



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

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## The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 3, 2021

“What you see and what you hear depends a great deal on where you are standing. It also depends on what sort of person you are.”

–C. S. Lewis

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-8.

**Prelude** *Romance for Cello and Piano* Claude Debussy

**Call to Worship** Adapted from Psalm 26

Leader: Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

**People: Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and mind.**

Leader: For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

**People: O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides.**

Leader: I walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

**People: My foot stands on level ground; in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.**

**Hymn 74 (p. 6)** *O How Glorious, Full of Wonder* In Babilone

### Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in places near and far today, we know your Spirit is with us, joining us together as one people. Lift up our worship, inspire our prayers, infuse them with your grace, your love, your power. We pray this 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

**Anthem** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* Timothy Shaw

*Timothy Shaw (b. 1976) is a native of Keene, NH. He wrote For the Bread in 2010.*

### Children’s Moment

Today we read a passage from the Book of Job. This is one of the strangest, most troubling books in Scripture. But it is also one of the most powerful and helpful texts

of the Bible, offering us a way to begin to think about why there is evil in the world, and why bad things can happen to good people. Now, the Bible does not offer any easy answers to this question, but it knows we have questions and struggle with them. I believe that the Book of Job gives us license to ask questions such as, “Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?” We may not know, but we can say that God is not indifferent to our suffering, and that God does care about us.

**Hymn 421** (p. 7)      *Have Mercy, God, Upon My Life*

Irish

### Scripture Lessons

**Job 1:1, 2:1-10.** <sup>1:1</sup>There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. [...]

<sup>2:1</sup>One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. <sup>2</sup>The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” <sup>3</sup>The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.” <sup>4</sup>Then Satan answered the Lord, “Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. <sup>5</sup>But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” <sup>6</sup>The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.”

<sup>7</sup>So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. <sup>8</sup>Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

<sup>9</sup>Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.”

<sup>10</sup>But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

**Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12.** Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. [...]

<sup>2:5</sup>Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels.

<sup>6</sup>But someone has testified somewhere, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? <sup>7</sup>You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, <sup>8</sup>subjecting all things under their feet.” Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, <sup>9</sup>but we do see Jesus,

who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

<sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

**Mark 10:2-16.** <sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup>He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup>‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

<sup>10</sup>Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

**Sermon**

*“What Are You Looking At?”*

Stephen R. Silver

### **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 the church office to confirm or remove names on the list.*

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Larry, Edith, Jan, Eileen, James, Jimmy, and Jean.

Lord, we ask for patience with the challenges we face, with our loved ones, with the state of current affairs, and most of all with you. For you have shown each of us and all of us tremendous patience, forgiving us, bearing with us, loving us, and bringing Jesus into 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

*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.*

**Offertory**                      *Largo, from Sonata for Cello and Piano, op. 65*                      Frédéric Chopin

## Doxology (*Unison*)

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

## Prayer of Dedication (*Unison*)

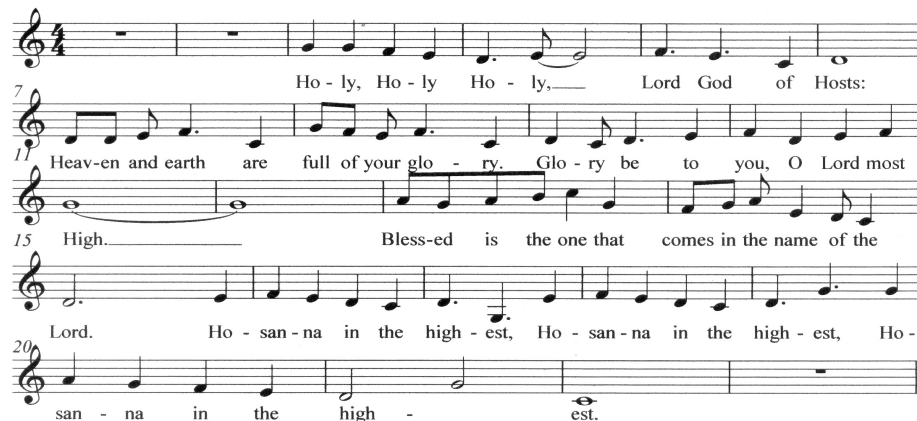
Loving, constant, faithful God: with gratitude for all you have done in and through Jesus for us and all Creation we present our gifts, asking that you use them to spread your love, grace, and healing power. Amen.

