



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## **The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany • 2022 Annual Meeting**

February 13, 2022

“People are hungry for God. What a terrible meeting it would be  
with our neighbor if we give them only ourselves.”

—Mother Teresa

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

### **Prelude**

*Sonata in G Major for Organ*

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

### **Call to Worship**

Adapted from Psalm 1

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers.

**People: Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.**

Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

**People: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

Leader: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

**People: For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Hymn 343** (p. 5)      *In Heavenly Love Abiding*

Nyland

### **Prayer of Invocation**

God incarnate, be present with us during this time of prayer and song. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, inspiring and empowering us so that all we do in worship, fellowship, and service gives glory to your name and reflects to the wider world what you have done, and are doing, in and through Jesus. 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**

**Children's Moment**

This morning we read one of the most famous lessons of Scripture: The Beatitudes. Jesus was teaching the crowd, and his words have stayed with us for more than 2,000 years. They're striking: read the passage closely, and you'll see that Jesus offers blessings to those without much, and then tells those who are well off that they should expect nothing more. This passage isn't a political screed, but is a word to us, to know that God cares about the poor and the lowly, that they are his priority. That's important: we should look out for those without, those who are on the margins. These are God's children, and our siblings.

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

Neumark

**Scripture Lessons**

**Jeremiah 17:5-10.** <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. <sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. <sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

**1 Corinthians 15:12-20.** <sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

**Luke 6:17-26.** <sup>17</sup>He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup>“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup>“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup>“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

**Sermon**

*“Back to Basics”*

Stephen R. Silver

**Hymn 97** (p. 7)

*God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years*

Sandon

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer**

*As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing. Help us keep our prayer list current by contacting the church office to add or remove names.*

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Jean, Michelle, Stephanie, and Paulette.

O God of Jesus, O God of the prophets, O God of our ancestors. You have been with us from the beginning, and you will be with us until the end. You will never leave us alone. Your steadfast love, though, is not something we should take for granted. Instead, it something we should treasure. We know that you have given us work to do, and to do it well, we need to remember that you have much trust in us to follow the way of Jesus, to show kindness and compassion, to offer commitment and dedication, to set aside our egos and priorities, to do your work and to build your kingdom.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, our Savior. 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.*

**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)**

God who gathered your people, in love and with hope: let us hold fast to the vision of Jesus, and stand proudly and faithfully with him as we support our neighbors, our brothers and sisters. Accept our gifts this morning, offered as a sign of our commitment, individually and as a church, to help the least of your children. Amen.

**Hymn 377** (pp. 8-9) *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Houston

**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**

*Postlude Cantique, from Seven Pieces for Organ*

Alexandre Guilmant

\* \* \*

***Leading Worship This Week***

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • John Gilliatt, Liturgist

***The 2022 Annual Meeting will begin promptly at 11:30 am on Zoom. Please use the same meeting link that was provided for the worship service.***

***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.***

**STILL ONE WEEK LEFT FOR THE SOUPER BOWL!**

Bengals, Rams, and the latest championship game ever—that means we have one week left to set a new SOUPER BOWL record! We're tackling local hunger again with this collection of soup and other non-perishable items for our neighbors at Headrest, the Haven, and Listen.

***Donations may be left in the boxes in the Parish Hall until February 20. You may also bring them directly to any of the three beneficiaries (please let us know if you do so). THANK YOU!!***

# In Heavenly Love Abiding

343

Anna L. Waring 1823-1910

NYLAND 7.6.7.6.D.

Traditional Finnish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948



1 In heav-en-ly love a - bid - ing, No change my heart shall fear,  
2 Wher - ev - er he may guide me, No want shall turn me back;  
3 Green pas - tures are be - fore me, Which yet I have not seen;



And safe is such con - fid - ing, For noth - ing chang-es here.  
My shep-herd is be - side me, And noth - ing can I lack.  
Bright skies will soon be o'er me, Where the dark clouds have been.



