry ev - er - more, The Fa - ther of all grace and
 en - vy to sub - due; To make ill - for - tune turn to

spring, O Day, all days il - lu - min - ing,
 beam Up - on our earth - ly sen - ses stream.
 might, To ban - ish sin from our de - light:
 fair, And give us grace our wrongs to bear. A - men.

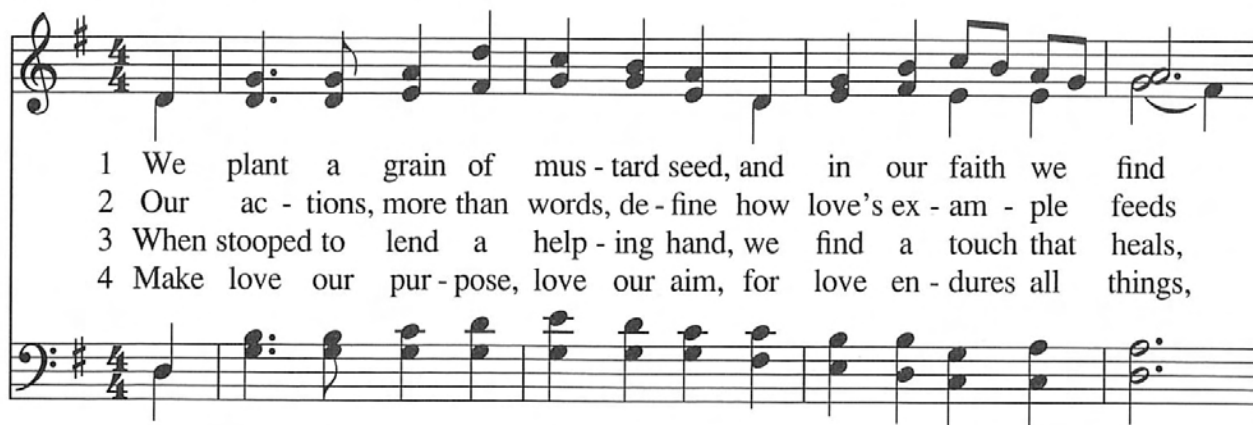
PLYMOUTH'S PILGRIMS: THEIR CHURCH, THEIR WORLD, AND OURS

Four-week Class on Zoom—Tuesdays, July 28–August 18, at 7:00 pm (RSVP by 7/20)

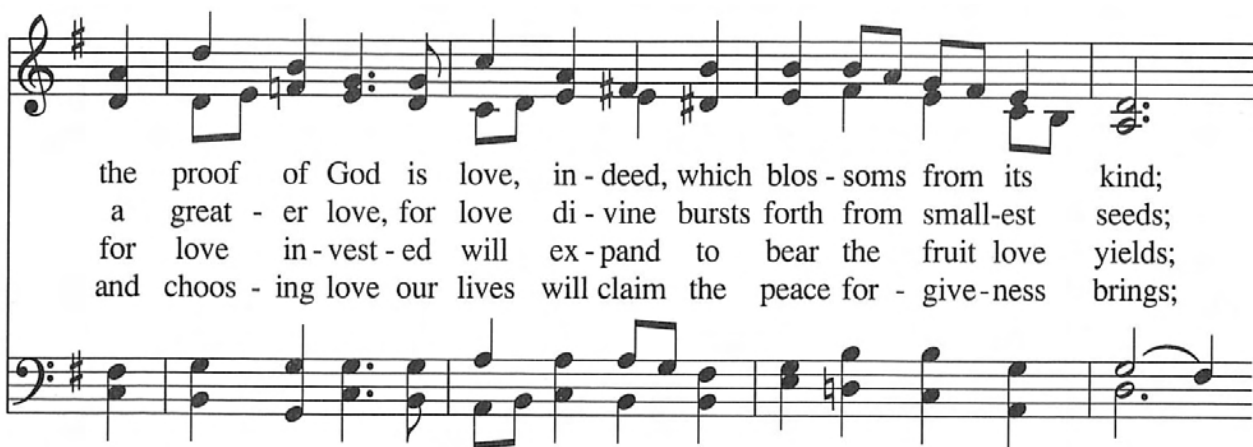
Join us for an exploration of the Pilgrims on the 400th anniversary of their arrival in America, using a Congregational Library curriculum created for the occasion. This is a great opportunity to learn about our forebears in faith, what they actually believed and did, whom they met upon arriving in the New World, and how their experience impacts us today. Readings and other materials will be provided, and each session will offer a lively discussion. *There is no cost to participate and all materials are free. Questions/RSVP to Rev. Steve Silver at silver@fcclcb.org.*

