



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

Early last month I had the privilege of going to New York for some lectures by N. T. Wright, a theologian I have followed for a long time. Wright is a prolific writer and a dynamic lecturer. He's an accomplished scholar and an active churchman. Some suggest that he's this generation's C. S. Lewis. All I know is that I felt blessed to, essentially, be back in class.

It's funny that when we're young, even when we enjoy school, we usually can't wait until vacation. When we're older and out in the world, we might see things differently. Learning seems like something exciting, something worth our time. I know some of you participate in Osher classes at Dartmouth, and others read books or watch educational programs on TV or the Internet out of a desire to know more. In short, we're curious, and we have a desire to learn. We want to know.

Learning, studying, books, and all that is related have long been a feature of the Congregationalist tradition. We started the first colleges in the United States. We continue to argue about the meaning of things. All of this is part of our religious practice, a form of spiritual discipline.

We read in Genesis that Adam and Eve sinned by eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil—and then by lying about what they did. Knowledge is a gift, but it also carries with it a responsibility to be considered, evaluated, and shared.

We live in an age when anybody can claim to be an expert, yet true expertise is derided. Perhaps that is because the people with credentials are sometimes a bit full of themselves, even condescending to others. But that shouldn't lead to a rejection of knowledge and expertise.

One of the reasons we have a very demanding process and involved requirements for ordination in our denomination, and in many others, is that being a pastor isn't simply a matter of one's hearing an inner call; it's much more complicated, involving the wider community. Before a minister is given a pulpit, it's expected he or she will know what they are talking about—and be open to learning new things along the way.

I've been your pastor for more than nine years and I know that I'm still learning things from you, along with the classes I take and the reading I do. Thanks for being such good and patient teachers!

Yours faithfully, *Steve*

SUNDAY SERVICE

Children's Sunday is June 9

**Children Lead Worship with Readings and Music
Presentations to Children and Volunteers
Special Coffee Hour / Exhibits from Church School**

Please join us for this annual celebration of our Church School! The children will share what they have learned, shared, and made throughout the year.

If you're interested in participating or have questions, please contact the church office.

* * *

We will also recognize **MARCIA CORKINS** for her years of service and leadership of our Christian Education program. Marcia is retiring this month, but we look forward to her continued presence in our congregation!

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Greater Lebanon is struggling with rising poverty and food insecurity, especially among children. To help address this need, we're now collecting contributions year-round in a shopping cart in the Parish Hall, with a different beneficiary designated each month.

In May, we contributed a total of 140 pounds of food and supplies to the Upper Valley Haven!

* * *

During the month of June, we will collect non-perishable food and personal-care items for

LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Thanks to all for fighting local poverty and hunger!

Musical Guests This Month

JUNE 2—Sam Beliveau (*Drums*)

JUNE 16—Chris Sarkis (*Baritone*)

JUNE 23—Caroline Gollub (*Soprano*)
and Ian Gollub (*Tenor Saxophone*)

JUNE 30—Maya Lynn (*Violin*)

Community Dinner

Sunday, June 23, 5:00 pm

Leaders: THE DIACONATE

Many thanks to our Deacons for organizing this month's Community Dinner! Please lend a hand to provide this vital service to our neighbors, especially if you haven't before.

Sign-ups to be posted in the Parish Hall.

Participate in Worship!

All are invited to serve as greeters/ushers, liturgists, or some other role in worship—reading prayers of invocation or dedication, sharing a stewardship message, or even leading a children's moment.

If you're interested in this opportunity to serve, please contact the church office.

Queued for Coffee Hour

June—Board of Governors

July—Church Council

August—Christian Education Committee

FATHER'S DAY IS SHELTER SUNDAY

Every Father's Day (**June 16** 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 2 or 9, or contact the church office directly with your contribution and dedication information. Any amount is welcome—thank you!