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.*

### Invitation and Communion Prayer

#### Sanctus



Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most  
High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

### Sharing of the Bread and Cup

#### Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## 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**                      *Adagio for Cello and Organ, op. 41, no. 2*                      Ferdinand Thieriot  
*German cellist and composer Ferdinand Thieriot (1838-1919) was a colleague of Johannes Brahms.*

\* \* \*

## Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor  
Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • Margaret Gilmore, Cello • The FCC Choir

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*If you wish to have a joy, concern, or prayer request lifted up in the service, or if you know of someone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email [prayer@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*



Music  
at the  
Meetinghouse

## Live Music Returns to FCC!

*All in the Sanctuary; masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.*

### **The Anonymous Coffeeshouse—Fridays, October 8 and 22, November 5 and 19, at 7:30**

This highly popular venue for established and emerging musicians features several acoustic acts, and patrons may come and go as they please; baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks are available.

And it's all free of charge, so please come and enjoy! *For more details, visit [anoncoffee.org](http://anoncoffee.org).*

### **Roseminna Watson, Violin, and Melody Fader, Piano—Saturday, October 9, at 7:30**

Virtuoso violinist and Hanover native Roseminna Watson joins her friend Melody Fader for a richly dramatic program of both solos and duets. They'll play J. S. Bach, Frederic Chopin, Lili Boulanger, Johannes Brahms, and contemporary American composer Missy Mazzoli. *Adults \$20, students/seniors/artists \$15; for advance tickets, visit [roseminnaandmelody.brownpapertickets.com](http://roseminnaandmelody.brownpapertickets.com).*

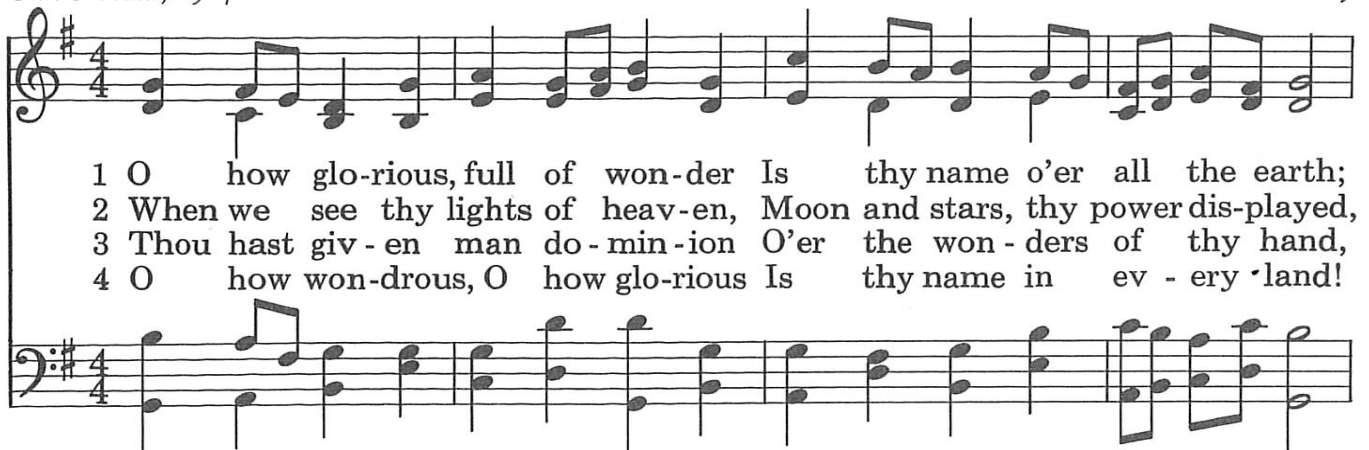
### **Classicopia: In Memory—Sunday, October 10, at 2:00**

Pianist Dan Weiser presents this musical memorial for the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, with violinist Emmanuel Borowsky and cellist Frances Borowsky. The program includes J. S. Bach, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Samuel Barber, Bedrich Smetana, and Dmitri Shostakovich, all exploring music's power to convey and even overcome grief and suffering. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; for details and discounted advance tickets, visit [classicopia.org/concert/in-memory/](http://classicopia.org/concert/in-memory/).*

