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The Pastoral Perspective

Way back in 1986 Cornell University launched “Dear Uncle Ezra,” a service aimed at providing answers to just about any question anybody had. In time, Ezra migrated to the web, and on April 3, 2007, among queries about the dearth of investment banking opportunities for job seekers, confusion over who might take an introductory astronomy course, and a plea from administrative support staff for guidance on how to deal with negligent supervisors, was this question: “What is the origin of the modern custom of handshaking?”

Uncle Ezra offered this reply from cyberspace:

Dear Handshaker,

There are many conflicting theories about the origin of the handshake. It seems that the most common one involves the evidence of the lack of a weapon in the right hand, which normally bears a weapon. It is shown to be empty by its connectedness to the opposite person's hand.

Nowadays, of course, the handshake is an important tool in a first-time greeting situation. Many people say that a firm handshake is a significant aspect of a job interview, or other situation in which first impressions are important.

To Christians, the handshake has an additional meaning, one that expresses a bold theological statement, specifically when the shaking of hands takes place during worship. As hands are clasped, one person says, “the peace of the Lord (or Christ) be with you,” and the other replies, “And also with you.” The act is then repeated with others, with the intention of reflecting the peace that Christ brings us—a peace that is not just an absence of violence or a pause in conflict, but a profound new reality that envelops us as individuals and as a community, drawing us deep into the embrace of God, offering us healing, grace, and love.

Continued on next page

SUNDAY SERVICE

The **Pastoral Perspective**, *cont. from Page 1*

At their April retreat, the members of the Diaconate discussed how worship can be a time when, by drawing closer to God, we can come closer to one another. In deepening our relationship with our Creator, we can strengthen and renew our relationships with one another. In this spirit and with this hope, we will begin sharing the peace of Christ during worship on Communion Sundays, beginning in June. So we can all feel comfortable and enthusiastic about this, we'll talk more about how we'll do this during the month of May in worship and at the Sunday morning Forum. Passing the peace may seem like a small gesture, but we need only think of the Parable of the Mustard Seed and how the God we have come to know in Jesus Christ, working from the humblest of beginnings, makes mighty, wondrous things happen.

The peace of Christ be with you, *Steve*

FORUM Returning in May

May 5, 12, and 19, at 9:00 am

Join us in the Parlor on Sunday mornings in May for a Forum series in which we'll explore the history of the early church as revealed in the book of Acts. All are welcome to join any or all of these informative dialogues! (Each is intended as a stand-alone discussion.)

COMMUNITY DINNER

May 26 at 5:00 pm

Team Leader Still Needed!

Please plan to participate in this vital service to our local community. Volunteers are always needed to donate ingredients and help with cooking/prep, set-up, serving, and clean-up.

To offer help, please sign up in the Parish Hall, or contact the church office.

Queued for Coffee Hour

May
Women's Fellowship

June
Board of Governors

July
Church Council

A Community Dinner Appeal

We still need team leaders!

We are looking for Team Leaders for our Community Dinners in 2013. If you are interested, please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact the church office.

Please consider leading this effort! If you have questions about what being a team leader involves, please contact the church office or Barb Laro (603-448-0151 / blaro47@gmail.com).

MAY 2013 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10a Worship & Church School 5p Community Dinner	29 5:30p Cub Scouts	30 7p Boy Scouts	1 6p UVPRN	2 7p Choir	3 7p Cub Scouts Committee	4 9a Bible Study 9a Cub Scouts Clean-Up Quicksilver Comedy for WISE: 6p Dinner 7p Show
5 9a Forum 10a Worship & Church School (Communion) 1p Classicopia: Fabulous Four-hand!	6 5:30p Cub Scouts	7 11a-1:30p Senior Luncheon 7p Boy Scouts	8 6p UVPRN	9 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange Association 7p Choir	10	11 9a Bible Study
12 MOTHERS' DAY 9a Forum 10a Worship & Church School (Blanket Sunday)	13 5:30p Cub Scouts 7p Diaconate	14 7p Boy Scouts	15 6p UVPRN 7p Christian Education Committee	16 7p Choir	17	18 9a Bible Study
19 9a Forum 10a Worship & Church School 11:15a Mission & Social Action	20	21 7p Boy Scouts 7p Church Council	22 6p UVPRN JUNE NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	23 7p Choir	24	25 9a Bible Study
26 10a Worship & Church School 1p Classicopia: Violin/Piano 5p Community Dinner	27 MEMORIAL DAY 7p Board of Governors???	28 7p Boy Scouts 7p Student Vocal Recital: Alleigh Whiteside	29 6p UVPRN	30 7p Choir	31	1 8a Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9a Bible Study 11a Piano Recital: Lisa Amundsen

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is happy to report that everything is going well on the roof work. Weather permitting, Melanson expects to be finished by the first week of May. For safety reasons, they are going to leave the staging up on the west side of the church until they are finished with the roof, so Church Street will remain restricted to one-way traffic as it is. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Our church hosts Cub Scout Pack 279, a group of boys ages 7-10. They and their parents will be doing general outdoor grounds clean-up for the church on May 4, including raking and trash pick-up. They have also helped us with some cleaning up inside the church. We would like to thank this group of boys for their hard work and community service.