Matt. 13:31–32; Mark 4:30–32; Luke 13:18–19;
John 13:34–35; 15:12–17

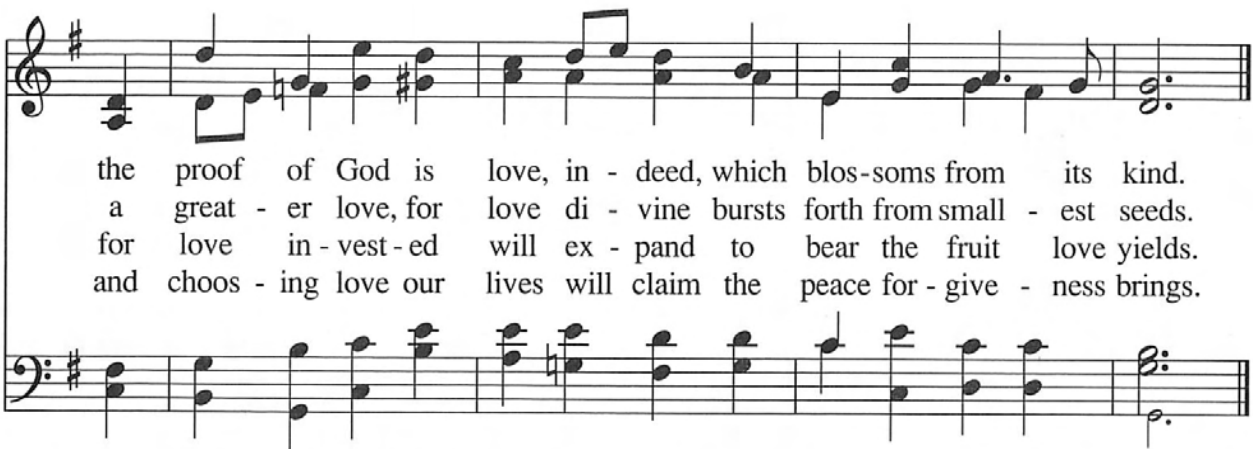
Mary Bryan Matney, 1990



1 We plant a grain of mus - tard seed, and in our faith we find
2 Our ac - tions, more than words, de - fine how love's ex - am - ple feeds
3 When stooped to lend a help - ing hand, we find a touch that heals,
4 Make love our pur - pose, love our aim, for love en - dures all things,



the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind;
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds;
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields;
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings;