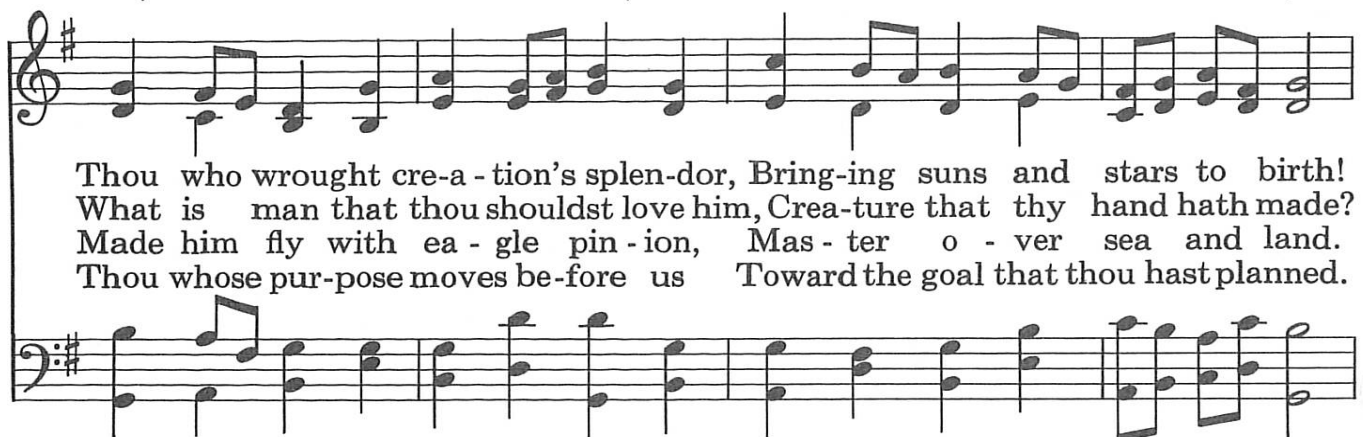
## O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

Based on Psalm 8  
Curtis Beach, 1914-

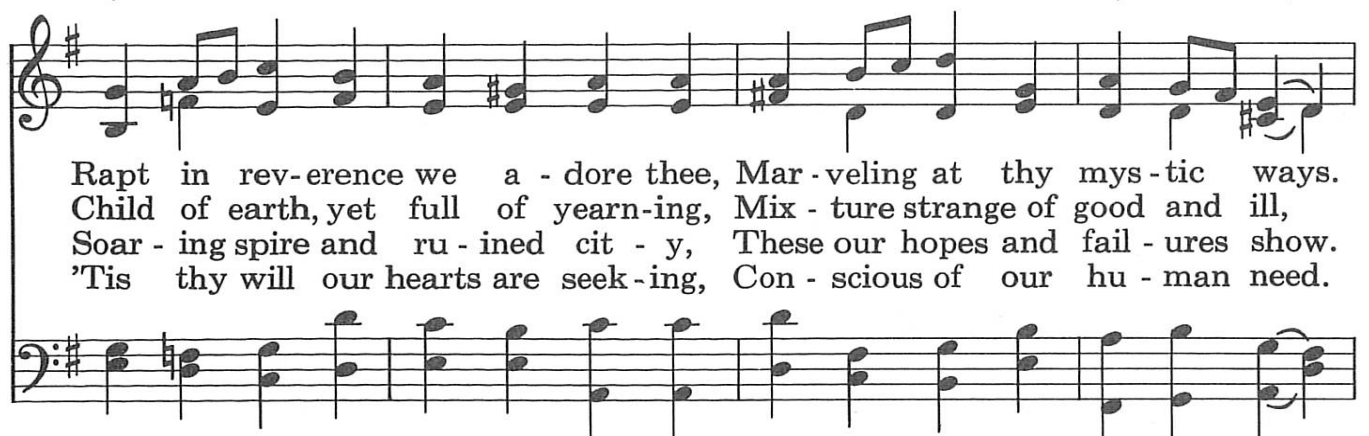
IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Traditional Dutch Melody



1 O how glo-rious, full of won-der Is thy name o'er all the earth;  
2 When we see thy lights of heav-en, Moon and stars, thy power dis-played,  
3 Thou hast giv-en man do-min-ion O'er the won-ders of thy hand,  
4 O how won-drous, O how glo-rious Is thy name in ev-ery 'land!



Thou who wrought cre-a-tion's splen-dor, Bring-ing suns and stars to birth!  
What is man that thou shouldst love him, Crea-ture that thy hand hath made?  
Made him fly with ea-gle pin-ion, Mas-ter o-ver sea and land.  
Thou whose pur-pose moves be-fore us Toward the goal that thou hast planned.