The storm may roar with - out me, My heart may low be laid,  
His wis - dom ev - er wak - eth; His sight is nev - er dim;  
My hope I can - not meas - ure; The path to life is free;



But God is round a - bout me, And can I be dis-mayed?  
He knows the way he tak - eth, And I will walk with him.  
My Sav - ior has my treas - ure, And he will walk with me. A-men.



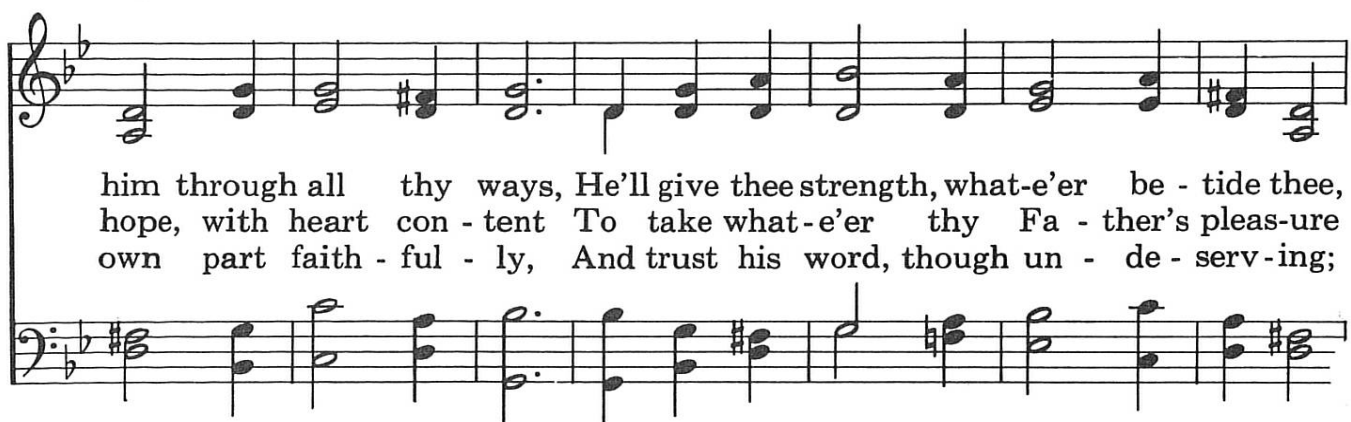
## If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

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

NEUMARK 9.8.9.8.8.8.  
Melody by Georg Neumark, 1621-1681



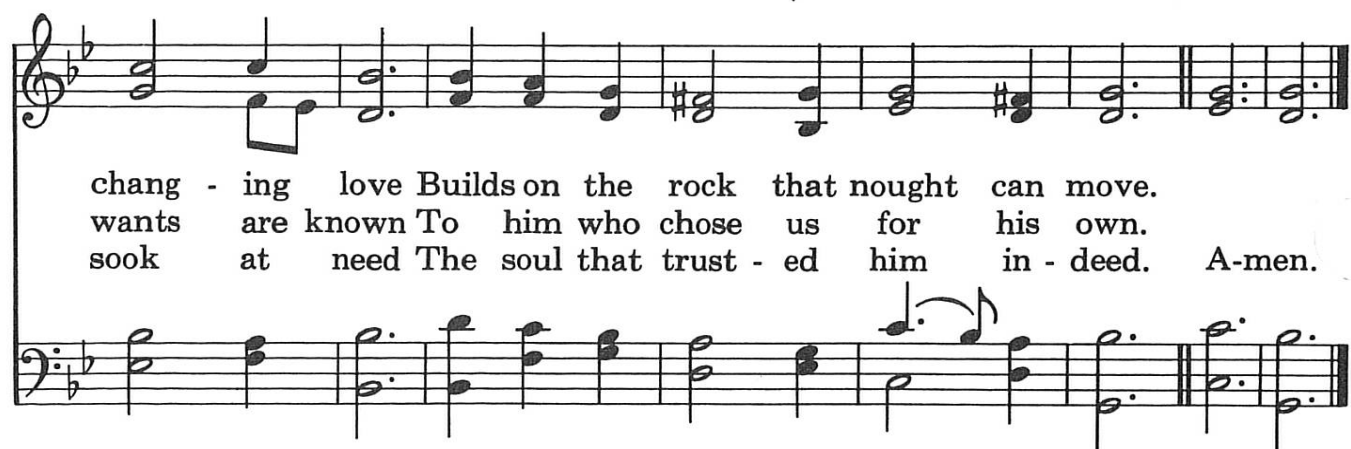
1 If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee, And hope in  
2 On - ly be still, and wait his lei - sure In cheer - ful  
3 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; So do thine



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.

