



**First Congregational Church
of Lebanon**

United Church of Christ

JUNE 2014

News and Events

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The Pastoral Perspective

On the second Sunday of June our Eastertide journey will reach its climactic finish with the celebration of Pentecost. It is on this day that we, along with millions of Christians around the world, will mark with word and song that long-ago gift of the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus, which signaled the birth of what we have come to know as the church.

Our Christian faith posits that the arrival of the Holy Spirit—the Advocate, the Comforter, that person of the Trinity who animates the life of God’s gathered people—was a discrete historical event, something that took place at a moment in time, in a particular place. Yet this event is ongoing. The Spirit was not deposited on the doorstep of the church like a phone book or package. Instead, it arrived, animated and animating. Put another way, if Christmas marks the arrival of the Christ child, Emmanuel, God with us, Pentecost marks the arrival of the Holy Spirit, Emmanuel, God with us.

Confusing? Opaque? Don’t worry! This is the Trinity we’re talking about, after all. The day when we feel that our language can wholly encompass and explain God is the day we should admit our delusions have gotten the better of us. We can never truly comprehend God—after all, we are finite beings, while the One who created us, who redeemed us, who sustains us, is infinite. That doesn’t mean we should stop talking about God, however. Far from it; instead, we should embrace our limits and work within them, for in doing so we can see things anew.

I firmly believe that seeing things in a new light is this generation’s vocation. Doing so doesn’t mean abandoning the tenets of our faith. It does, however, require that we acknowledge just how much the world around us is changing and how such change demands we find newly engaging, compelling ways to tell the “old, old story.”

Pentecost Sunday will offer our community a chance to consider this proposition. For that day is also Children’s Sunday. Over the past year our young people have been learning about life in biblical times. We as

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SUNDAY SERVICE

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY!!

JUNE 8

Presentations to ALL Children and Volunteers during Worship
Exhibits and Costumes of "Life During Biblical Times"
Special Coffee Hour Food and Activities

Please join us for this celebration of our Church School. The children have learned so much during the year, and they're eager to share it with us!

Queued for Coffee Hour

June—Board of Governors

July—Church Council

August—Christian Education Committee

COMMUNITY DINNER Sunday, June 22, at 5:00

Thanks to MARCY CHONG for organizing this month's dinner!

Please support Marcy 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.

Mark Your Calendars...

Praise in the Park!

Sunday, July 27, 10:00 am, Colburn Park

Plan to join us on the Lebanon Green for this annual ecumenical service. First Baptist Church will worship with us this year, and the United Methodist Church's new pastor will be preaching.

FATHER'S DAY IS SHELTER SUNDAY

Every year on Father's Day, FCC makes a commitment to support the work of Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity, the local affiliate of an international, ecumenical ministry. Habitat for Humanity provides decent, affordable housing and home ownership for deserving families who could not otherwise afford to buy a home. Families work alongside volunteers to build their own home, which they are able to purchase at cost with a zero-interest mortgage.

If you would like to honor or remember the father(s) in your life with a contribution to Shelter Sunday, please complete and return the bulletin insert on June 8 or contact the church office directly with your contribution and dedication information.

Please consider this annual effort to support Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity—just a couple days before our Bike & Builders arrive here to work on a UV Habitat project!