JUNE 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10a Worship and Church School 5p Community Dinner	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28 7p BSA Troop 279 7p Cantabile Rehearsal	29 6p UVPRN	30 3p WCBH After-school Group No Choir	31 7:30p Samara Piano Quartet	1 7:30p Classicopia: The Folk Spirit
2 10a Worship and Church School (Communion) 12:30p Outing Club: Indian Ridge 4p Cantabile: Sudden Light	3 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Webelos/Girls) 7p Valley Improv	4 7p Diaconate (moved from 6/10) 7p BSA Troop 279	5 5:30p Cub Scout Pack Committee 6p UVPRN	6 No Choir (Thurs rehearsals resume in fall)	7 7:30p Anonymous Coffeehouse	8 9a-1p Spring Clean-up Day! 10a Rehearsal (W. Tanski) 7p Benefit Concert for UV Humane Society
9 10a Worship and Church School (Children's Sunday) 3p Student Recital (W. Tanski) 4:15p Elizabeth Howard Interment 6:30p Student Recital (K. Andrew)	10 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Webelos/Girls) No Diaconate (moved to 6/4)	11 7p BSA Troop 279	12 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN 7:15p Christian Ed Committee	13 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:45p Cub Scouts (Lions) 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	14 6:30p Juneberry Circle Sing	15 Bike & Build (afternoon arrival, evening dinner and improv show)
16 FATHER'S DAY 10a Worship and Church School (Shelter Sunday) 2p Jubilate Singers: Estonian Celebration 6p Bike & Build Presentation	17 Bike & Build (AM departure) 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Webelos/Girls) 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	18 6p Rehearsal (J. Ness Recital) 7p Church Council 7p BSA Troop 279/Committee	19 6p Student Recital (J. Ness) 6p UVPRN	20 12:30p G-O-S Association 7p Valley Improv	21 7:30p Anonymous Coffeehouse	22
23 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Bd of Gavs 11:15a MSA 5p Community Dinner	24	25 7p BSA Troop 279	26 6p UVPRN	27 10a-6p NH-WIC 7p Valley Improv	28	29
30 10a Worship and Church School	1 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	2 7p Diaconate(?) 7p BSA Troop 279	3 6p UVPRN	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	5	6

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

Barb Jones reported to Council that the **Diaconate** continues to oversee the Open Door Ministry and has considered the injustice of payday lending. The group will be organizing the June Community Dinner, and it has changed its monthly meeting to accommodate individual schedules. It has also reconsidered the practice of laying on hands when commissioning new deacons.

The major focus of May's Diaconate meeting was a **review of FCC's membership** roll, as we attempt to ascertain how many active members we have and determine the status of many who are no longer involved or connected to our congregation. An inquiry will be sent to offer the latter group a chance to confirm their membership or withdraw. While this review will significantly decrease our annually published membership total, Council agreed that such reporting should be as honest and accurate as possible.

Kathy Beckett noted that **Mission and Social Action** had reaffirmed the importance of our monthly Community Dinners, committing to continue them despite a drop in attendance from around 50 to 35 in the past couple years. It was observed that dinners at Listen Community Services have seen a similar drop, so this may well have nothing to do with our dinners specifically. Kathy will investigate whether lack of transportation may be a factor.

MSA is planning meals and events for **Bike & Build's visit** on June

15-17, and it is hoped that UVIP members might attend the group's presentation on Sunday, June 16. We are also working with UVIP and the NH Immigrant Support Network to support and assist an Indonesian family that recently had to move from Vermont to New Hampshire and thus lost certain benefits. They are currently living in a donated apartment, and a fund has been set up to provide for their basic needs and services. MSA recommended that FCC make a \$1200 contribution to this fund, which could come from the Dole Trust for mission purposes, and Council unanimously agreed.

Kathy further noted that MSA has arranged with **Epilogos** to continue funding a scholarship for a student in San Jose Villanueva, using half of the Church School's Lenten Lunch Bag collection. In previous years we have not maintained correspondence with the student recipient as hoped, which ideally should be with our Church School children. Epilogos president Ed Warren will receive this year's gift in worship on June 23.

We are also inviting members of Lebanon's City Council and other officials to advise on the proposals for **creation care** that have derived from our campaign planning.

For the **Trustees**, Valerie Nevel reported a strong quarterly investment performance but no other significant issues.

At-large member Leslie Thomson inquired about plans for **renovating the deck** on the front of the church and offered some background on

June Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	6/4, 7:00*
<i>Christian Education</i>	(TBD)
<i>Church Council</i>	6/18, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	6/23, 11:15
<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	6/23, 11:15**

*New monthly date (1st Tuesday)

**Guest: Ed Warren, Epilogos

July Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	(TBD)
<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	(TBD)
<i>Christian Education</i>	(TBD)
<i>Church Council</i>	(NO MTG)
<i>Board of Governors</i>	7/28, 11:15

materials and maintenance. She volunteered to help with power-washing and refinishing the decking, should that be our approach. While those present appreciated Leslie's expertise and generous offer, it was suggested that the matter be referred to the Board of Governors in advance of Spring Clean-up Day on June 8.

