



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”

–Albert Einstein

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

Prelude

“Rêverie,” from *24 Pièces en style libre*, op. 31

L. Vierne

Call to Worship (*Unison*; Psalm 111:1-4,9-10)

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful. He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

Hymn 16 (p. 5)

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise My Soul

Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in places near and far today, we welcome your Spirit as it joins us together as one people. Lift up our worship, inspire our prayers, infuse them with your grace, your love, your power. We pray these things in your Son's name. 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

While we are not meeting in person, all are encouraged to stay in touch with one another by phone, email, or written cards. If you wish to organize a Zoom conference or phone meeting, please contact the Rev. Steve Silver (603-448-4281/silver@fccleeb.org), and he'll get you set up and ready to go.

Children's Moment

Today you kids met in the Children's Community Corner, with Nan. I hope you found your time together to be not only a blessing but a reminder of what it's like to see people at church. I miss seeing all of you during worship. I miss sitting with you when you all come forward for the children's moment. And I miss your unbridled enthusiasm when you head out to the 3Cs! These images should not only remind us of the past but serve as a promise for the future when, with God's help, we'll all get together in person again.

Hymn 83 (p. 6) *If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee*

Neumark

Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 18:15-20. ¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Mark 1:21-28. ²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon "On Good Authority"

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 80 (p. 7) *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (vv. 1-6)

St. Columba

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing, as what seems public for you may be private for others. Help us keep our weekly prayer list current by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office to confirm or remove names on the list.

On this day we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Ruth, Evelyn, Jim, Barbara, Greg, Jon, Larry, Edith, Jan, Ike, and Eileen.

We pray for all those fighting the coronavirus or other illnesses, whether of mind, body, or spirit.

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

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

Today, we also offer the following prayer:

God of miracles, large and small: we read in Scripture of mighty acts and wondrous deeds that amazed the people in Biblical times and, frankly, surprise us, too. Instill in us a sense of faith and wonder, that we might appreciate the things you do. Give us the faith to accept your actions, even when they are beyond our understanding or explanation. Inspire in us gratitude for all you do, whether a miracle or not.

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

Remembering those who are without, who are in need, who are often ignored, we invite your support of our ongoing ministry in and for the community. Please mail in your offering as you are able.

Offertory

I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ, BWV 639

J. S. Bach

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)

God, you have trusted us with your Gospel, believing in our ability to share the good news of your love through our words and deeds. Accept this offering as a sign of our commitment to do the work you have charged us to do. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 796 (p. 8)

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

Land of Rest

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 communion of the Holy Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Postlude

Finale, from *Organ Sonata No. 6*, op. 65

F. Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) published his six organ sonatas in 1845, two years before his early death. They were the first significant compositions for organ since the death of J. S. Bach, in 1750.

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Dawn Troutman, Liturgist

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@fccleb.org, or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, February 14 (on Zoom)

The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held online in Zoom format on **Sunday, February 14, 2021**, following the worship service, for these purposes:

1. To hear the reports of all officers, committees, and organizations, as required under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
2. The election of all officers provided for under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
Proposal: Due to the unusual circumstances of the past year caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, circumstances which will persist into this year, Church Council proposes that all current officers and committee memberships continue unchanged for 2021, except in specific individual circumstances as needed. The proposal will be offered for a congregational vote, in lieu of the election of a full slate of new nominations, at the Annual Meeting.
3. To consider and act upon any other matters relating to the general church welfare that may properly come before this meeting.

THE SOUPER BOWL IS BACK!

If the NFL can play football without fans, FCC can collect canned goods without in-person services! We are once again tackling local hunger with a collection of soup and other non-perishable items, to be split among the UV Haven, Headrest, and Listen Community Services.

