



News and Events

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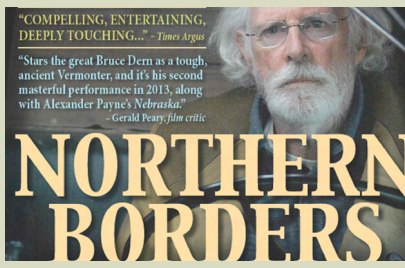
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The Pastoral Perspective

Fifty years ago this past July, Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law, bringing our nation that much closer to fulfilling the promise of equality for all its citizens. At the center of this long struggle stood the Christian church. While not every layperson or clergy member was on the side of right, there is no doubt that the witness and work of those who fought and worked for change proved pivotal to the passage of this landmark legislation.

Recalling these events of a half-century ago, names like Martin Luther King, Jr. and James Abernathy may come to immediately come to mind. That is not surprising. But we should not forget the less prominent amongst the faithful, those whose names are not recorded in history books, whether black or white, Southerner or Northerner—those who recognized in the fight for Civil Rights the imperative that if Scripture is to be taken seriously, it can't be confined to the four walls of a sanctuary or to a Bible study class. Instead, it must shape one's actions, priorities, and indeed lives. These modern saints knew that those who claim to follow the way of Jesus are asked to consider what texts like Micah 6:8 (*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*) and Galatians 3:28 (*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*) demanded of them.

What was true in 1964 remains true in 2014. While the issues that engage our attention have changed (and some have not), the call to let the Gospel guide our choices is as powerful and compelling today as it has ever been.

But what does this mean for us in the First Congregational Church of Lebanon, which is a member of the United Church of Christ? Our polity holds that although we are in covenant with others, no body can officially represent our stance on a particular matter. While

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SUNDAY SERVICE

Name This Newsletter!

I've published our newsletter for over two years, and it's been exciting and rewarding to follow and report on what we do each month at FCC. The newsletter informs, promotes, and celebrates the life of our congregation—our worship, our fellowship, our learning, our fun, our stewardship, our service and mission. It has seemed to me, however, that the news and events at our church deserve a more evocative title than, well, *News and Events*. Something that suggests our faith, our history, or our role in the community, rather than just the matter-of-fact content of a few pages of text and pictures.

So, I'd like to ask your help in choosing a name for our newsletter! Who are we at FCC? What do we do here? First Baptist Church (*Cross and Spire*) and West Lebanon Congregational Church (*The Steeple*) both rely on architectural symbolism, while the Methodists invite readers to go *Beyond the Red Doors*.

How should our newsletter announce FCC's ministry, mission, and programs?

Please submit your suggestions for a newsletter name—including any votes for keeping the current name—to me no later than August 29 (all will be kept anonymous for now). We'll ask the congregation to choose its favorite, so that October's issue can carry the new name!

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

Ever wonder how your friends ended up handing out bulletins on Sunday? Or delivering the call to worship and reading scripture from the lectern? Or walking gracefully from pew to pew collecting the offering?

It's easy—we asked, and they said yes.

No experience or training is required for any of these important roles in worship!

If you'd like to serve as either a liturgist or a greeter/usher, please contact the church office.

Your congregation will thank you!

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, August 24, at 5:00 pm

Thanks to ERIN TEETER-SLAYTON for organizing this month's dinner!

Please support Erin by donating ingredients or volunteering to help with set-up, serving, or clean-up. Our service is vital to those in our local community who look forward to this meal every month.

Never helped before but interested in trying? Make THIS your month!

New Members Welcome!

Have you worshiped with us regularly? Have you found a welcoming, spiritually nourishing church home here? Would you like to become more involved in our programs and events?

We warmly invite you to formally join our community of faith as a covenant member.

If you would like to learn more about this invitation, please contact Rev. Steve Silver or the church office.

Queued for Coffee Hour

August—Christian Education Committee

September—Diaconate

October—Mission & Social Action

November—Women of the Church

AUGUST 2014 CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| 27 10a Praise in the Park! No Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner | 28 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Concert Series | 29 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts | 30 6p UVPRN | 31 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept | 1 | 2 No Men's Breakfast No Bible Study (until 9/6) |
| 3 10a Worship (Communion) | 4 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Concert Series | 5 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts | 6 6p UVPRN | 7 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept | 8 7p Cub Scouts Committee | 9 |
| 10 10a Worship No M&SA / Stewardship | 11 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Concert Series 7p Diaconate | 12 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts | 13 8a-4p NH WIC Clinic 6p UVPRN | 14 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept | 15 | 16 |
| 17 10a Worship | 18 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept Concert Series | 19 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts | 20 6p UVPRN 7p Christian Ed Committee | 21 12p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Dept | 22 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE | 23 7:30p Film: <i>Northern Borders</i> |
| 24 10a Worship No Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner | 25 | 26 8a-4p NH WIC Clinic 7p Boy Scouts | 27 6p UVPRN | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 10a Worship | 1 LABOR DAY (FCC office closed) | 2 7p Boy Scouts | 3 6p UVPRN | 4 7p Choir | 5 7p Cub Scouts Committee | 6 8a Men's Breakfast 9a Bible Study |

If your event is missing or incorrect, please notify us at church@fccleb.org or 603-448-4281.