Considering building maintenance more broadly, Valerie Nevel asked whether our **insurance coverage** policy had recently been reviewed. Ensuing conversation recognized that rebuilding the Sanctuary as it is now would be prohibitively costly, if even possible at all, regardless of our coverage. Ideally, we would also survey coverage at comparable churches. It was suggested that the congregation be reminded of our fire evacuation process, and that a planned fire drill hadn't happened.

Steve Silver offered a brief note on behalf of the **Board of Governors** that plans to install handrails on

COMMITTEE NOTES

the chancel steps had progressed. While it may take some time to accept the aesthetic and visual change, all agreed that the safety benefit is paramount.

Brian Clancy reported on a full and successful schedule of **recent and upcoming concerts**, including another LOH on Location event (April Verch Band) that had nearly sold out and a June 8 benefit for the Upper Valley Humane Society by Henry Danaher and others. Brian also noted plans for the inaugural Anonymous Coffeehouse on Friday, June 7; response among musicians prompted the addition of a second show on June 21.

In his **pastor's report** Steve Silver emphasized the importance of reviewing our membership roll. Nationally, congregation sizes have been declining, but ours remains relatively healthy despite the expected downward revision. Steve also reported consideration of new Bible Study groups and the planned revision of our welcome brochures. He noted that his study-leave time with theologian N. T. Wright was excellent, and he plans to take his

vacation from July 15 to August 11. Lastly, Steve explained that Rachel had taken an interim job at Oberlin College in Ohio and would be there most of the time; he thanked the congregation in advance for its support through this transition.

DIACONATE

In May the Diaconate reviewed a summary of **current membership roll**, sorted by active and inactive attendees and their covenant membership status. Steve Silver will draft a letter to those deemed inactive, inquiring whether they wish to remain on the roll. Deacons identified some listed as active who should get the letter; Steve asked that Brian be notified of others.

The Deacons also considered faith-based objections to high-cost **pay-day lending and title loans**, which have shaped past federal consumer regulations. New comments on pending regulatory proposals were submitted by May 15.

Rev. Silver asked the Deacons for ideas for **Bible Study** groups that

could be held after worship (to allow choir participation). Paul's letters to the Thessalonians were suggested. Follow-up campaign discussion is needed to sort out the breadth of requests, but that will follow an open meeting of the core group. Steve will also check in on Eliot Fay's progress; his interim church in Newport has begun its search process.

On **Pentecost, June 9**, we will celebrate Children's Sunday and recognize Marcia Corkins as she retires; Nan Parsons succeeds her as Church School Superintendent. The Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association will meet in Meriden later that day to discuss an agenda on social justice and other topics.

In discussing **communion**, Steve expressed his preference that the communion table be at the center during the entire service. He will discuss choir placement with Henry and consider how best to take the collection around the table.

In response to individual conflicts, the Deacons have agreed to change their **monthly meeting date** to the first Tuesday of each month.

Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, June 8, 9:00 am (Rain Date: June 15)

Please join the Board of Governors in this seasonal effort to tidy up the church yard after winter! We'll rake lawns, trim hedges, and generally pick up around the grounds. There may be indoor projects as well.

Bring gloves, a rake, gardening tools, and anything else that might be useful (such as a truck!). Help out with this important work!



Bike & Build Returns to FCC!

SATURDAY TO MONDAY, JUNE 15-17



On June 15-17, First Congregational Church of Lebanon will host 26 cyclists from **Bike & Build**, a program that advocates and raises funds for affordable-housing reform nationwide. Riders on several cross-country routes work with Habitat for Humanity and local organizations on a variety of home repair and construction projects. These spirited, enterprising twenty-somethings also meet with community members and local officials to discuss housing-related issues. To participate, each biker-builder raises at least \$4000 toward costs and support for the program's grant-making foundation.

Over the past sixteen summers, over 3,600 biker-builders have generated more than \$6.6 million, contributed about 245,000 hours of construction, and pedaled more than 11 million miles, biking from one site to the next and raising awareness of our national housing crisis along the way.

Starting in Portsmouth and finishing in early September in Bellingham, WA, Bike & Build's Northern Route stops in Lebanon each year for one of its 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 our church, and they'll work on Sunday, June 16, 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 (Saturday and Sunday) and a breakfast (Sunday @ 7:00 am). If you would like to help with these meals or have other questions, please contact the church office. For more about this incredible program and the riders on the Northern US Route, please visit bikeandbuild.org.