# God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years

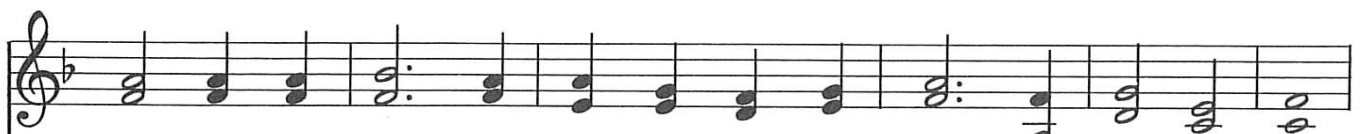

97

*Hugh T. Kerr, 1872-1950, alt.*



SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10.  
*Charles H. Purday, 1799-1885*



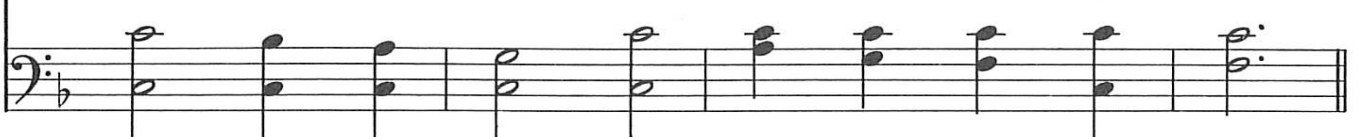
1 God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, We trust in thee;  
2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand; With us a - bide.  
3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known We fol - low thee;



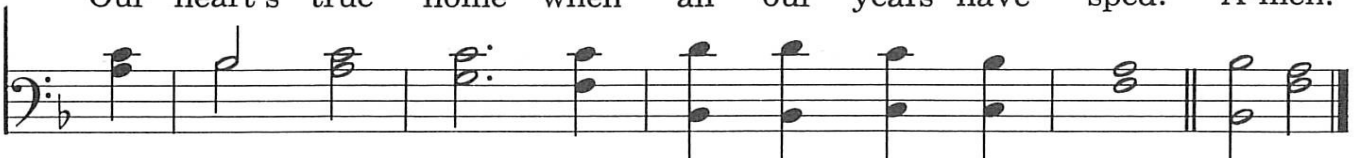
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.  
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land; Be thou our guide.  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; Our ref - uge be.



With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,  
With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,  
Be thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,



We own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.  
And faith's fair vi - sion chan - ges in - to sight.  
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped. A-men.



