



# Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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## The Pastoral Perspective

Did you know I have a bunch of colleagues in ministry who are always ready to be hugged, who don't complain when they are unceremoniously pushed onto the floor, and who have never, ever offered a complaint? If you have been in our church, you have met them—or at least walked by them. They are, of course, the stuffies in the children's reading corner in the Parlor. These plush animals are not just a familiar, friendly source of companionship, but, I believe, tangible reminders of Jesus.

Like our stuffies, Jesus is there for us, come what may. He is never too busy for us, never has to be somewhere else. Instead, no matter what the circumstance, no matter what our situation, Jesus is ready to meet us wherever we are. Jesus, the Son of God, one of the three parts of the Trinity, Lord of all Creation, fully gave himself for us. He did so—and does so—without reserve, without complaint, without conditions. All he asks of us is that we accept the gift of his transforming love, his boundless grace, his healing power.

Admittedly, this is not always easy to do. Sometimes, we may feel we are not worthy. Other times, we may prefer to seek solace from a different source. There may be times when we are leading our lives in a way that places obstacles between ourselves and God's presence. Fortunately, none of this will dissuade Jesus from being our companion, our friend, our Savior. If ever we doubt this, we would do well to remember that God did not have to come to us in Jesus. He did not have to put up with skeptics. He did not have to spend his time with fallible disciples. He



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# SUNDAY SERVICE

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY!!

JUNE 12, 2016

Children Lead Worship with Readings and Music  
Presentations to Children and Volunteers  
Special Coffee Hour / Exhibits on "Our Friends in the Bible"  
Please join us for this celebration of our Church School! The children will share what they have learned, discussed, shared, and made while exploring this year's theme, "Bible Buddies." See you in June!

## Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, June 5  
1:00 pm



Join us on the front lawn with your animals of all shapes, sizes, and species! Photos, mementos, and stuffed friends are also welcome at this brief service in the spirit of St. Francis.  
**Treats afterward for humans and beasts alike!**

### Queued for Coffee Hour

June—Board of Governors

July—Church Council

August—Christian Education Committee

## COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, June 26, 5:00 pm

Leaders: Terry Ellison and Alyson Danyew-Ellison  
We're grateful to new members Terry and Alyson for stepping up to lead this month's dinner! Please consider helping out with this vital service to our neighbors. Sign-ups in the Parish Hall.  
**Never helped before but interested in trying? Make THIS your month!**

## Special Worship Opportunities Later This Summer

**Praise in the Park**—Sunday, July 31  
We once again join our ecumenical partners for worship outdoors in Colburn Park.

**Worship Exchange with West Lebanon Congregational Church**—August 7 and 14  
Our congregations will worship together at WLCC on August 7, with Steve Silver preaching. The following Sunday, Jeff Scott will preach here at FCC.

## FATHER'S DAY IS SHELTER SUNDAY

Every Father's Day (June 19 this year), FCC makes a commitment to support the work of Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity, the local affiliate of an international, ecumenical ministry. Since 1976, Habitat for Humanity has provided 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 then 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 5/12 or contact the church office directly with your contribution and dedication information.