JUNE 2014 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10a Worship/ Church School (Communion)	2 3p WCBH After-school 5:30p Wolf Cubs 6p Tiger Cubs	3 7p Boy Scouts	4 6p UVPRN 7p Oneness VT Meditation	5 7p Choir	6 6p Bear Cubs 7p Cub Scouts Committee	7 8a Men's Breakfast 9a Bible Study
8 Children's Sunday! 10a Worship/ Church School <i>(Strengthen the Church Offering)</i> 3p UVMC Spring Sing	9 5:30p Wolf Cubs 7p Diaconate	10 5-7p UV Women's Network	11 6p UVPRN	12 9:30a-4p Grafton- Orange Assn 7p Choir <i>(last)</i> 7p K. Andrew Student Recital	13 6p Bear Cubs 8p Tim Hansen LHS Senior Voice Recital	14 9a Bible Study 10a S. Slater Student Recital 3:30p Carmen B. Tarleton 7:30p Classicopia
15 FATHER'S DAY 10a Worship/ Church School (Shelter Sunday) 11:15a M&SA / Stewardship	16 5:30p Wolf Cubs	17 Bike & Build (arrives PM) 7p Church Council	18 6p UVPRN 7p J. Hansen Student Recital 7p Christian Ed Committee	19 Bike & Build (departs AM)	20 6p Bear Cubs	21 9a Bible Study
22 10a Worship/ Church School 11:15a Board of Governors 12:30p Outing Club: Boston Lot Hike 5p Community Dinner	23 JULY NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE 5:30p Wolf Cubs 6p Tiger Cubs	24 7p Boy Scouts	25 6p UVPRN	26	27 6p Bear Cubs	28 9a Bible Study
29 10a Worship/ Church School	30	1 7p Boy Scouts	2 6p UVPRN	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 8a Men's Breakfast (?)

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

At the May Council meeting, Barry Schuster reported for the **Finance Committee** that while pledges are perhaps a bit slow, the monthly budget report shows nothing unusual. The committee has also been determining the appropriate **compensation for the new organist** position.

There was continued discussion about **heating costs**. Jennifer Grant wondered how we might obtain more information about optimal institutional heating costs and efficiency. Jon Scott added that the Stewardship Committee is interested in having an energy audit done for the church facility. All agreed that the Board of Governors should make energy efficiency and resource use a priority, perhaps with Jon acting as an advisor given his expertise in environmental initiatives.

Corrine Erskine reported for **Mission and Social Action** that Steve Silver had inquired about replenishing funding for **housing and rent assistance**, demand for which has been acute recently. Requests come to the church office or to Steve directly, and typically the church disburses no more than \$50 at a time, primarily for Lebanon residents and payable only to landlords themselves. A motion to transfer \$1,000 from the Dole Fund for community housing and rent assistance passed unanimously.

On behalf of the **Stewardship Committee**, Jon Scott asked for help in getting particular details about church finances and budget (e.g., how many give to a certain special offering). The committee would like to communicate to the congregation more effectively, and with more data.

Brian Clancy noted **Classicopia's** performances in May, June, and July. He added that a number of instrumental **recitals** were also taking place at church in the next month. The recitals demonstrate that the community recognizes the Sanctuary as a quality space for musical performance, and they attract people to the church who might not otherwise come here.

There followed a brief discussion about the **use of church space by outside groups**, musical or not. Brian reviewed our usage fees and explained that our usual practice (if not actually a stated policy) is to accommodate groups with some flexibility—we try not to deny any reasonable use request because of an inability to pay fees.

Brian reported that the **search for a new organist/choir director** produced four candidates, two of whom were interviewed in early May. After contacting references, the search committee has referred its final choice to the Personnel Committee.

Jennifer Grant reported that the **Diaconate** had sponsored a

presentation by Lee Webster on green burials. The Deacons have also discussed how to serve young families, keeping in mind the discernment goal of Growing Younger, and have tried to stay informed about the proposal for a Community Nurse. There are plans for another “Outing Club” event at Boston Lot, which will be opened up to the community as well. More hikes and forums are planned for the fall.

The Deacons have continued their “**Experiencing the Divine**” discussions, sharing personal experiences of how God and their faith are present in their lives. All have found these discussions spiritually renewing, interesting, and rewarding.

Jennifer regrets that Carol Kingston, who had hoped to join the Diaconate, will be unable to do so at this time because of personal circumstances.

Pete Mason reported that Nora Miller had **cleaned up and planted the memorial gardens** and some other spots around the church, for which everyone is grateful!

Reporting for the **Board of Governors**, Pete added that the bathroom toilets will be replaced with units that are easier to flush while still using water efficiently.

Amy Driscoll reported that **Women of the Church** will be

COMMITTEE NOTES

hosting **Carmen Blandin Tarleton** for a talk and reception on June 14. The event will be opened to other local churches and WISE.

