



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Sixth Sunday of Easter • Mother's Day • Blanket Sunday

May 14, 2023

“A friend is long sought, hardly found, and with difficulty kept.”

—St. Jerome

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-7.

Prelude *Prelude on a Tune by Orlando Gibbons* Healey Willan

Call to Worship (*Unison*) Psalm 66:16-20

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

Hymn 530 (p. 4) *God Our Author and Creator* Jefferson

Prayer of Invocation

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

Moment for Mission Eva Loomis, UV Habitat for Humanity

Anthem *Tu Pauperum Refugium* Josquin Des Prez

Thou art the refuge of the poor, the remedy of the weak, the hope of the exiled, the strength of the heavy-laden, the path for the errant, the truth and life. Now, Redeemer Lord, to thee alone I come for aid; thee, true God, I worship; in thee I hope and trust, Jesus Christ, my salvation. Help me, lest my soul at any time die in sin.

Children's Moment

Today is Mother's Day, and while it's not a liturgical day, it could be. After all, we all know about the importance of Mary, the mother of Jesus. This is a day to give thanks for all of the mother figures in our lives. We all have them—and we all need them. But too often, we can take them for granted. And there will be a time when they're gone. So *now* is the time to say thanks, to express our love and appreciation. Thanks, Mom!

Hymn 399 (p. 5) *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* St. Margaret

Scripture Lessons

Acts 17:22-31. ²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ ²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

John 14:15-21. ¹⁵[Jesus continued,] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Sermon “Not Home Alone” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 463 (p. 6) *How Firm a Foundation* Foundation

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 ongoing prayers for Pete, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Gordon, Greg, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Ethan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, and Duane.

Dear God, we learn from Scripture that you will never orphan us, that we will never be bereft. We thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and we thank you for the eternal presence of Jesus. Though there is much we do not know, and much we cannot explain, we do know that we can count on you, that you will never leave us, even

when we wander from you. At those times when we are lost, help us to find our way, to look to you, to recognize your love and assurance for us.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, with gratitude and in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, 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.

Offertory

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

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*)

Holy One, we recall with admiration the first Christians who gathered together in worship and solidarity, caring for one another in an indifferent world. We are thankful this morning for their example, and we pledge to be their heirs, not only in word but also in deed. Please accept our gifts as a sign of our commitment. In the name of our Lord Jesus we pray, Amen.

Hymn 335 (p. 7)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Erie

Benediction

Postlude

Prelude on the Te Deum

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Dawn Troutman, Liturgist

Deb Scott and Stacey Steele, Ushers • Susan Pratt, Zoom Greeter

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 or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

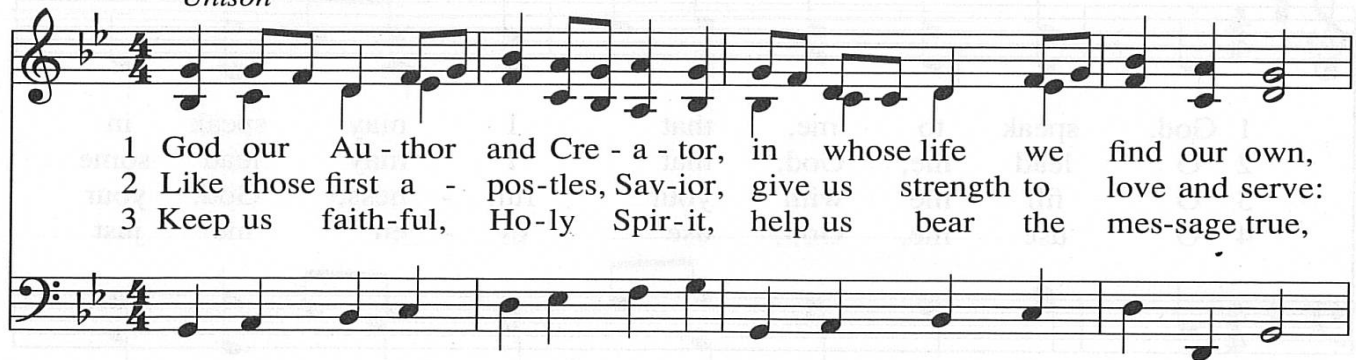
God Our Author and Creator

530

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985

Gen. 1:1-2:3; Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 12:2; John 3:16-17

