



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

"The Call"

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joyes in love.

George Herbert wrote and published this poem in 1633, the year of his death, as part of a collection entitled *The Temple*. Herbert, a priest in the Church of England, took up his vocation after excelling at Cambridge and being tipped for a promising career in public life. Although he was a brilliant orator and had caught the eye of King James I, Herbert had long sensed a call to ministry, a call to which he responded in the 1620s.

He had begun writing poetry by then, before becoming ordained as a deacon. Ultimately, he found himself ministering to the people of Bremerton, fully investing himself in life as a country parson. As he did this, he wrote and revised his poetry, exploring in verse the rich tapestry of the Christian life.

Through Herbert's verse, we are offered not only a panoramic view of Christian living but a beautiful example of one person's desire to discern God's action in and hopes for his life. This summer, when we have a quiet moment to spare—perhaps sitting on the porch, taking a

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SUNDAY SERVICE

PRAISE IN THE PARK!

Sunday, July 31, 10:00 am, Colburn Park

Plan to join us on the Lebanon Green for this annual ecumenical service with the West Lebanon Congregational Church and the Lebanon and White River Junction United Methodist Churches. Our own Steve Silver will preach. **Our offering and a collection of non-perishable foods will benefit the food pantry at the UPPER VALLEY HAVEN.**

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

Ever wonder how your friends ended up handing out bulletins Sunday morning? Or reading the call to worship and scripture from the lectern? Or lighting the altar candles? Or walking gracefully from pew to pew to collect the offering?

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

No experience or training is required for 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, July 24, 5:00 pm

Leaders: Amy Driscoll and KAF Volunteers

We're grateful to Amy Driscoll and a team of volunteers from King Arthur Flour for leading this month's dinner! Please consider helping out with this vital service to our neighbors.

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

Welcome Guest Preachers!

Rev. Steve Silver will be on vacation and study leave for most of the time from July 9 to 22. While he's away, we are grateful to welcome these two guest preachers to our pulpit:

July 10—Rob Grabill

July 17—Heidi Hoskin

New Members Welcome!

Have you worshiped with us a few times? Have you returned because you've found a welcoming, spiritually nourishing church home here? If so, we warmly invite you to join our community of faith as a covenant member.

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

Worship Exchange with West Lebanon UCC

Sundays, August 7 and 14

On the first two Sundays of August, we will share worship with the West Lebanon Congregational Church. We'll all gather at WLCC on August 7, with Steve Silver preaching; the following Sunday, Jeff Scott will preach here at FCC.

Each week, the men's group from the host church will serve everyone breakfast prior to worship.

Join us for this "Congregational" exchange!

Queued for Coffee Hour

July—Church Council

August—Christian Education Committee

September—Diaconate

JULY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10a Worship 11:15a Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner	27 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	28 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts	29 6p UVPRN	30 9:30a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	1	2 No Men's Breakfast <i>(moved to 7/9)</i>
3 10a Worship (Communion) No MSA	4 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	5 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts	6 6p UVPRN No Christian Ed Committee	7 9:30a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7:30p Suzuki Royal Oak Touring Group	8	9 8a Men's Breakfast
10 10a Worship	11 No Diaconate <i>(moved to 7/25)</i> 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	12 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts	13 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN	14 No Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn 9:30a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	15 1p UVIP	16
17 10a Worship	18 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	19 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth No Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/ Troop Committee	20 6p UVPRN	21 9:30a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	22	23 8a-4p NH Button Society Conf
24 10a Worship 11:15a Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner	25 10a-6p NH-WIC 5:30p Diaconate <i>(at Susan Montmagny's)</i> 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	26 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts	27 6p UVPRN	28 9:30a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	29	30
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If your event is missing or incorrect, please notify us at church@fcclcb.org or 603-448-4281.

COMMITTEE NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

In May the Board of Governors discussed a number of **pending projects**—bids for refinishing the floor in the Parish Hall; progress on the kitchen water-heater upgrade; potential replacement of shrubs in the front yard; and exterior signage to direct visitors around the church campus. John Gilliatt proposed giving Council a three-year plan of all potential projects, costs, and priorities, in order to accommodate them in budget planning.

In the **Sanctuary**, the Board has consulted with Don Collins about extensive painting work that remains to be done, a project that would necessarily affect other tasks such as recarpeting and pew-cushion replacement. The tall Sanctuary windows will be professionally washed in mid-July, and the Board continues to consider options for curtains or shades.

There is also interest in **making the lectern portable**, so that any groups that use the chancel and altar area would have additional spatial flexibility. This project would involve unobtrusively detaching the lectern from the chancel and relocating the audio equipment currently housed in it. Everyone agreed this was possible and saw the benefit of concealing electronic equipment and wiring. Steve Silver, though, emphasized that portability of the pulpit would not be an option, stressing the

primacy of the space's liturgical and spiritual character.