# JUNE 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> <b>10a</b> Worship and Church School	<b>30</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> <i>(FCC office closed)</i>	<b>31</b> <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>1</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN	<b>2</b> <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>3</b> <b>8a</b> UVIP	<b>4</b> <b>8a</b> Men's Breakfast  <b>12p</b> Jane Brandt Memorial Svc (at Valley Cemetery, West Lebanon; reception at FCC)  <b>5:30p FCC Movie Night!</b>
<b>5</b> <b>10a</b> Worship (Communion)/ Church School  <b>11:15a</b> MSA <b>1p</b> <b>Blessing of the Animals</b>	<b>6</b> <b>3p</b> WCBH After-School Group <i>(last)</i>  <b>6:15p</b> Cub Scouts (Bears)	<b>7</b> <b>5:45p</b> Cub Scouts (Wolves/Tigers)  <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> <b>8a-4p</b> NH-WIC <b>6p</b> UVPRN  <b>No</b> Christian Ed Committee	<b>9</b> <b>9:30a-4p</b> Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn  <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>10a</b> Diaconate Retreat (home of G/W Smith)  <b>7p</b> <b>A Cappella Showcase, w/ Harmony Night</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Children's Sunday!</b> <b>10a</b> Worship and Church School  <b>7p</b> Violin Recital, Students of Kathy Andrew	<b>13</b> <b>6:15p</b> Cub Scouts (Bears) <i>(last)</i>  <b>No</b> Diaconate <i>(because of retreat)</i>	<b>14</b> <b>5:45p</b> Cub Scouts (Wolves/Tigers) <i>(last)</i>  <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>15</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN	<b>16</b> <b>6p</b> Clarinet Recital, Students of Meghan Davis  <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> <b>10a</b> Worship and Church School <b>(Shelter Sunday)</b>  <b>4p</b> Voice Recital, Students of Jennifer Hansen  <b>Bike &amp; Build</b> <i>(arrives PM)</i>	<b>20</b> <b>6p</b> <b>Bike &amp; Build Potluck and Presentation</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Bike &amp; Build</b> <i>(departs AM)</i>  <b>7p</b> Church Council  <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts/ Troop Committee	<b>22</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN	<b>23</b> <b>10a-6p</b> NH-WIC <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>24</b> <b>7:30p</b> <b>Will Ogmundson: New Music for Piano</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>10a</b> Worship and Church School  <b>11:15a</b> Board of Governors  <b>5p</b> <b>Community Dinner</b>	<b>27</b> <b>7p</b> (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	<b>28</b> <b>10a</b> (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth  <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>29</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN	<b>30</b> <b>9:30a</b> (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth  <b>12p/7p</b> (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert  <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>8a</b> Men's Breakfast

If your event is missing or incorrect, please notify us at [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org) or 603-448-4281.

## COMMITTEE NOTES

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Reporting for the **Diaconate**, Susan Montmagny celebrated the nine new members who joined the church on May 15. The Deacons are revisiting our status as an Open and Affirming congregation to consider how we might best support and publicize that. They also voted unanimously to serve communion by intinction when we worship in the Sanctuary and by distribution of the elements in the Parish Hall. The Deacons will gather for a retreat on June 11 at the home of Ginger and Wendell Smith.

John Gilliatt reported for the **Board of Governors** on the consideration of hiring church members for various projects, whether building projects or financial or legal consultation. Council members present agreed that this was appropriate, as long as those members offered competitive bids and solid qualifications. No formal vote was taken, but Council may adopt an explicit statement on this policy in the future. John also noted the success of the Spring Clean-Up event in early May, which attracted a high turnout, fostered fellowship, and accomplished much.

Marcia Corkins noted that the **Christian Education** Committee and children would be delivering supplies to David's House on June 5 after worship, returning in time for the Blessing of the Animals that day. The following weekend (June 12) is Children's Sunday, celebrating our children and their year in the Church School. Lastly, FCC is pleased to offer a summer vacation

Bible Musical Camp August 15-19, led by Elizabeth Duvall and Henry Danaher and featuring a musical about King David.

Corrine Erskine reported that the **Women of the Church** would purchase new silverware to add to the church's supply. Our annual Senior Luncheon was again a delightful event, featuring the LHS Superlatives and delicious food made by Trish Heatherton with help from many others. The WOC will also be organizing the May Community Dinner.

Corrine noted for Mission and Social Action that **Bike & Build** would be visiting June 19-21. There was discussion about who would organize efforts to provide meals (two dinners and one breakfast). Amy Driscoll is coordinating a volunteer group from King Arthur Flour for a build-your-own pizza night on June 19.

Susan Montmagny reported that there would be a meeting on June 5 with her brother Peter Newell to discuss details of our support for the **Penobscot Reservation** in Maine. This includes a possible work trip to clear land for a women's center.

For **Nominating**, Amy Driscoll asked Council to consider the nomination of Larry Doyle to the Diaconate, which was unanimously approved. She also noted ongoing challenges of filling particular spots, primarily on the Stewardship Committee, and our need for stable financial leadership in the

Treasurer position. She repeated a need for further education of the congregation about these issues. Susan Montmagny offered the support of stewardship resources from the NHC's Prepared to Serve conference. Steve Silver added that the congregation needs to devote serious attention to strengthening both stewardship and financial leadership at FCC.