COMMITTEE NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is not meeting in July or August but continues to keep an eye on a few ongoing and new projects. The largest of these was the east-side exterior painting, which has just been completed with excellent results (see photos on this page).

Unfortunately, in the course of the painting job, an extensive amount of rotten wood was found around the lower side door, the result of poor drainage and drying in that corner in all seasons. The Board has asked Don Collins' crew to repair and replace the rot, funding for which was approved by Church Council in an email discussion.

Don's crew also investigated an ongoing issue of moisture seeping into the walls and foundation along the access ramp on that side of the building. (Water blisters can be seen underneath the paint on the downstairs classroom walls.) Don's men will correct this issue under guarantee, and a permanent solution will come later.



Got Keys?

A couple years ago we undertook a comprehensive re-keying of the church facility, in part to keep better track of keys distributed to church members who need them for committee responsibilities.

Only certain positions require access to the building or church office; most others in the congregation do not need such access.

If you finish a term as a committee chair or another "key" position, we ask that you return your key to the church office.

In addition to helping us keep track of keys, this policy ensures that new officers may be given keys without making new copies. **Your cooperation is as appreciated as your willingness to serve!**

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Friday to Sunday, September 26-28
UCC Horton Center (near Gorham, NH)

Next month we will once again join members of Meriden and Hooksett Congregational Churches for a weekend of worship, prayer, spiritual study, and fellowship in the White Mountains. Offering both individual and group activities, the retreat will also include structured time for children and youth.

Families are strongly encouraged to come!

The schedule will be flexible enough to allow participation in particular activities; attending the whole weekend is not required. We'll collaborate with the other churches on some meals and activities.

RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

To assist in planning the retreat, please let us know whether you're planning to come or even just considering it. Questions and suggestions welcome; contact the office or your deacon.

Last year's retreat was wonderful... Don't miss your chance to join us this year for another enriching experience of building community and faith!

August Meetings

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Diaconate | 8/11, 7:00 |
| Church Council | 8/19, 7:00 |
| Christian Education | (8/20, 7:00 ?) |
| Mission & Social Action and Stewardship | (no mtg) |
| Board of Governors | (no mtg) |

September Meetings

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Diaconate | 9/8, 7:00 |
| Mission & Social Action and Stewardship | 9/14, 11:00 |
| Church Council | 9/16, 7:00 |
| Christian Education | 9/17, 7:00 |
| Board of Governors | 9/28, 11:00 |

Save the date...

**SEPTEMBER 14
KICK-OFF
SUNDAY!**

Mark your calendars and plan to join in the Blessing of the Backpacks, Church School registration, pizza and ice cream, and lots of outdoor fun!

Please note that this is the second Sunday after Labor Day, not the first as it has often been.

Redeemer The Life of Jimmy Carter

A special event with

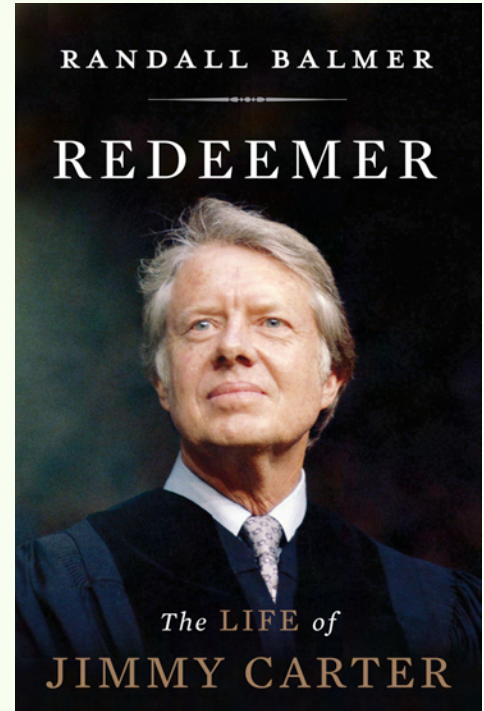
Prof. Randall Balmer

Chair, Department of Religion,
Dartmouth College



Sunday, September 21, 4:00 pm

Join us for what promises to be a lively, engaging presentation and discussion with Randall Balmer, chair of the Department of Religion at Dartmouth, about his latest book, *Redeemer: The Life of Jimmy Carter*. Prof. Balmer explores Jimmy Carter's political career through the lens of the 39th president's faith, along with the profound and consequential changes that occurred within the evangelical movement during his presidency.