Amy also noted that some have suggested receptions (and coffee hours, etc.) have perhaps become more elaborate than they need to be. All agreed that any reception should always be about fellowship first; there shouldn't be any expectation (either by those

attending or by those serving) that a full spread should be provided. Reducing the scale of ordinary receptions might also allow for more generosity on special occasions.

Steve Silver noted that he's been attending to several pastoral-care issues. He promoted **Children's Sunday (June 8)**, for which Marcia Corkins, other volunteers, and the children themselves have worked hard to prepare.

Adding to Jennifer's comments about young families, Steve also considered what we can do for these families, both those who are already here and those that we hope to attract to FCC.

Steve noted that **Praise in the Park** this year is scheduled for July 27. He is happy to report that First Baptist Church will be involved, and that the Methodist Church's new pastor will be preaching.

June Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	6/9, 7:00
<i>Mission & Social Action and Stewardship</i>	6/15, 11:15
<i>Church Council</i>	6/17, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	6/18, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	6/22, 11:15

July Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	7/14, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	7/15, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	7/16, 7:00
<i>Mission & Social Action and Stewardship</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Board of Governors</i>	(no mtg)

Hike Boston Lot! With FCC's "Outing Club"

Sunday, June 22, 12:30 pm
(Rain date June 29)

The Diaconate enthusiastically invites the congregation and wider community to join another spiritual walk to Boston Lot! We'll meet at 12:30 in the parking lot across from the Wilder Dam on Route 10. After walking up to the lake (1/3 mile at a gradual incline), we will picnic by the water. Those who wish may take a mile-plus hike around the lake.

Bring a picnic lunch, a blanket or chair, water, bug spray, and sunscreen. A "cargo transport" will ferry our picnic supplies up to the lake.

Don't miss this latest opportunity to grow deeper by walking farther!

Community Dinner Fund Available

The Mission & Social Action Committee and the Treasurer remind the congregation that a fund has been established to encourage the provision of more nutritional and (when possible) locally-sourced food for our monthly Community Dinners.

To request reimbursement, Team Leaders should submit receipts, with an explanatory note, to Todd Heatheron.

SPECIAL EVENT

Carmen Blandin Tarleton: Overcome: Burned, Blinded, and Blessed

Saturday, June 14, 3:30 pm
Sponsored by Women of the Church



In June 2007 Carmen Tarleton's estranged husband broke into her rural Vermont home and beat her savagely. Despite blindness and significant disfigurement from what doctors called "the most horrific injury a human being could suffer," she survived numerous surgeries and a facial transplant.

Carmen emerged from this unspeakable trauma with an awakened purpose and determined joy. In national interviews, speaking engagements, and now a book, she has shared her struggle and triumph over catastrophe, inspiring others who have suffered from domestic violence, abuse, and other personal tragedies.

All are invited to attend Carmen's special presentation on June 14 in the Sanctuary. We would like to open this invitation to the wider community, so please bring or encourage your friends to attend. (In particular, we are inviting other area churches and our mission partner WISE.) A reception will follow in the Parish Hall, where copies of Carmen's book, *Overcome*, will be available for signing and purchase.

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

a congregation will have a chance to share what they have experienced. We will also have a chance to see and witness their enthusiasm, joy, and excitement. And then we will be afforded the opportunity to reflect on what we as a church are willing and ready to do to maintain their excitement about engaging the story of God's love.

The Holy Spirit arrived two millennia ago to give birth to the church. By God's grace, the Holy Spirit remains with us today, ready to give new birth to the church—if only we are ready, if only we are willing.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

First Congregational Church
joins Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
in celebrating

Barbara J. Teeter

for her 45 years of service to the hospital.

(Photos from a banner
displayed to recognize service
milestones at DHMC)

45
YEARS

Barbara J. Teeter, LNA

General Internal Medicine

“She loves her job and loves nurturing the medical residents in 3M. She always looks forward to seeing the new residents come in July.”