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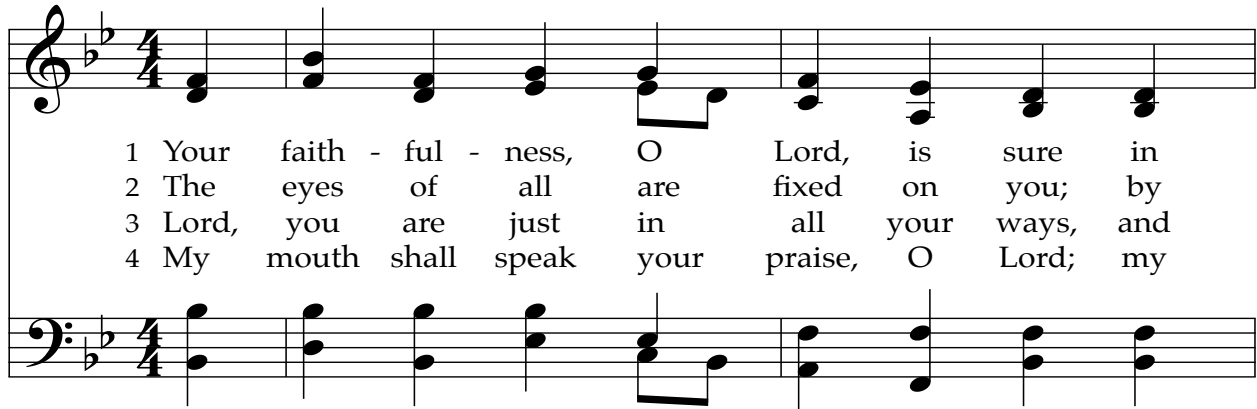
Mary Bryan Matney and Sally Ann Morris wrote this hymn in 1990 for the marriage of friends. In 1992, it won first prize in its category in a hymnwriting competition sponsored by the Charlotte, North Carolina, chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Tune: NEW BEGINNINGS 8.6.8.6.8.6.
Sally Ann Morris, 1990

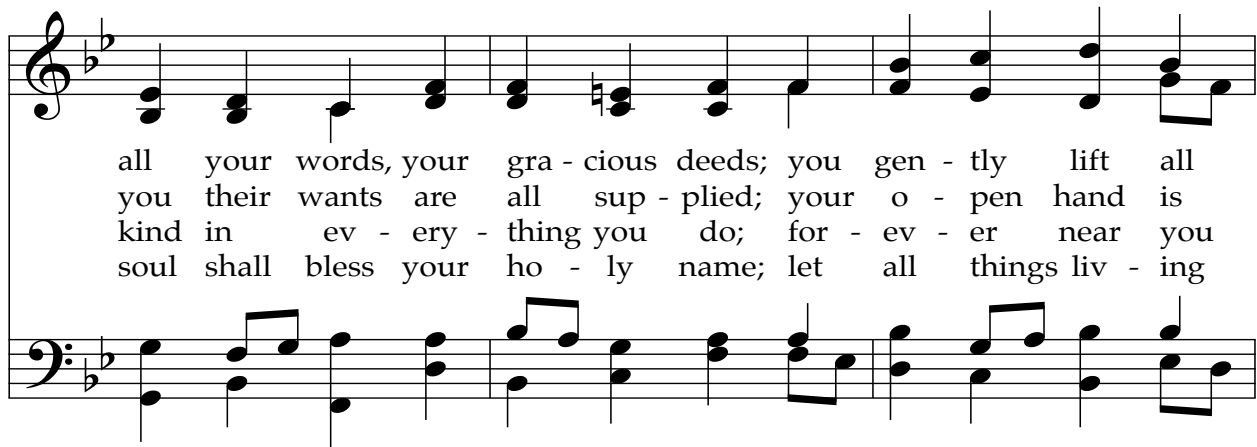
Please note that on-site, indoor worship services and other events remain suspended at FCC through at least Sunday, September 6, as we maintain caution amid COVID-19 concerns.