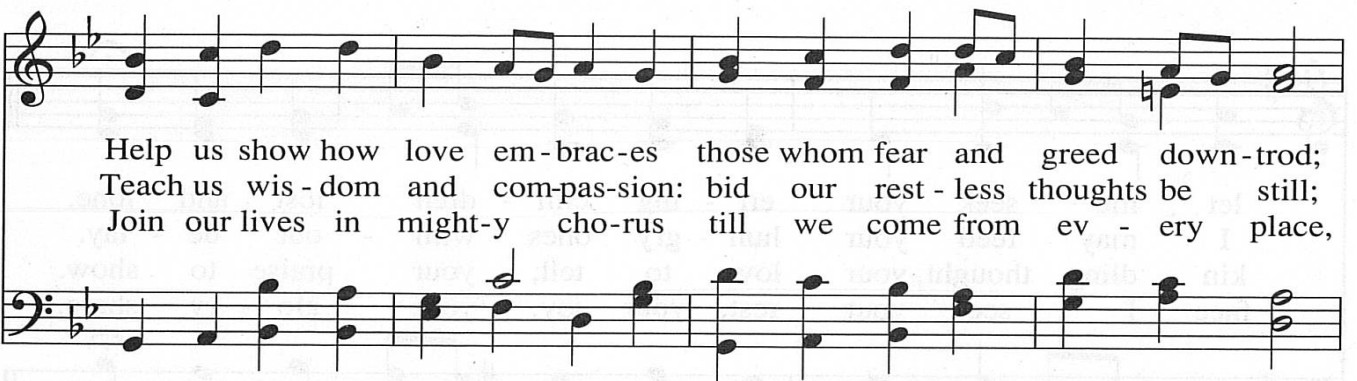
Unison



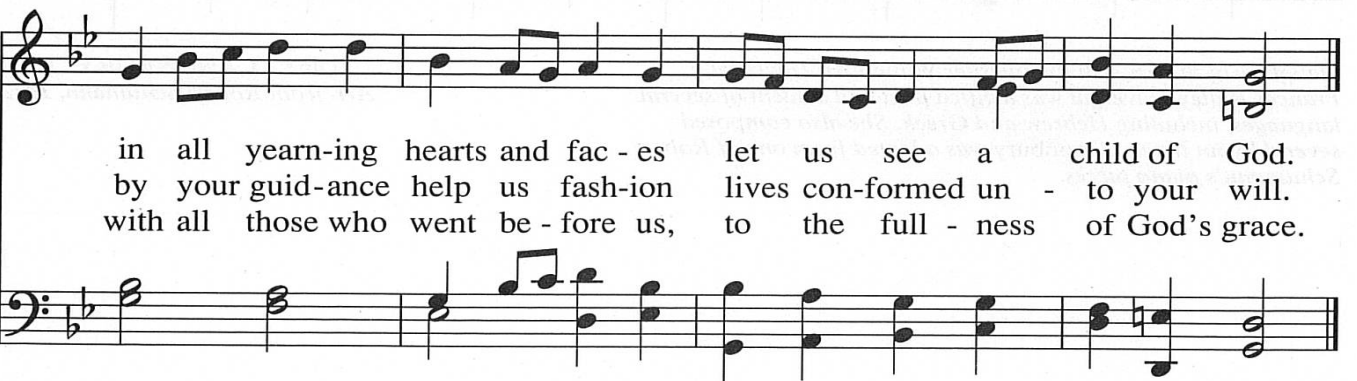
1 God our Au - thor and Cre - a - tor, in whose life we find our own,
2 Like those first a - pos-tles, Sav-ior, give us strength to love and serve:
3 Keep us faith-ful, Ho-ly Spir-it, help us bear the mes-sage true,



make our dai - ly wit - ness great-er, by our lives make your love known.
when our faint-ing spir - its wa-ver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."



Help us show how love em-brac-es those whom fear and greed down-trod;
Teach us wis-dom and com-pas-sion: bid our rest-less thoughts be still;
Join our lives in might-y cho-rus till we come from ev-ery place,



in all yearn-ing hearts and fac-es let us see a child of God.
by your guid-ance help us fash-ion lives con-formed un-to your will.
with all those who went be-fore us, to the full-ness of God's grace.

In 1985, a hymn competition was held to commemorate the centennial of the Women's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. This winning text by Carl P. Daw, Jr., fulfilled the guideline that the hymn address mission in the context of daily life.

Tune: JEFFERSON 8.7.8.7.D.
Southern Harmony, 1835
Harm. John Ferguson, 1973

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

399

George Matheson, 1842-1906

ST. MARGARET 8.8.8.6.