For the **Music Committee**, Brian Clancy promoted a number of spring concerts and student recitals happening at the church. Steve commended Henry Danaher's work to arrange several consecutive weeks of special music in worship by guest musicians. The possibility of having our own choir sing more than once in our service was also put forth, although this would primarily be a decision for Henry and the choir.

Linda Oronte informed Council of an imminent **need for childcare coverage** this summer on dates when our regular caregivers would be away. She suggested that a list of regularly available substitutes be maintained. Normally, this has been the responsibility of the Diaconate, but many agree that it may be more appropriate for Council to handle this directly, because childcare is a personnel issue.

An inquiry was made regarding the status of the new **church directory**, for which photos were taken last fall. Church Administrator Brian Clancy admitted the lengthy delay and explained that the limited time of

# COMMITTEE NOTES

his position, coupled with technical and procedural challenges of the Lifetouch process, had consistently postponed his opportunity to work on this project. On the positive side, however, new members who have joined since December can now be included in the directory.

In his **pastor's report**, Steve Silver celebrated our new members and the prospect of our Bible musical camp in August, which would be promoted to the wider community. He announced that this year's Praise in the Park service would occur on July 31. He also described plans with Rev. Jeff Scott for a worship exchange with West Lebanon Congregational Church, with our two congregations worshipping together at WLCC on August 7 and at FCC on August 14. The two churches' men's groups would serve breakfast at each church.

Lastly, Steve detailed his summer **vacation and study** leave plans; he will be away from church from July 4-10, July 24, and August 22-Sept 5. He also noted that **Pastoral Relations** would meet sometime in June, and invited initial consideration of **coverage during his sabbatical**, planned for early 2017.

## DIACONATE

In May the Diaconate welcomed **Larry Doyle as a new deacon**. Larry shared his gratitude that he's been welcomed so warmly into the congregation, and he's pleased to serve as a deacon.

Steve Silver introduced **Eliot Fay**, formerly the pastor of First Baptist Church in Lebanon and now the interim at South Congregational Church in Newport, NH. Eliot is considering ordination in the UCC, and asks our congregation to accept him as a member as a first step in this process. Steve outlined the steps to ordination and emphasized the need to listen to the Spirit as we walk with Eliot during his discernment process. Several suggestions were made to include Eliot in the life of the congregation, keeping in mind his duties at SCC in Newport.

Susan Montmagny provided an update on **Open and Affirming** issues. She reminded all deacons to return their surveys on this, in order to facilitate discussion during the June 11 retreat. Steve Silver suggested that we consider how we can be a church "grounded in hospitality" while also considering what is right for our community. There was discussion regarding extending hospitality to visitors of all races and socioeconomic status. This includes conversations with "new" people during coffee hour and the need to "self-check" our thoughts about others.

Deacons signed cards with **well wishes** for Carolin Bassett, Lloyd and Virginia Bennett, Don Rowell, and Closey Dickey.

Kathy Beckett reported for **UVIP** that the period for public comment on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's new payday-

lending regulations would be the week of May 29; Shark Week, a week of demonstration against predatory lending, is the week of June 26. A "Cantastoria" (music and story) dramatization of the difficulties of living as a low-wage earner is planned for WRJ's First Friday on July 1. On the Aging With Dignity front, Steve Teeter noted a discussion at the Upper Valley Senior Center on an

## 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.**

## June Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action and Stewardship</i>	6/5, 11:15
<i>Christian Education</i>	6/8, 7:00
<i>Diaconate</i>	Retreat 6/11
<i>Church Council</i>	6/21, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	6/26, 11:15

## July Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action and Stewardship</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Diaconate</i>	(tbd)
<i>Christian Education</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Church Council</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Board of Governors</i>	7/24, 11:15

## COMMITTEE NOTES

advanced-care planning document created by members of the UVIP team, in which Steve participated.

Biff Simpson reported that twelve children and seven adults attended the second **Movie Night** on May 7. He asked for movie suggestions featuring themes of helping others and appropriate for children ages 4 and up. Biff also suggested that others learn to set up the media before the movie is shown. Hilary mentioned that Movie Night is a way to express hospitality and suggested posting it on Facebook. Steve Silver cautioned that showing movies each month may result in lower attendance, so perhaps bi-monthly or quarterly events would be preferable.