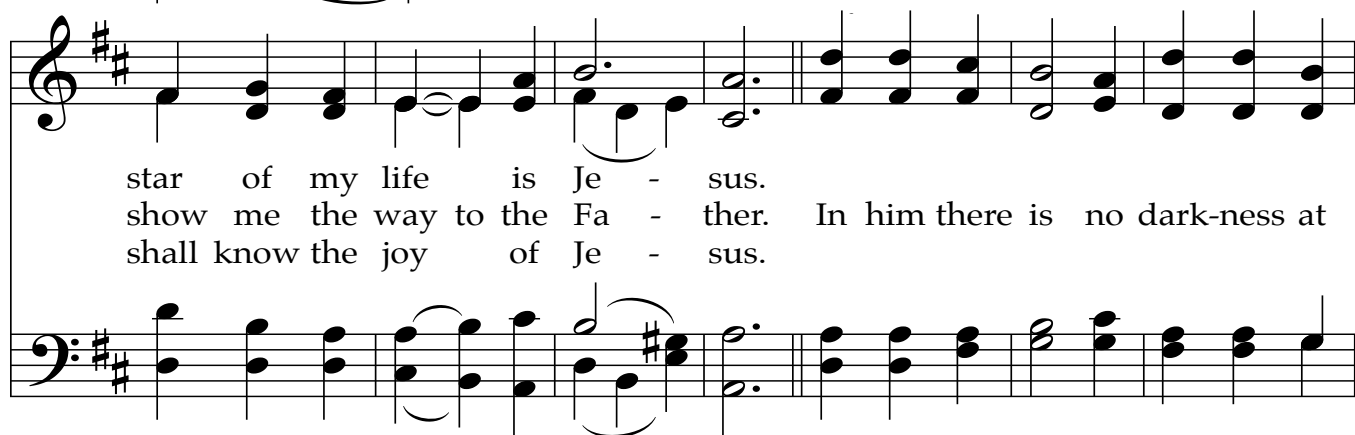
# 377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low  
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at  
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

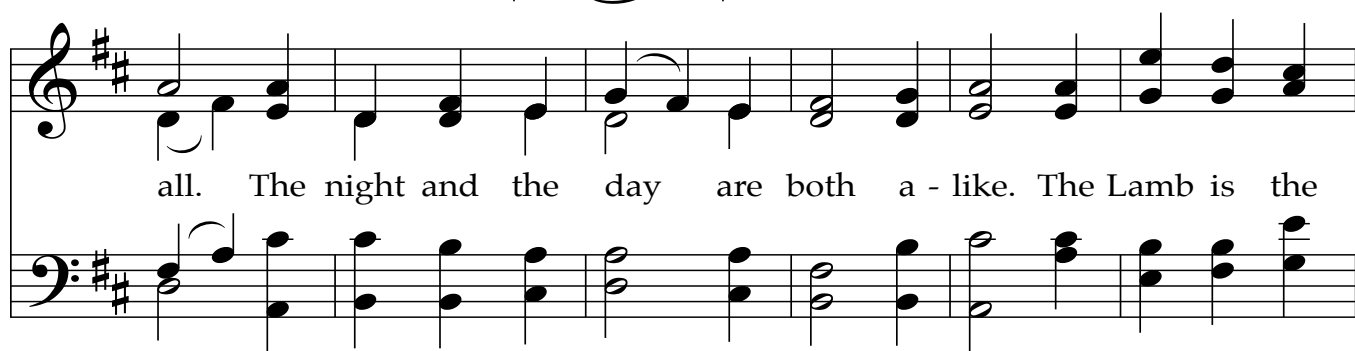


Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and  
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we



*Refrain*

star of my life is Je - sus.  
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at  
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.



all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

The author-composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.



## NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, February 13, 11:30 am (on Zoom)

The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held online in Zoom format on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022, AT 11:30 AM**, after that morning's worship service, for the following 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.
3. To consider and act upon any other matters relating to the general church welfare that may properly come before this meeting.

## Giving From the Heart *Stewardship 2022*

“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” (Mark 12:43-44)

Many thanks for the 31 pledges we have received for 2022! We will gratefully continue to accept pledges anytime in the coming weeks. Thank you for your support of our church!

*Please either place your pledge form in the offering plate or return it to the church office by mail. If you'd like to use envelopes for 2022, you may pick up your boxed set (#1-25) in the Parish Hall.*



Music  
at the  
Meetinghouse

## Upcoming Concerts

*Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.*

### ***The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, February 25, March 11 and 25, all 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).*

### ***Classicopia: The Dancing Cello—Sunday, March 20, at 2:00***

Our friend Elizabeth Borowsky brings back her mother, famed cellist Cecylia Barczyk, to usher in spring with bright, brilliant music for piano and cello. The program includes dances and rhapsodies by Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, Claude Debussy, and more. *Adults \$20,*

*FCC members \$15, children free; more at [www.classicopia.org/concert/1091/](http://www.classicopia.org/concert/1091/).*



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