DIACONATE

At their June retreat, the Deacons considered **priorities and dreams** for the year ahead. These include building on our recent success of bringing new people into the FCC congregation, an effort supported by our location, our music ministry, our children's programs, and Steve Silver's preaching. Deacons then emphasized the need to be aware of and offer "human nourishment" to all those who enter our church. They agreed on the importance of opening our common life to the wider community through musical events, ecumenical services like Praise in the Park, and movie nights and other youth events.

The Deacons also considered **our collective spiritual growth**, in order to build our relationships with God and our wider community and world. Steve Silver invited suggestions from the congregation in this regard; past ideas that might be revived include a lay prayer group, a book group, a labyrinth-walk exercise in meditative prayer, and a relaunched Bible study group. The FCC website could also offer the opportunity to post prayer requests, and Steve added a suggestion that we pray regularly for the UCC, the NH Conference, and individual congregations in need of support.

Deacons also recognized the need for supporting deeper and **more robust stewardship**, of both financial resources and time and talents. Members could perhaps deliver stewardship messages more often during worship, and some "coaching" and education about our stewardship ministry were also suggested, possibly engaging outside speakers.

To **support our music ministry**, we might feature special worship music on (for example) the third Sunday of each month, such as Shaker songs or a jazz service. We could also solicit congregational hymn suggestions more often. The Deacons agree on the importance of inviting feedback from the full congregation about our music ministry and ongoing conversation with the Music Committee.

The June retreat offered Deacons a chance to revisit their **individual member lists** and offer strategies for maintaining congregational contact more effectively. Members of the congregation should receive more directed information about all of FCC's ministries and programs. The Deacons also noted the inadequate degree of accessibility and comfortable seating in our Sanctuary.

The Diaconate is also considering the need to visibly strengthen our church's invitation as an **Open and Affirming (ONA)** congregation. It is important to make it clearer that we welcome all God's people,

COMMITTEE NOTES

regardless of race, class, ability, or sexual orientation or gender identity. Suggestions in this regard included adding our ONA status to church signage and advertisements, inviting a gay men's chorus to perform at FCC, and focusing our efforts to welcome members of the local Jamaican community who have already attended worship here.

Steve Silver anticipates taking a **sabbatical** sometime after February 2017, which will require FCC to provide worship leadership in his absence. The Deacons decided that hiring an interim pastor would be preferable to filling in with multiple one-time or short-term guests. It was noted, however, that any interim choice would have to come from outside the membership of the church. Similarly, Deacons recognized the need to form a three-person In-Care Committee for Eliot Fay, ideally to meet by the end of the summer.

The retreat group also considered how to improve our **pastoral care efforts**, specifically how our lay individuals and groups could better supplement Steve Silver's own pastoral care work. It was suggested that Called to Care and the Prayer Team could be merged into a stronger Lay Pastoral Care Ministry, supported by stronger congregational participation.

The Deacons concluded their productive, successful retreat by sharing communion and prayer.

Bike & Build and Shelter Sunday. Thanks to **everyone** who made this year's Bike & Build visit a success, with three meals and snacks, an improv show, and plenty of hospitality! And thanks to those who generously gave this year to Shelter Sunday, which raised \$645 for Upper Valley Habitat.



Diaconate Proposal for Alternative Witness to UCC Resolutions

The Diaconate continues to work on revising this proposal for responding to the UCC's resolutions to "boycott and divest" from companies doing business in the West Bank.

Further updates will be forthcoming later this summer.

Our Community Garden Needs Some Help!

Our Community Garden is planted, but if you're willing to help us weed and maintain it, **please contact Ron Bailey at ronbaileymtman@gmail.com/ 603-675-2326.**

July Meetings

Mission/Social Action and Stewardship	(no mtg)
Christian Education	(no mtg)
Church Council	(no mtg)
Board of Governors	7/24, 11:15
Diaconate	7/25, 5:30 (at S. Montmagny's)

August Meetings

Mission/Social Action and Stewardship	(no mtg)
Diaconate	(no mtg)
Christian Education	(no mtg)
Church Council	8/16, 7:00
Board of Governors	8/28, 11:15

COMMITTEE NOTES

Call for Nominations — 5th Annual Micah Awards Sponsored by the United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP)

The prophet Micah calls us to consider what it means to live into God's expectations for us, offering guidance on how to live up to those expectations: "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (*Micah 6:8*)

UVIP's Micah Awards annually recognize local "Micah Heroes" who live into the prophet's words in some exemplary manner—people who contribute time and energy to community service, who consistently volunteer themselves to work for a vital cause, who offer their community a living role model of faith in service. Each UVIP member organization is invited to honor its own Micah Hero.