-MONICA CHICOINE
General Internal Medicine

“In the 30 years of working in venues that brought us together, she emanated goodness and caring.”

-JONATHAN ROSS, MD
General Internal Medicine



We're proud of you, Barb!!

Con-GRAD-ulations!

*We joyfully celebrate these
May and June graduations:*



Taylor Downs (Lebanon HS)

Ethan Guyer (Lebanon HS)

Alex Kingston (Mascoma Valley Regional HS)

Cassandra Nevel (Lebanon HS)

Elizabeth Moses (Gordon College)

Ashley Oronte (River Valley Community College)

New Contact Information:

Laura Place

**149 East Side Drive #194
Concord, NH 03301-5475**

Of course, all of us continue to consider Laura a member of our church family, even as she settles into her new home.

Thanks to those who arranged for the wonderful reception in her honor on Mother's Day!

(See Page 9 for photos.)

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

Senior Luncheon

A beloved annual event, the Senior Lunch again brought together our youthfully spirited elders on May 6 for fellowship, conversation, delicious food—and a performance by the Superlatives of Lebanon High School (featuring our own James Heatherton!)



THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



Spring Clean-Up Day

Thanks to all those who chipped in to help with our annual Spring Clean-Up on May 3. Many hands made light work!



Celebrating Laura Place

On Mother's Day, May 11, our congregation honored Laura Place, a member of our church family for decades. Laura has moved down to Concord to be closer to her daughter, but her name tag remains in the narthex rack for whenever she wants to visit!

Bike & Build Returns to the Upper Valley!

Tuesday Afternoon to Thursday Morning, June 17-19

Now in its twelfth summer, the Bike & Build program consists of ten cross-country biking trips to raise money and awareness for affordable housing. Stopping along their routes to participate in construction efforts, groups of 18- to 25-year-old riders experience first-hand the considerable need for affordable housing across the country. These cyclist-builders also meet with local officials and community members to discuss housing-related issues. Each rider raises at least \$4,500 to help fund the trip's costs and housing efforts nationwide.

Once again, FCC will be hosting 30+ cyclists on Bike & Build's northern route. On their ten-week journey from Portsmouth, NH, to Vancouver, BC, the group will join projects at ten sites; in the Upper Valley, they will work with Habitat for Humanity and Cover Home Repair, and Twin Pines Housing Trust.



The bikers will again stay at church, but we hope to involve our ecumenical neighbors in the effort to feed and serve the group while they're here. Our cool basement will offer a welcome respite after the trip's challenging first leg from Portsmouth. We'll also provide meals and arrange a short presentation in which the bikers will share their experiences and aspirations. Tentatively, we would also like to offer a bike clinic for youth riders (ages 5-14).

*Please contact the church office if you would like to help provide or serve a meal.
Thanks in advance for your support of this inspiring project!*

OUR CHURCH'S GLOBAL MISSION

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 (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
at the
Meetinghouse

Classicopia

For thirteen years Marcia Colligan, pianist Daniel Weiser, and Classicopia have offered an engaging combination of brilliant musicianship and informative discussion in a relaxed atmosphere.

Saturday, June 14, at 7:30 pm—“The American Songbook”

Pianist Dan Weiser and mezzo-soprano Erma Mellinger share a selection of wonderful songs by George Gershwin, Harold Arlen, Jerome Kern, and many others.

Sunday, July 20, at 4:00 pm—Piano Trios (Program TBA)

For more information, call 603-643-3337 or visit www.classicopia.org.

Also in June at the Meetinghouse

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, AT 8:00 PM—TIMOTHY HANSEN, LHS SENIOR VOICE RECITAL

Come support our Interim Organist as he wraps up his high school musical career with a flourish!

Sunday, June 8, at 3:00 pm—Upper Valley Music Center Spring Sing!

Thursday, June 12, at 7:00 pm—Violin Recital, Students of Kathy Andrew

Saturday, June 14, at 10:00 am—Piano Recital, Students of Sarah Slater

Wednesday, June 18, at 7:00 pm—Voice Recital, Students of Jennifer Hansen