DIACONATE

Valerie Nevel opened our April meeting with readings from Romans and II Corinthians, focusing on the way Christians behave and treat one another.

We welcomed newly appointed deacons Barb Teeter and Ike and Linda Jacobs. We discussed Called to Care, the new confirmation class, communion,

the installation of new deacons, and the present distress in our congregation. We considered our role as deacons in restoring wholeness to our community.

We planned an all-day retreat for current and former deacons at the Meriden church on April 27, to work on spiritual growth, particularly our call to Grow Deeper. This goal of the discernment committee was adopted in 2010, along with Growing Outward and Growing Younger, as ways to move our church forward. The ideas for growing deeper and the spiritual practices that the deacons develop in the retreat will result in a plan of action to guide the year ahead.

The deacons welcome your ideas and suggestions for ways that worship, fellowship, and our congregational life can be more meaningful.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship has decided not to do Applefest this year. Our main fundraising will be done by selling pies. We will be at the Farmer's Market one Thurs. a month for the summer. Our first pie sale will be during the Lebanon Alumni Parade on June 15.

Sometime around October, we will be taking names for anyone

who would like to buy a pie for the holidays. There will be a selection of about 5 kinds, and they will be uncooked and frozen. We will also be taking a field trip, hopefully some time in June. Stay tuned for updates!

May Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	5/13, 7:00
<i>Christian Ed</i>	5/15, 7:00
<i>Mission & Social</i>	5/19, 11:15
<i>Church Council</i>	5/21, 7:00
<i>Bd of Governors</i>	5/27?, 7:00

June Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	6/10, 7:00
<i>Mission & Social</i>	6/16, 11:15
<i>Church Council</i>	6/18, 7:00
<i>Christian Ed</i>	6/19, 7:00
<i>Bd of Governors</i>	6/24, 7:00

FCC Seeks Assistant Treasurer

We are in need of someone within the church to serve as Assistant Treasurer. This vital position is responsible for collecting the weekly offering, accurately recording receipts, and ensuring that they are deposited in the bank. Some computer experience helps.

If you're willing to serve the church in this way, **please contact Warren Belding at 603-448-2630 or warren.d.belding@dartmouth.edu.**

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

Thank You!

To the generous parishioners of the First Congregational Church in Lebanon:

Thank you!

Because of you, the cold won't be so harsh, or the night so long.

Gratefully,

Linda Bohrer
Coordinator of Tri-CAP's
Homeless Emergency Kit
Project

The Women's Fellowship

invites

All SENIORS in the church family

to be our guests for

Luncheon

served in your honor

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Coffee, tea, and fellowship starting at 11:00 am

Performance by the LHS Superlatives at 12:00 noon

Luncheon served at 12:30 pm

*** RSVP to the church by Monday, May 6 ***



JUNE 9 IS...

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY!!

featuring

**Presentations to ALL Children and Volunteers during Worship
Lunch—Hot Dogs, Mac-n-Cheese, Salad, Chips, and... Ice Cream!
Games on the Lawn—Bean Bags, Bubbles, Hula Hoops, Croquet,
Badminton, and whatever else we can think of!**

* * *

DO YOU HAVE children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews who sing or play an instrument? Please encourage them to participate in worship on Children's Sunday!

The Music and Christian Education Committees would like our wonderful children and youth to lead worship on June 9 with their gifts of music. If you're interested or have questions, please contact Brian Clancy (603-448-0976/bclancy.nh@gmail.com).



THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



THE ROOF Over Our Heads

Views of the roofing project, completed by Melanson Company just as this newsletter went to press.



SERIOUS FUN

THE
QUICKSILVER COMEDY PLAYERS

Improv Comedy at Its Best!

Dinner Theater to Benefit WISE

Saturday, May 4, 2013
First Congregational Church
Dinner at 6:00 / Show at 7:00

Tickets:

\$15 (Dinner/Show)

\$7 (Show Only)

All proceeds support
WISE of the Upper Valley

Serving the Upper Valley from its facility in Lebanon, WISE provides advocacy, crisis services, and community education to combat domestic and sexual violence. FCC has made a commitment to support WISE as a local partner in mission.

*Support a vital community resource...
And have some laughs too!*

TICKETS:

Call 603-448-4281 or

E-mail church@fccleb.org





Music
at the
Meetinghouse

SPRING CONCERTS

*All concerts in the Sanctuary,
First Congregational Church of Lebanon*

Classicopia Returns!

Sunday, May 5, 1:00 pm
Fabulous Four-hand!

Great works by Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff,
and Gershwin

Sunday, May 26, 1:00 pm
Violin and Piano

Sunday, June 16, 1:00 pm
Voice and Piano

Sunday, July 14, 1:00 pm
Piano Trios



Alleigh Whiteside, Soprano: LHS Student Recital

Tuesday, May 28, 7:00 pm

Lisa Amundsen, Piano

Saturday, June 1, 11:00 am

Student Recital: Jennifer Hansen Vocal Studio

Wednesday, June 5, 7:00 pm

Upper Valley Music Center Children's Concert

Saturday, June 8 (time tba)

The First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sunday, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12

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Rev. Stephen R. Silver – silver@fccleb.org • Newsletter Submissions – church@fccleb.org