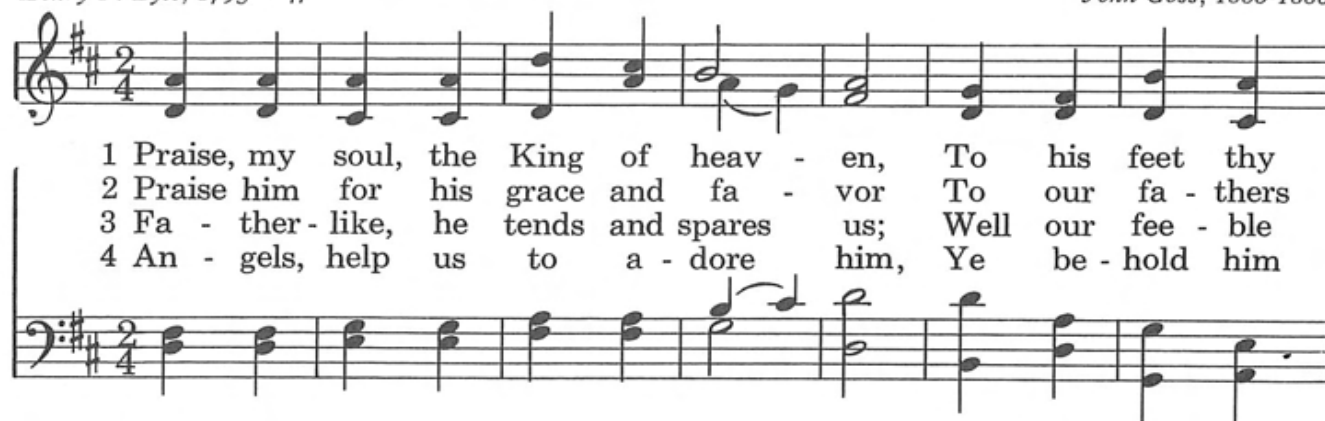
Donations may be brought to the church office until February 10. You may also bring them directly to any of the three beneficiaries (please let us know if you do so). THANK YOU!!

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

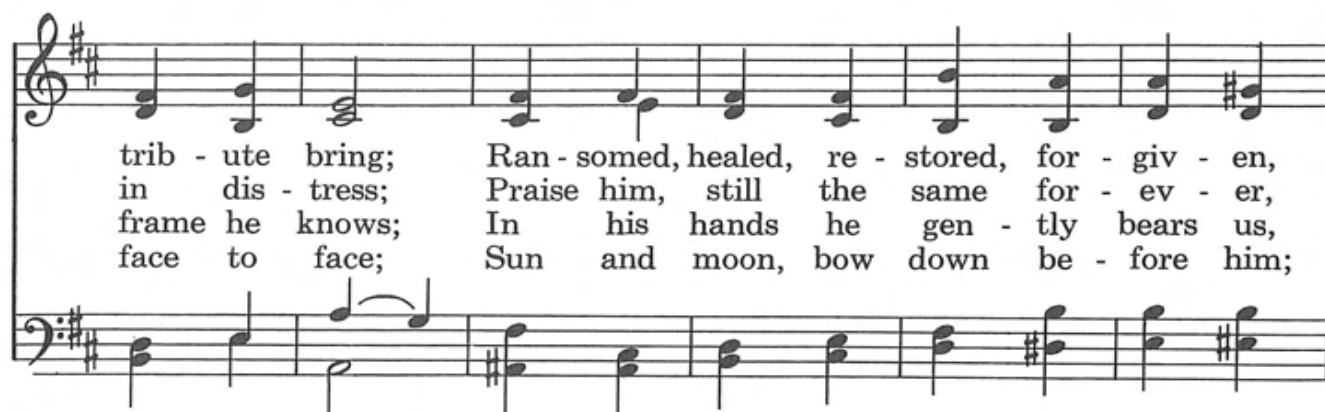
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Based on Psalm 103
Henry F. Lyle, 1793-1847

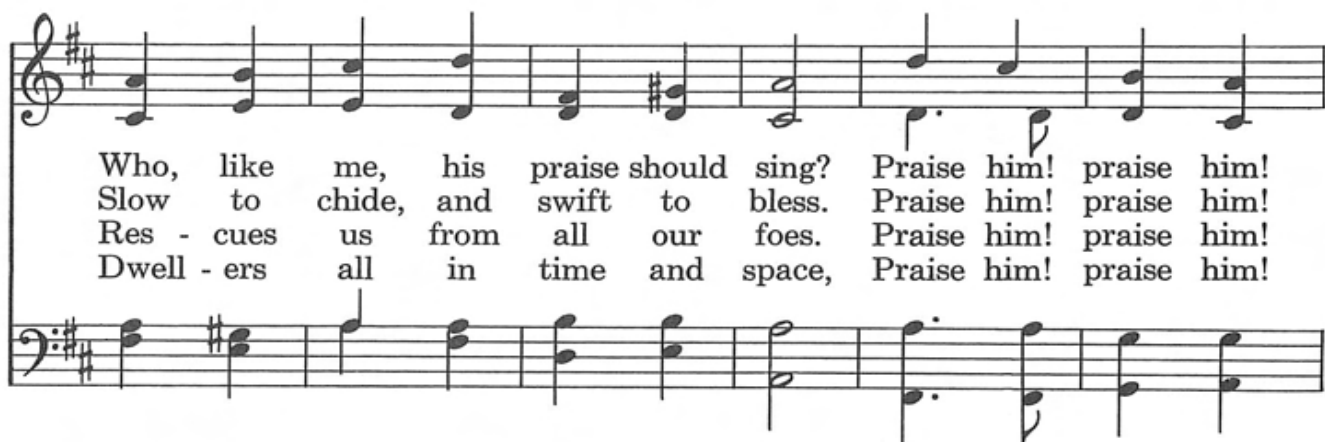
PRAISE MY SOUL 8.7.8.7.8.7.
John Goss, 1800-1880