All are welcome to nominate up to three members of our congregation who best represent the spirit of the Micah Awards (only our previous winners, Ron Bailey and Pete Mason, are ineligible).

The individual receiving the most votes will be our congregation's Micah Hero for 2016. Keep in mind that this is an annual award, and so nominations typically reflect service during the past year (next year's Micah Hero will be someone new, and many will have an opportunity for recognition).

Nominations (up to three per person) must be submitted to the church office no later than **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**. Please contact the church office with any questions.

Coming in September — Save These Dates!

SEPTEMBER 11 **KICK-OFF SUNDAY!**

Plan to join in the Blessing of the Backpacks, registration for Church School, pizza and ice cream, and lots of outdoor fun.

Until then, enjoy summer!

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT Friday to Sunday, September 23-25 UCC HORTON CENTER, WHITE MOUNTAINS

Look for more information next month about this weekend experience of building community and faith in gorgeous natural surroundings. All are invited to come, especially families. The schedule is completely flexible and open; attending the whole weekend is not required.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity!

The **Pastoral Perspective**, *continued from Page 1*

walk on the rail trail, visiting the beach, or hiking in the White Mountains—we might do well to ponder Herbert's words and meditate on his vision of God, trying to listen for the Spirit and see where it may be calling us to go. We might be surprised where we are being led, and we might be amazed at what we are called to do. We will most surely be blessed by opening ourselves to God's dreams for our lives.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

A Visit to David's House. On June 5, Church School children and volunteers delivered supplies to David's House at DHMC. Given a tour by Don Dutton, the group learned how this amazing facility works and experienced the warm, comforting environment it provides for families whose kids are being treated at CHaD.



Blessing of the Animals
June 5, 2016
Friendly beasts and friendly humans all found shelter from rain in the Narthex. All of the animals were well loved—but none more so than the Teeters' ferrets!

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



Baptized on Children's Sunday
Clayton James Davis, Jr. and
Kailyn Louise Rappaport



Children's Sunday!
June 12, 2016

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music at the Meetinghouse

Summer Concerts!

All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

SUZUKI ROYAL OAK TOURING ENSEMBLE—Thursday, July 7, at 7:30 pm

We welcome this premier violin ensemble from the Suzuki Royal Oak Institute of Music in Michigan, a group that has toured throughout the U. S. and Europe. Sponsored by the Upper Valley Music Center, the program features Bach, Telemann, Brahms, von Paradis, Bohm, and Lindsey Stirling. *Free admission.*

CLASSICOPIA RETURNS IN AUGUST

Now in its fifteenth year under the leadership of Marcia Colligan and Daniel Weiser, Classicopia offers an engaging combination of brilliant musicianship and informative discussion in a relaxed atmosphere.

Suggested admission \$20, FCC members \$10, children free. For more, call 603-643-3337 or visit www.classicopia.org

Russian Rhapsody—Friday, August 12, at 7:30 pm

Internationally known cellist Cecylia Barczyk and her daughter, pianist Elizabeth Borowsky, join Dan Weiser for the *Cello Sonata* and *Vocalise* of Sergei Rachmaninov and the *Slavonic Dances* of Antonin Dvorak.

Quintessence II—Friday, August 19, at 7:30 pm

Dan Weiser welcomes violinists Ralph Allen and David Horak, violist Marcia Cassidy, and cellist Iris Jortner for tuneful, folk-inspired quintets by Antonin Dvorak and Erno Dohnanyi.



Our First Musical Drama Camp!

Monday-Friday, 1:00-4:00 pm, August 15-19

Performance and Family Cookout, Friday at 5:00 pm

Join us for a fun week exploring the exciting story of King David. Kids will learn about God, have fun, and prepare the musical *King David and the National Treasure*, which they will perform at the end of the week! This exciting program will be led by Elizabeth Duvall, Marcia Corkins, and Nicole Mason, with Henry Danaher and Rev. Steve Silver.

All children ages 6-12 are invited to participate, and campers needn't be members of our congregation—they just have to be ready to have a great time! There is no cost, although free-will donations to support the church's ministry are welcome.

Questions? Contact Steve Silver at 603-448-4281/silver@fccleb.org.

Spread the word, and plan to join us in August!

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sundays, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12
10 South Park Street, 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



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

10 South Park Street

PO Box 230

Lebanon, NH 03766

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Summer Concerts!

All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

SUZUKI ROYAL OAK TOURING ENSEMBLE—Thursday, July 7, at 7:30 pm

Sponsored by the Upper Valley Music Center. Free admission.

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