Albert L. Peace, 1844-1912

1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
 2 O Light that fol - lowest all my way,
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain,
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in thee;
 I yield my flick - ering torch to thee;
 I can - not close my heart to thee;
 I dare not ask to fly from thee;

I give thee back the life I owe,
 My heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray,
 I trace the rain - bow through the rain,
 I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead,

That in thine o - cean depths its flow May rich - er, full - er be.
 That in thy sun - shine's blaze its day May bright - er, fair - er be.
 And feel the prom - ise is not vain That morn shall tear - less be.
 And from the ground there blos - soms red Life that shall end - less be. A - men.

463

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

335

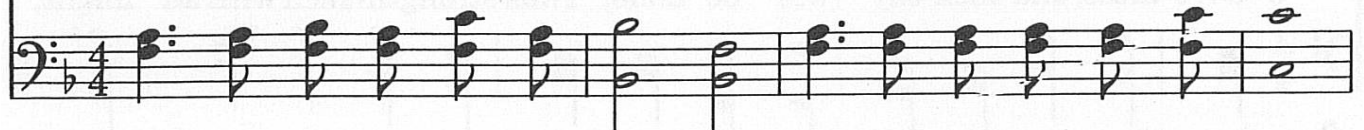
Joseph Scriven, 1819-1886

ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.

Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, Take it to the Lord in prayer!

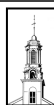


Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh, what need-less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, Who will all our sor - rows share?
Do thy friends de-spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



All be-cause we do not car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there. A-men.





Spring Concert Schedule

Masks and vaccination recommended.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse: Season Finale!—Friday, May 12, at 7:30 pm

Last chance to enjoy our popular community venue for live folk music before it takes the summer off! Baked goods and beverages available. *Free admission. For performer info and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

UVMC Sing & Play Festival—Saturday, May 20 (various times and locations)

A celebration of music making by each other, for each other! Various studio recitals and class performances will happen in our Sanctuary and Parish Hall. *Free to all; more at uvmusic.org/events.*

Classicopia: Musical Mothers—Sunday, May 28, at 2:00 pm

Dan Weiser and Borowsky siblings Emmanuel (violin) and Frances (cello) belatedly celebrate Mother's Day with a program of women composers, from Americans Amy Beach and Undine Smith Moore to Dutch composer Heleen Verleur and early-20th-century Croatian Dora Pejačević.

Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/musical-mothers-3.

Liz Simmons and Casey Murray: Folk, Roots, and Cello—Saturday, June 3, at 7:30 pm

Celebrating the release of her solo recording *Poets*, Brattleboro singer-songwriter and guitarist Liz Simmons (of the band Low Lily) offers a program with the versatile, classically-trained cellist Casey Murray (of Corner House). They'll play both traditional and original songs, reflecting on the sea, adventure, love, loss, and more. *Suggested donation \$10-20; for more, visit lizsimmons.net.*

Cantabile Women's Chorus: We Sing Her Song—Sunday, June 4, at 4:00 pm

This superb ensemble honors the lives and experiences of historical, biblical, and ordinary women in music of Johannes Brahms, Gwyneth Walker, Randall Thompson, Alice Parker, Rosephanye Powell, and more. *Adults \$15, seniors \$10, students \$5, under 13 free; more at www.cantabilewomen.org.*

Cameo Baroque: Music of the French Baroque—Friday, June 9, at 7:00 pm

Ernie Drown and friends share a delightful taste of French composers François Couperin, Jacques-Christophe Naudot, and others. *Free-will donation to benefit Willing Hands; more at cameoarts.org.*

Mosaic Union String Ensemble (MUSE): Spring Concert—Sunday, June 11, at 4:30 pm

Based in Hanover and led by the inimitable Glee Charlestream, MUSE features student musicians of diverse ages and backgrounds. *Free admission; more at www.mosaicunionstringensemble.org.*

Register Now for Classicopia's Music Camp at FCC/UVMC!—August 14-19, 9a-3p Daily

This immersive program offers instrumental and vocal instruction to students aged 8-18, with outstanding faculty and guest artists. *More details and registration at classicopia.org/summer-camp/.*



Happy Mother's Day!

Thanks to all who gave to **CWS BLANKETS** this year! With your generous contributions, to the glory of God and in loving honor or memory of those listed below, Church World Service will **blanket the world with love!**

IN HONOR OF...