The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

General Synod or our Conference may adopt a position, this church, along with any other local church, is given the freedom and responsibility to prayerfully consider whether another setting of the church speaks on its behalf.

This approach to church life asks much of the individual believer and the faith community of which he or she is a part. It means being familiar with what is going in one's neighborhood, one's country, and one's world and then considering matters within the context of one's faith. It also means engaging others who might disagree, with faithfulness, charity, and love. There are so many hot-button issues today ranging from social policy to foreign affairs where Christians all too often behave in anything but Christian fashion. We have an opportunity to show that it is possible to do otherwise, that within Jesus Christ we can love one another, even when—no, especially when—we disagree.

The work of the church is not done. We are still called to witness to and work for God's love for all Creation. This work will not always be easy, and we will not always agree on what it requires of us. But with open hearts and open minds, we will be able to create space for the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us. We will be able to move closer to the new Jerusalem, the kingdom of heaven, God's new creation, which, though it may seem to be appearing in fits and starts, is without doubt emerging all around us.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve'.

THE HISTORY OF OUR CONGREGATION



Two Items from FCC's History

Courtesy of Barbara and Gordon Sargent

“Park at Lebanon, NH, after the Big Fire, May 10, 1887.”

(Above) This photograph of Colburn Park in the spring of 1887 shows an assortment of displaced citizens and their possessions, following one of the greatest disasters of the late 19th century. First Congregational Church, then 59 years old, rises in the background (*top right*); note the two-story building, Gile's tailor shop, then standing in front of the church. The photo was taken by Charles E. Lewis, Barbara Sargent's grandfather.

Letter from the Building Committee, 1969. (*Right*) In the spring of 1969, a building committee formed by FCC's Board of Governors sent an appeal to the congregation, asking for help in funding a much-needed addition “to provide offices for the Minister and Church Secretary.” Approved at a special congregational meeting in April, the project's cost was expected to be \$20,000, “about fifty percent more than our annual operating budget.” The letter was signed by Francis A. Sargent, Gordon's father, and this particular copy was addressed to Bessie Lewis, Barbara's mother. “Let's make this a UNITED EFFORT,” it concludes, “shared by all and not just a few!”



The First Congregational Church

(Member of the United Church of Christ)

LEBANON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03766

ALDEN H. BLAKE, MINISTER
PARSONAGE: 53 SCHOOL STREET
TELEPHONE: 448-3398

TO ALL MEMBERS and FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH --

Dear Mrs. Lewis:


The Annual Meeting of the Church on February 4, 1969 was recessed until April 30, 1969. The Board of Governors was instructed to explore the different possibilities to provide offices for the Minister and Church Secretary and to bring their recommendation before the Church membership at the reconvened meeting.

At the reconvened meeting April 30, 1969 the Board presented two or three plans for an addition to the present structure. The plan as described in the enclosed brochure was approved by a nearly unanimous vote of those present. The Treasurer was authorized to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$15,000 to enable the Church to go ahead with the building of this addition. The Chairman of the Board of Governors was instructed to appoint a Building Committee to follow through on this project and to develop ways and means of raising the funds to cover the cost.

It is the belief of the committee that the amount needed to build and furnish these offices can be raised by subscription of the membership and Church friends on a pledge basis over a period of three years. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$20,000 including the architect's fee and furnishings and equipment. This is about fifty per cent more than our annual operating budget and is, of course, in addition to our annual giving.

Hoping that you will want to be a part of this undertaking, we have provided the enclosed card for your convenience in making your pledge. Please give this careful thought and complete the card, pledging as much as possible, indicating your preferred schedule of payment - either quarterly (12 installments), semi-annually (6 installments), or annually (3 installments) over a three-year period.

If you would prefer to discuss this further before completing your card, please contact any member of the committee and we will be happy to call on you personally. Let's make this a UNITED EFFORT, shared by all and not just a few! We will appreciate your cooperation, participation and financial support.

THE COMMITTEE
Irving Bird Lauris Blake
 Reuben Cole
Francis Sargent Helen Smith
By  Chairman

OUR CHURCH'S LOCAL MISSION

Knitters Kneeded!