The Deacons voted unanimously to serve **communion** by intinction in the Sanctuary and by distribution in the Parish Hall. However, the Diaconate will revisit this pattern

should worship attendance outgrow the Parish Hall, returning us to year-round services in the Sanctuary.

Among other topics at their retreat on June 11, Deacons will review and discuss the **individual lists of members** assigned to each of them.

### WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Meeting on May 7, WOC named Carolin Bassett its new president, with the understanding that others would offer her help. Barb Teeter is Vice President, Barb Laro remains as Treasurer, and Linda Jacobs will serve as Secretary.

June 4 is the **service for Jane Brandt** at Valley Cemetery in West Lebanon, with a reception back at church. Carolin asked that everyone bake cookies or sweetbreads as she is in charge of the reception. Jane's daughter Cathy has said that casual attire will be appropriate for the

service, so the reception can also be casual.

The group also discussed **possible field trips** for the WOC, including Keller House in Laconia, Zentangle, Sunday afternoon concerts at St. Gaudens Historical Site, flower gardens in Cornish, Canterbury Shaker Village, and Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth.

The group discussed the **windows in the Sanctuary**, considering that bright sunlight at certain times of day, without any curtains to filter it, is uncomfortable for some. There was support for putting the old curtains back if possible, although those must be washed thoroughly. The matter was referred to the Board of Governors, which has also considered washing the windows. Similarly, the group decided to remove the curtains on the kitchen windows, seeing no real need for them.

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

did not have to go the cross. He did not have to do a blessed thing for us. Yet he chose to be with us, to teach us, to heal us, to redeem us.

Sometimes we need reminders of the amazing things God does for us. Those reminders can be found in worship, in art, in music, in service and fellowship. They can also be found in our Parlor. The next time you pass by the children's reading corner, I invite you to take a moment to look at the stuffies and give thanks for the One who comforts and guides and supports us through all that life can throw at us, no matter what.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

## THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

**Welcome, New Members!** Pentecost—the day we celebrate the birth of the Church—seemed the perfect day to welcome nine new covenant members: (left to right) Lorraine Cushing, Alyson Danyew-Ellison, Terry Ellison, Jim Duvall, Elizabeth Duvall, Meghan Davis, Arthur French, and Judy Macnab. (Eliot Fay also joined but could not attend.) We're so glad you each have made this commitment to join our church family and participate in the life of FCC!



## What's WIC?

### *Getting to Know One of FCC's Regular Guests*

For almost two years, First Congregational Church has hosted twice-monthly clinics operated by New Hampshire's Women, Infants, and Children Program—popularly known as WIC. Subject to certain income guidelines, families can obtain free health screenings, nutritional education and advice, breastfeeding support, and service referrals. (And despite the name, fathers routinely utilize WIC services too!) As an itinerant program with limited resources, WIC depends on sites across the state that offer enough space for its clinics at minimal cost.

Practicing responsible healthcare and nutrition can be challenging for any family, but without WIC's support it would be impossible for many parents with limited means, working multiple jobs. WIC offers them vital assistance, and they in turn are tremendously grateful. "Thanks to WIC," says a typical client, "my children's health is on track."

By offering this important program the space it needs, our congregation extends the love and compassion that Christ modeled and asked us to share with each other.

For more information, call 800-WIC-4321 or, for Belknap-Merrimack Community Action (which runs WIC clinics in Grafton County), 603-225-2050/800-578-2050. Alternatively, please visit [www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/nhp/wic](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/nhp/wic). Brochures are also available in the Parish Hall.

## The NH Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

In addition to operating WIC clinics in Grafton County, the Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Program manages CSFP, a free healthy-food program for qualifying seniors. This state-funded resource offers up to \$50 worth of food monthly to anyone aged 60 years or older who needs help in stretching their food budget.