** All are invited to enjoy dessert and a presentation by the bikers on SUNDAY, JUNE 16, at 6:00 **

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



SUPPLIES FOR DAVID'S HOUSE. As in years past, half of this year's Lenten Lunch Bag offering was used to purchase supplies for David's House, next door to DHMC. Kailyn Rappaport and the Mason brothers were happy to help the families who stay there!

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

CELEBRATING OUR ELDERS. Trish Heatherton and a happy crew of helpers served a delicious Senior Luncheon on May 22. After the meal, everyone enjoyed an old-fashioned hymn sing!



FCC Outing Club—Indian Ridge

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 12:30 PM

Ron Bailey leads another expedition of FCC's Outing Club, exploring the unique forest and stream habitats in the "wild" area between DHMC and Indian Ridge. The hike is about 1.7 miles long, over varied terrain on good trails.

Meet 12:30 pm at the trailhead on the south access road to DHMC (on left side, after the turn-off for the parking garage and emergency entrance). Bring a picnic lunch, water, bug spray, and sunscreen.

All are invited—and bring a friend!

Musical Drama Camp! Monday-Friday, August 12-16, 1-4 pm

We hope to bring back FCC's Musical Drama Camp, led once again by the Rev. Jo Shelnett, Henry Danaher, and several volunteers. Campers will produce a fun musical for an open performance on Friday afternoon—followed by a pizza party! All children ages 6-12 are invited to take part, whether or not they have a connection to FCC.

PLEASE NOTE: As of this publication, plans for Musical Drama Camp are not yet finalized. Confirmation and more details will soon be forthcoming.



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

June Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

BENEFIT CONCERT



Leslie Stroud *flute* Meghan Davis *clarinet*
Marshall Meade *violin/viola* Margaret Gilmore *cello*
Henry Danaher *piano*

Music of Bach, Schubert, Ives, and Khachaturian

Saturday, June 8, at 7:00 pm

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Free-will Donation for UVHS • All Are Welcome!

Benefit Concert for the Upper Valley Humane Society—

Saturday, June 8, 7:00 pm

Join us for a special evening supporting the important work of the Upper Valley Humane Society. Pianist Henry Danaher, violinist/violist Marshall Meade, cellist Margaret Gilmore, clarinetist Meghan Davis, and flautist Leslie Stroud offer a wonderfully varied program of music by J. S. Bach, Franz Schubert, Charles Ives, and Aram Khachaturian. *Free-will donation* (\$20 suggested) to benefit the Upper Valley Humane Society.

Jubilate Singers of the Upper Valley: Estonian Celebration—

Sunday, June 16, 2:00 pm

This fine local choral ensemble has been invited to participate in the 2019 Estonian Song Celebration in July, where they will join over a thousand other choirs and perform for an audience of 125,000. They will offer us a preview of their all-Estonian repertoire. *Admission by free-will donation.*

Introducing...

The ANONYMOUS COFFEEHOUSE

Fridays, June 7 and 21, at 7:30 pm

FCC is delighted to host this exciting new venue for live, local music! Conceived as an informal “listening room” open to emerging musicians on a regular basis, each show will feature several acoustic acts during the evening, and patrons may come and go as they please. A variety of baked goods and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. And it’s all free of charge, so please come, bring your friends, and enjoy! *Sponsored by a grant from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation.*

For more information, please visit anoncoffee.org/ or email anoncoffeehouse@gmail.com.

Come to the ANONYMOUS COFFEEHOUSE

Friday, June 7th 7:30–10:30pm



7:30pm – Oxford & Clark • 8:15pm – Harmony Hotel • 9pm – Derek Burkins



A place to hear live music and enjoy refreshments – all free

**First Congregational Church
on the green in Lebanon**

ANONCOFFEE.ORG

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 • Music: music@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

Spring Clean-Up

Saturday, June 8, 9:00 am

Children's Sunday

JUNE 9

Children Lead Worship
with Readings and Music

Recognition of Volunteers

Special Coffee Hour/Exhibits

Bike & Build Returns to FCC!

SATURDAY TO MONDAY,
JUNE 15-17



Music at the Meetinghouse

June Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

Classicopia: The Folk Spirit—Saturday, June 1, 7:30

Cantabile Women's Chorus—Sunday, June 2, 4:00

Benefit Concert for UV Humane Society—Saturday, June 8, 7:00

Jubilate Singers: Estonian Celebration—Sunday, June 16, 2:00

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