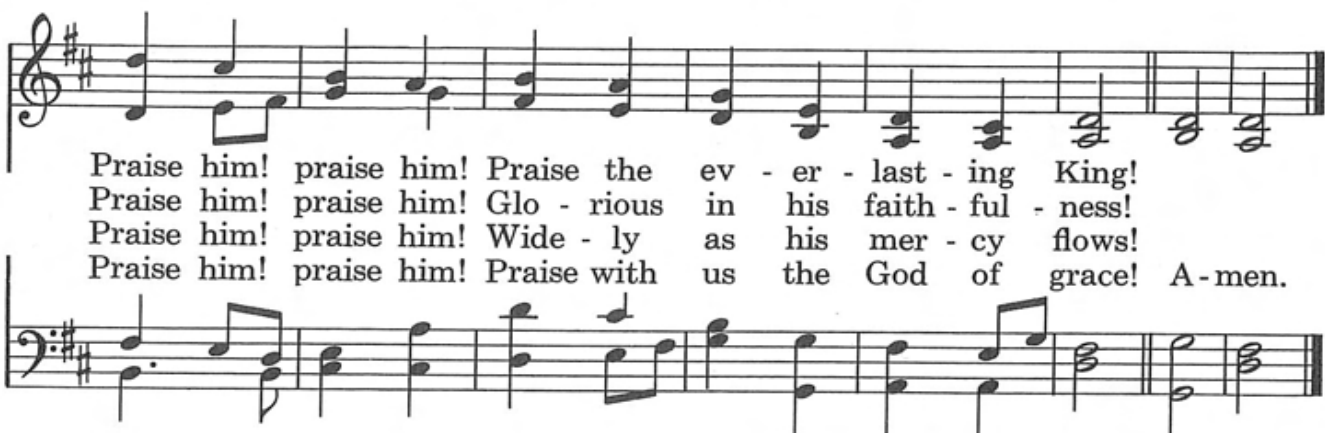
1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, To his feet thy
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor To our fa - thers
3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, Ye be - hold him



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,
frame he knows; In his hands he gen - tly bears us,
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;



Who, like me, his praise should sing? Praise him! praise him!
Slow to chide, and swift to bless. Praise him! praise him!
Res - cues us from all our foes. Praise him! praise him!
Dwell - ers all in time and space, Praise him! praise him!



Praise him! praise him! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Praise him! praise him! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Praise him! praise him! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!
Praise him! praise him! Praise with us the God of grace! A - men.

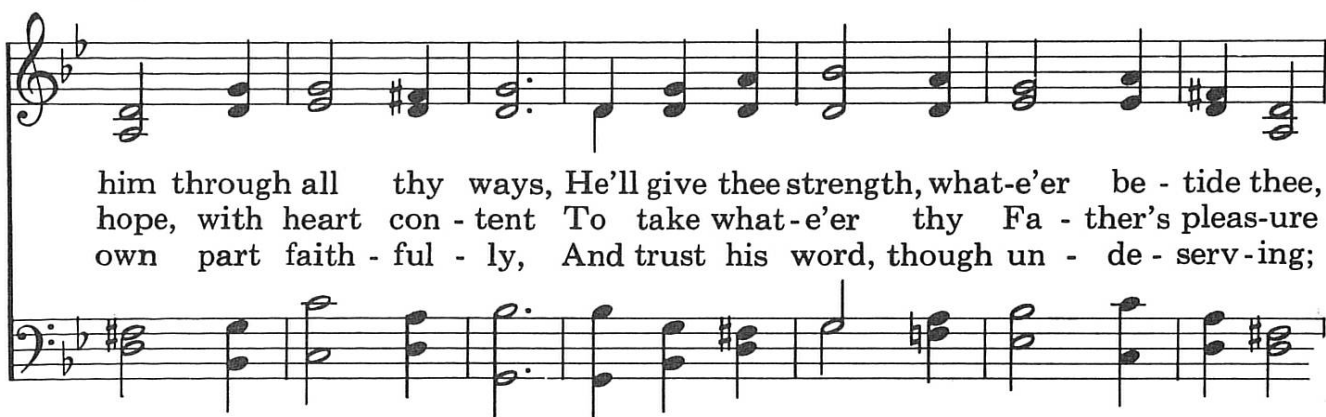
If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