Rapt in rev-erence we a-dore thee, Mar-veling at thy mys-tic ways.  
Child of earth, yet full of yearn-ing, Mix-ture strange of good and ill,  
Soar-ing spire and ru-ined cit-y, These our hopes and fail-ures show.  
'Tis thy will our hearts are seek-ing, Con-sci-ous of our hu-man need.



Hum-bly now we bow be-fore thee, Lift-ing up our hearts in praise.  
From thy ways so of-ten turn-ing, Yet thy love doth seek him still.  
Teach us more of hu-man pit-y, That we in thine im-age grow.  
Spir-it in our spir-it speak-ing, Make us sons of God in-deed! A-men.

# Have Mercy, God, upon My Life 421

(Psalm 51)

1 Have mer - cy, God, up - on my life, and  
 2 My guilt is heav - y on my mind; I  
 3 Now teach me wis - dom in my soul; I  
 4 Cre - ate in me a faith - ful heart, a  
 5 Then I will praise you with my heart, my

make me clean with - in: pour out your ev - er -  
 know what I have done: a - gainst your jus - tice  
 long to see your face. Let bones, once bro - ken,  
 spir - it right and new. Sus - tain me with your  
 mind, my soul, my voice. You save the least and

faith - ful love and wash a - way my sin.  
 I have sinned, a - gainst you, God, a - lone.  
 sing with joy, and heal me by your grace.  
 sav - ing love and keep me close to you.  
 seek the lost; let all the world re - joice!

Psalm 51, paraphrased here, has traditionally been known as one of the seven penitential psalms, and it is used annually on Ash Wednesday. But this psalm is not just about human sinfulness; it is also about God's willingness to forgive and restore sinners. That is good news.

# Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here my ten - der com - fort

ev - er. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
 glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
 stilled you. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22–27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.



## **The 2021 Lebanon CROP Walk—Next Sunday, October 10**

Every year thousands of walkers across the country join the **CROP Hunger Walk**, organized by Church World Service to fight hunger, food insecurity, and poverty worldwide. First held in Bismarck, ND, in October 1969, the CROP Walk has become a community event in over 2000 towns, as churches and other local organizations collaborate to attract sponsors, advocate for hunger relief, and share the fellowship of a crisp fall afternoon outdoors.

**This year's walk will happen in-person as in past years.** Due to covid concerns, however, we will once again be unable to host our usual hot lunch here at FCC. **All contributions should be made online, rather than by cash or check through FCC. Here's what you can do:**

**Walk!**—Walk on your own or form a small group with family and friends, and register online at [www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/). Then, invite sponsors to donate in your name.

**Donate!**—Sponsor a walker, or give directly online at [www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/).

## **Thy Will Be Done—FCC Book Group Starting Mid-October on Zoom**

We say it every week. Many of us say it more frequently. You know, the Lord's Prayer. But how familiar are we with the text and what it means? Think about that phrase: "Thy Will Be Done."

What are we asking for when we say those words? What does this prayer mean to you, to the church, to all of us? To consider these questions we will read Stephen Cherry's "Thy Will Be Done," an accessible, well-researched book. Interested? Please let Steve or Brian know and we'll get you the book; we'll schedule the sessions on Zoom once we know who's participating.

*All are invited to participate! Books provided free of charge, but advance reservation is required. Please email Rev. Steve Silver ([silver@fccleb.org](mailto:silver@fccleb.org)) with questions or to RSVP.*

## **Neighbors in Need: Unfailing Love—Special UCC Offering**

The UCC's Neighbors in Need program supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of the collection is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries for a range of local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and the fight against systemic injustice. The rest goes to the Council for American Indian Ministries, the voice of Native Americans in the UCC, sustaining a proud tradition of support. **This year, NIN is focused on serving homeless and immigrant neighbors and their communities.**

*Please contribute as you're able to this vital mission program, either by check payable to FCC (memo "Neighbors in Need") or online at [www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin). Thank you!*



**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@fcclieb.org](mailto:church@fcclieb.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, Children's Community Corner

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@fcclieb.org](mailto:church@fcclieb.org) • [prayer@fcclieb.org](mailto:prayer@fcclieb.org) • [music@fcclieb.org](mailto:music@fcclieb.org) • [www.fcclieb.org](http://www.fcclieb.org)**