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure 42

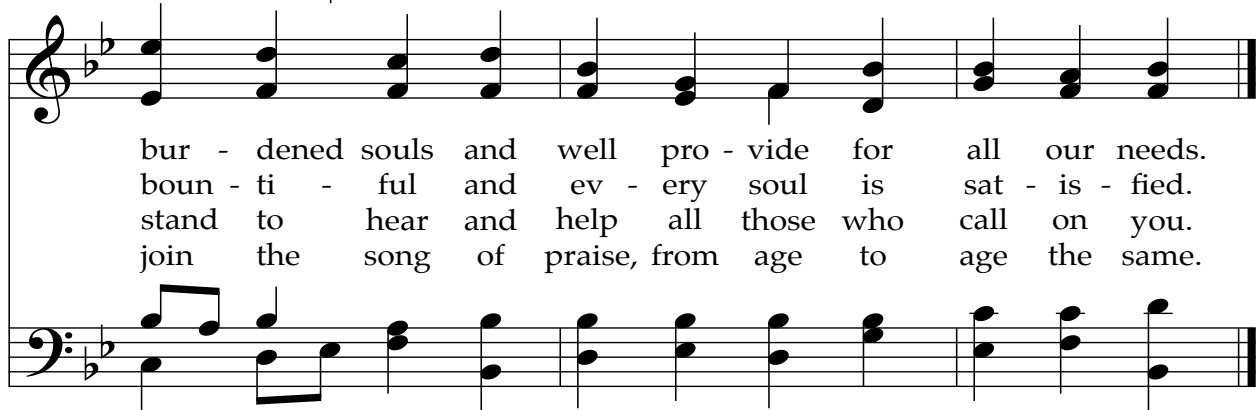
(Psalm 145)



1 Your faith - ful - ness, O Lord, is sure in
2 The eyes of all are fixed on you; by
3 Lord, you are just in all your ways, and
4 My mouth shall speak your praise, O Lord; my



all your words, your gra - cious deeds; you gen - tly lift all
you their wants are all sup - plied; your o - pen hand is
kind in ev - ery - thing you do; for - ev - er near you
soul shall bless your ho - ly name; let all things liv - ing



bur - dened souls and well pro - vide for all our needs.
boun - ti - ful and ev - ery soul is sat - is - fied.
stand to hear and help all those who call on you.
join the song of praise, from age to age the same.

This paraphrase of verses from the latter part of Psalm 145 celebrates God's providential care for all creation, especially for those in any need or trouble. This anonymous German tune was apparently introduced to English hymnody by John Wesley in a 1742 music collection.

TEXT: Joy F. Patterson, 1989

MUSIC: *Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847, alt.
Text © 1990 Joy F. Patterson

WINCHESTER NEW
LM

Uncovering Racism—A Racial-Justice Reading Group in August (TBD)

We believe that as Christians, we are called to work for racial justice. To help us better do this work, we will read *Uncovering Racism*, by Kathryn Goering Reid and Stephen Breck Reid. This short but powerful book, written from a faith perspective, will help us see how racism persists as an issue we must grapple with. *All are invited to participate! Books provided free of charge, but reservations are required in advance. Please email Rev. Steve Silver (silver@fcclcb.org) with questions or to RSVP.*

○ Worship the King, All Glorious Above

6

Based on Psalm 104

Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.

LYONS 10.10.11.11.

Arr. from J. Michael Haydn ?, 1737-1806

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove,
2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
4 Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love;
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old,
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

Our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
Hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
Thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,

Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
Our Ma - ker, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend! A - men.



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

PO Box 230
10 South Park St
Lebanon NH 03766

Weekly Worship Resources Enclosed!

DATED MATERIAL—Please Deliver Promptly

Do you use email? Contact church@fccleb.org to receive this and other communication by email.

Welcome!

We are a Christ-centered community that celebrates the love of God. Although we are of varied minds, with varying measures of belief and unbelief, we are one body, bound together in Christ. We recognize the uniqueness of every individual as God's beloved child. We seek to respond faithfully to God's call for justice for all creation. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance. We seek to create a sanctuary where all will know they are welcome and included.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, race or ethnicity, physical or mental ability, or economic circumstance, you are invited into the full life and ministry of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, including its worship, sacraments, and rites.

Join us as we grow together in God's love.

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Susan Sorensen, Interim Organist and Choir Director • Nancy Parsons, Church School Superintendent

Barbara Teeter, Chair of Deacons • Linda Jacobs, Chair of Church Council • Barbara Jones, Moderator

Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed)

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