Georg Neumark, 1621-1681
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

NEUMARK 9.8.9.8.8.8.
Melody by Georg Neumark, 1621-1681



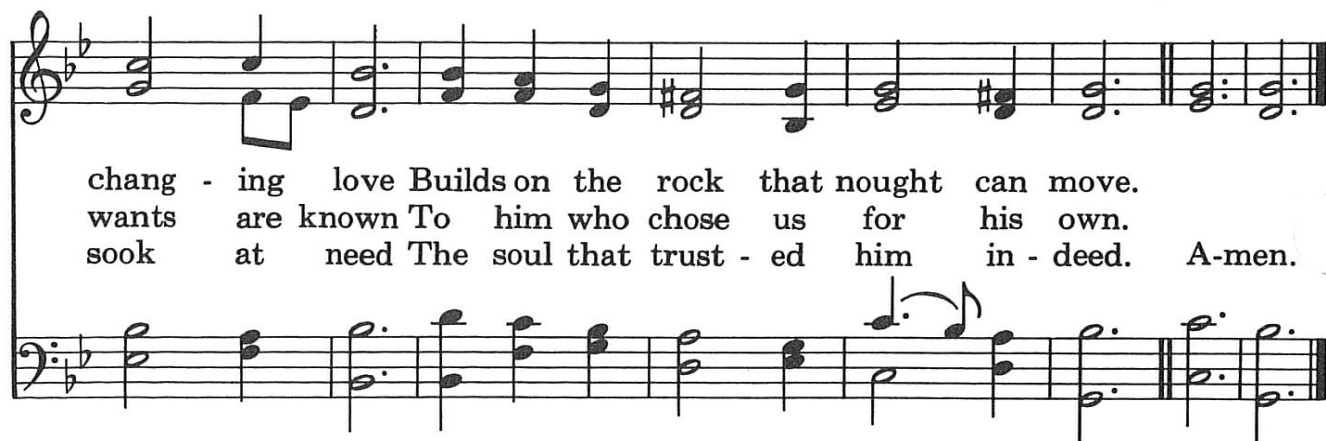
1 If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee, And hope in
2 On - ly be still, and wait his lei - sure In cheer - ful
3 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; So do thine



him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what-e'er be - tide thee,
hope, with heart con - tent To take what-e'er thy Fa - ther's pleas-ure
own part faith - ful - ly, And trust his word, though un - de - serv-ing;



And bear thee through the e - vil days; Who trusts in God's un -
And all - de - serv - ing love have sent; Nor doubt our in - most
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -



chang - ing love Builds on the rock that nought can move.
wants are known To him who chose us for his own.
sook at need The soul that trust - ed him in - deed. A-men.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

80

Second Tune

Based on Psalm 23
Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

ST. COLUMBA 8.7.8.7
Ancient Irish Melody

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, With

good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
ran - somed soul he lead - eth, And where the ver - dant
yet in love he sought me, And on his shoul - der
thee, dear Lord, be - side me: Thy rod and staff my

I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gen - tly laid, And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me. A - men.

o Thou spread'st a table in my sight,
Thy unction grace bestoweth,
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house forever.

We Come to You for Healing, Lord 796

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 Through nights of pain and wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, we know you come a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with power to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Unlike many hymns on the theme of healing, this text appropriately includes the ministry of medical personnel as instruments of God's healing activity. It also acknowledges that illness is not limited to physical symptoms, but involves mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002

MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

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LAND OF REST

CM

(alternate harmonization, 691)

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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

Ernie Drown, 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