Who doesn't like a warm, handmade shawl, scarf, or hat when the weather turns colder?

If you like to knit, please consider making items such as prayer shawls, chemo caps, or scarves for donation to the Haven or an area hospital. Linda Jacobs has devoted herself to coordinating these donations, and she would be happy to teach basic technique and designs to anyone willing to learn.

To find out more, please contact Linda Jacobs (mrands.j@comcast.net / 802-296-8251).



Praise (next to) the Park!

Heavy rain may have sent us inside on July 27, but three combined congregations happily worshiped together nonetheless! Our ecumenical offering for FCC's Raven Food Pantry totaled over \$375, along with a full shopping cart of food donations.

Thank you!

CALLED TO CARE

Called to Care, a program sponsored by the Diaconate, started in 1996 with thirteen caregivers who attended training sessions with pastoral counselor Charles Lindner. Laura Place was the first coordinator, and I'm now serving as coordinator for the second time.

We offer special assistance and support to those who need it, for whatever reason—illness, loss of a loved one, depression, loneliness, aging issues, and divorce, to name a few. We offer care in the form of cards, phone calls, visits, meals, and transportation. Our numbers have dwindled to just eight caregivers, so we really would like more of you to serve with Called to Care. It is a very rewarding group!

If the Spirit moves you to join us, please contact Linda Jacobs (mrands.j@comcast.net / 802-296-8251) or Steve Silver.

Wings of Hope

Butterfly Release
to Benefit VNH Hospice Programs

Saturday, September 6, 1-3 pm
Colburn Park

For the fifth year, the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Association of VT/NH is offering this memorial and benefit event. (FCC is the rain location.)

You may purchase butterflies to be released for \$20 each, or simply attend as a spectator.

For more information, call 888-300-8853
or visit www.vnavnh.org.

We're Going to El Salvador!

Epilogos Mission Trip
San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador
October 18-25, 2014

Continuing our support of the community of San Jose Villanueva, FCC members will join an Epilogos mission trip to El Salvador in October.

And you're invited to participate!



Focusing on health and education, this church-wide mission will be led by Epilogos chair Dr. Ed Warren.

Those who come will...

Meet our scholarship winner from last year

Help the local school with technology matters

Continue to develop the local clean water project

Assist new homeowners in building a "Dream Latrine"

Paint parts of the town's orphanage

For more information about our October mission trip, or to let us know you're interested in coming, please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact Wendell Smith AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (603-632-1117 or wms@polestarltd.com).

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sunday, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12
10 South Park St., P.O. Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766 • 603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org
Rev. Stephen R. Silver – silver@fccleb.org • Newsletter Submissions – church@fccleb.org



MUSIC MOVIES! at the Meetinghouse

Saturday, August 23, 7:30 pm

Adults \$12 / Seniors \$10 / Students \$6

Please join us in the Sanctuary for a special screening of this film by Vermont filmmaker Jay Craven. Based on Howard Frank Mosher's award-winning novel of the same name, *Northern Borders* stars Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick, Bruce Dern, and Geneviève Bujold.

Twelve-year-old Austen Kittredge is sent to live with his grandparents, whose thorny marriage is called "the Forty Years War." Set in rural Vermont in the 1950s, this humorous and sometimes startling coming-of-age story evokes the state's wildness and its sublime beauty, as well as a haunted past and an aura of enchantment. (*The film is rated PG-13.*)

100 TOWN TOUR

★★★★ "A GEM" - *Sherbrooke Record*

"COMPELLING, ENTERTAINING,
DEEPLY TOUCHING..." - *Times Argus*

"Stars the great Bruce Dern as a tough, ancient Vermonter, and it's his second masterful performance in 2013, along with Alexander Payne's *Nebraska*."

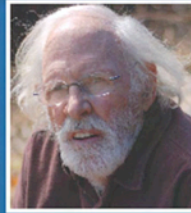
- Gerald Peary, *film critic*

NORTHERN BORDERS

DIRECTED BY JAY CRAVEN

BASED ON THE AWARD-WINNING NOVEL BY HOWARD FRANK MOSHER

STARRING



BRUCE DERN
(Nebraska, Big Love)
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
BEST ACTOR - 2013 CANNES
FILM FESTIVAL



GENEVIÈVE BUJOLD
(Still Mine, Dead Ringers)
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD



**SEAMUS
DAVEY-FITZPATRICK**
*(Moonrise Kingdom, Before
Midnight)*



JESSICA HECHT
TONY NOMINEE
(Sideways, J. Edgar, Friends)