Siobhain Doyle, mother of my new grandson, River—*Ron Bailey*

Our daughters-in-law, Kristalyn Belding and Nicole Belding—*Kathy and Warren Belding*

Kathy Belding—*Warren Belding*

Sharon Packard and Lisa Bennett—*Ginny Bennett*

DeAnn Clancy and Amy Driscoll—*Grace, Katie, and Brian Clancy*

Ike's mom, Betty Adams; Ike's aunt, Terri Reese; dear friends Ginny Bennett and Terry Grigsby; daughter Heidi Preston; and granddaughters Kristin Houdegbe, Stacey MacAskill, and Meagan Henry—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

My wife, Linda Jean—*Loving Husband (Ike Jacobs)*

Rachel Smith-Jones—*Travis A. Jones, Thad and Elias Jones*

Marcia Corkins, my wonderful partner—*Pete Mason*

Our daughters: Jennifer, Amy, Jane, Dayle, and Kathy—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

My mother, Beverly Moriearty, who is turning 90 this June!—*Denise Moriearty*

My mother, Suzette Ragan—*Valerie Nevel*

Louise Parsons (G.G.), Genevieve Kirkpatrick (Grandma Chick), and Marcia Corkins—*Nan Parsons and Kailyn Rappaport*

Deserai and Hannah; our mothers, Kathy and Phyllis; and Aunt Emily—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Mommy (Deserai); Grandma Debbie; Great Grandmas Kathy and Phyllis; Grammy Kimball; Nanny, Nanai, and Amma—*Walter, Xavian, and Emory Scott*

JoAnn Smith—*Rachel, Steve, and Chip Silver*

Juliet Marion, incomparable mother and grandmother; and all of Dominic's bonus grandmas at FCC-Lebanon—*Stacey Steele and Dominic Watson*

My mom, Lanny Natcher—*Dawn Troutman*

My mother—*Grant Yu*

IN MEMORY OF...

My mother and grandmothers—*Ron Bailey*

Our beloved mothers (and grandmothers), Glenda Perkins and Eleanor Belding—*Kathy and Warren Belding*

Dorothy Ford and Lula Bennett—*Ginny Bennett*

Lorraine Wilson and Hélène Chase—*Karen and Christopher Chase*

Sandy Driscoll, and many aunts and grandmothers—*Amy Driscoll, and Grace, Katie, and Brian Clancy*

Laura W. Place—*Sue and Ken Gould and Family*

Emily Maloon Pike, Evelyn Ruth Hammond, and Gloria Hammond—*Philip Hammond*

Linda's mom, Barbara Sumner; Linda's Grammy, Ruby Sumner; Linda's aunt, Betty Sumner King;
and three wonderful women in our lives, Helen Smith, Betty Howard, and Laura Place—
Linda and Ike Jacobs

Dorothy Huestis, my mother—*Barbara H. Jones*

My mother, Mary Beth Jones; and my grandmothers, Bea Greer and Martha Ann Jones—*Travis A. Jones*

My mother, Isabelle Fitzpatrick Smith; and my grandmothers, Helen Kelley Smith and
Isabelle Saalwaechter Fitzpatrick—*Rachel Smith-Jones*

Marilyn, my wife for 65 years—*Pete Mason*

My grandmother Elizabeth Kozlow and my friend Millie Hubbard—*Valerie Nevel*

Auntie Joyce, Beatrice Chafe (Naunta), Estelle Shaw (Nana), and our friend Natalie Perriello—
Nan Parsons and Kailyn Rappaport

Helen Walling—*Susan Pratt*

Our grandmothers, Naomi and Aurelia; and Aunts Jeanie and Jane—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Ruth Silver—*Rachel, Steve, and Chip Silver*

My mother, Helen K. Smith—*Dr. Kenneth W. Smith*

(Great)Grandma Gladys; (Great)Grand Aunt Dor; and Aunts Dulcey, Sonia, and Heather—
Stacey Steele and Dominic Watson

My grandma Barbara Chamberlain—*Dawn Troutman*

* * *

WISE of the Upper Valley Seeks Items for Resident Families

WISE seeks donations on behalf of the families finding refuge in its new apartment building. Executive Director Peggy O'Neil—who will visit us for worship on **June 4**—explains that in addition to bath, hand, and face towels, they are in need of, “oddly enough, hair conditioner (but not shampoo).” The building's four units have a total of six bedrooms.

Please consider contributing either these items or direct financial support; more at wiseuv.org.

Celebrate the Children's Community Corner—Children's Sunday, June 11

The **Children's Community Corner** is excited to lead worship and mark the end of the school year. Please join us for one of the annual highlights of our communal church life!

If you and/or your children are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Nan Parsons (nlp3721@yahoo.com/603-863-8354) or the church office.



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@fcclb.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
Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • 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@fcclb.org • prayer@fcclb.org • music@fcclb.org • www.fcclb.org