**For more about CSFP, including required income guidelines, see the brochure in the Parish Hall or call Belknap-Merrimack Community Action at 603-225-2050 or 800-578-2050.**

# THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



**Spring Clean-Up Day**



**Senior Luncheon**





# THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

## CONSTRUCTION ON CLEAN-UP DAY



## FCC Outing Club—Trescott Lands, Hanover



Con-GRAD-ulations!  
We joyfully celebrate these  
June graduations:



James Heatherton (Lebanon HS)  
Victoria Nevel (Dartmouth College)

## It's a Boy!

The congregation extends joyful congratulations  
to Meredith and Jason Bergeron on the birth of

**Nolan Maurice Bergeron**

May 17, 2016

Weighing in at 8 lbs. 10 oz., the new baby enjoys  
the love of his parents and proud grandmother  
**Jan Bergeron!**



*New contact information for*  
**Kathy and Warren Belding**

10 Rundlett Street  
Concord, NH 03301

603-359-4085 (Kathy) / 603-359-2467 (Warren)

The Beldings would LOVE to have visitors!  
They're less than five minutes from Exit 2 of I-89.

# Bike & Build Returns to FCC!

Sunday to Tuesday, June 19-21

Ecumenical Potluck and Presentation  
Monday, June 20, at 6:00 pm (at FCC)



On June 19-21, First Congregational Church of Lebanon will host 32 cyclists from **Bike & Build**, a program that advocates and raises funds for affordable housing reform nationwide. Riders on eight cross-country routes work with Habitat for Humanity and local organizations on a variety of home construction and repair projects. These enterprising, college-age biker-builders also meet with local officials and community members to discuss housing-related issues. To participate, each biker raises at least \$4000 toward trip costs and support for the program's grant-making foundation.

**Over the past thirteen summers, approximately 3,000 participants have generated more than \$5.5 million, contributed roughly 200,000 hours of construction, and pedaled over 9.5 million miles, biking from one site to the next and raising awareness of the national housing crisis along the way.**

Starting in Portsmouth and finishing in Bellingham, WA, in August, Bike & Build's Northern Route stops in Lebanon each year for one of its ten build sites. The Lebanon United Methodist Church hosted them starting in 2005, and they've stayed at FCC since 2008. They'll sleep and eat at church, and they'll work on Monday, June 20, with Upper Valley Habitat and Cover Home Repair.

**How can you help?** By helping to provide food and healthy snacks for their stay, and by assisting us in serving two dinners (Sunday/Monday) and a breakfast (Monday @ 7:00 am).

**If you would like to help with meals, or if you have other questions, please contact the church office or Steve Teeter at 448-4529 or [jsteeter@valley.net](mailto:jsteeter@valley.net).**

**ALL ARE INVITED to join our ecumenical neighbors at FCC on Monday, June 20, at 6:00 pm to share a POTLUCK DINNER with the Bike & Build group.**

Please bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share. Following dinner, these enthusiastic, exemplary young adults will share some images and stories from their experiences.

**Don't miss this opportunity to support and learn about an inspiring tradition of service!**



Called to Care offers special assistance to those in our congregation who need it, for whatever reason—illness, loss of a loved one, loneliness, depression, aging issues, and divorce, to name a few. We offer support in the form of cards, phone calls, visits, meals, and transportation.

Now with just eight caregivers, Called to Care needs help! If the Spirit moves you to join this rewarding group, please contact Linda Jacobs ([mrands.j@comcast.net](mailto:mrands.j@comcast.net) / 802-296-8251) or Steve Silver.

## MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



### Music at the Meetinghouse

## June Concerts!

All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

### A CAPPELLA SHOWCASE WITH HARMONY NIGHT—Saturday, June 11, at 7:00 pm

Dan Signor brings his community *a cappella* group Harmony Night to our Sanctuary for a program of popular favorites, upbeat rhythms, and rich chords. *Free-will donation to benefit summer music scholarships.*

### WILLIAM ÖGMUNDSON: NEW MUSIC FOR PIANO— Friday, June 24, at 7:30 pm

Will Ögmundson returns to share his piano virtuosity on a program featuring all-new material from not one but **two** recordings he's releasing in June. And an audience-request medley is always a possibility!

### STUDENT RECITALS

Violin Students of Kathy Andrew—Sunday, June 12, 7:00 pm

Clarinet Students of Meghan Davis—Thursday, June 16, 6:00 pm

Piano Students of Sarah Slater—Friday, June 17, 3:00 pm

Voice Students of Jennifer Hansen—Sunday, June 19, 4:00 pm



## 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  
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