



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

What does Church School mean to you? You possibly remember Sunday lessons of some sort, taught by older members of the congregation. Did you ever pause to reflect on how much work went into preparing those lessons? About the love and dedication that went into the work? Of how somebody might have been missing out on sermons or music they wanted to hear, just so you could have an instructor?

My Sunday School career was checkered, to say the least. I'm ashamed to say I was actually tossed from the classroom once. The baseball glove I brought probably communicated my profound indifference to what was going on. Yet here I am, all these years later, a minister with a deep gratitude for those who work in children's ministries.

I think of Tom and Ruthie in Concord, the ever-reliable, always-inspiring teachers of the fourth graders. Tom was a professor at Harvard Business School, but his love of those kids was remarkable. Year in and year out, decade after decade, he and his wife taught those children. I wanted to bring them here to Lebanon, but obviously I could not and so had to let go of them. Fortunately, when I arrived in the Upper Valley, I found someone just as good, just as committed: our own Marcia Corkins.

Marcia has capably and creatively led our Church School program for the entire time I've been here; she's now done so for twenty years. She has brought love and dedication to her work and for that I'm profoundly grateful, as both your pastor and a parent. But like all good things, this is now coming to an end. After many years of service, Marcia is stepping aside, handing over the reigns of our Church School to her successor, Nan Parsons, about whom I could also write many complimentary things. This moment of transition allows us to look at our Church School and see what we have done well, to see what we would like to do differently, to imagine drawing in more kids and having more of them attend worship on a weekly basis. Life is filled with choices. What might we do that would put church at the top of that list?

In short, we wonder about the future, our future. What does it portend? What will our Church School look like? What can it look like? In the

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SUNDAY SERVICE

Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday

On Sunday, May 12, we are pleased to participate again in the CWS Blankets Program, a special mission project by which Church World Service provides blankets and other relief supplies to people in crisis around the world (for details, visit cwsblankets.org). Please consider making a contribution of any amount, in honor or memory of the mother(s) in your life. *Dedications will appear in the bulletin on May 12.*

To contribute, use the bulletin insert or contact the church office directly with your dedication information by Thursday, May 9.



Coming Next Month!

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.

* * *

DO YOU HAVE children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews who sing or play an instrument? All are invited to share their music in worship on June 9!

If you're interested or have questions, contact Marcia Corkins (603-448-2664) or the office.

Musical Guests This Month

May 5—Hilary Lynch (Flute)

May 12—Marshall Meade (Violin)

May 19—Maya Lynn (Violin)

May 26—Leslie Stroud (Flute)

Community Dinner

Sunday, May 26, 5:00 pm

Leaders: MARCY CHONG AND FRIENDS

Many thanks to Marcy Chong for organizing this month's Community Dinner! Please lend a hand to provide this vital service to our neighbors, especially if you'd like to help for the first time.

Sign-ups to be posted in the Parish Hall.

Church School Delivery to David's House

After Worship on Sunday, May 19 (Tentative Date)

All are warmly invited to join the volunteers and children of our Church School to deliver supplies to David's House, purchased with half of this year's LENTEN LUNCH BAG OFFERING. We'll learn about and tour this vital home for families with children in treatment next door at DHMC.

Queued for Coffee Hour

May—Women of the Church

June—Board of Governors

July—Church Council

Participate in Worship!

Members of our congregation already sing in the choir, serve as greeters and ushers, and read as liturgists. Additional lay leadership roles include reading prayers of invocation or dedication, sharing stewardship messages, or even leading children's moments.

No experience or training is required to serve in these important worship roles!

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

MAY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Bd of Govs 5p Community Dinner	29 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Webelos/Girls)	30 7p BSA Troop 279	1 5:30p Cub Scout Pack Committee 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	2 3p WCBH After-school Group 7p Choir	3 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	4 2p UVMC Suzuki Recitals 7:30p Bel Canto: Sudden Light
5 10a Worship and Church School (Communion) 11:15a MSA 12p UVMC Suzuki Recitals 5p Bel Canto: Sudden Light	6 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Webelos/Girls)	7 7p BSA Troop 279	8 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Annual Meeting 7:15p Christian Ed Committee	9 9a Thursday Singers 5:45p Cub Scouts (Lions) 7p Choir	10	11 7:30p Classicopia: Musical Mothers
12 MOTHER'S DAY 10a Worship and Church School (Blanket Sunday)	13 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Webelos/Girls) 7p Diaconate	14 7p BSA Troop 279	15 6p UVPRN	16 12:30p G-O-S Association 3p WCBH After-school Group 7p Choir	17 7:30p LOH on Location: April Verch Band	18 2-6p UVMC Sing & Play Festival
19 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Bd of Govs 2p Camerata New England	20 3p WCBH After-school Group	21 7p Church Council 7p BSA Troop 279/Committee	22 11:30a Senior Luncheon 6p UVPRN	23 9a Thursday Singers 10a-6p NH-WIC 7p Choir	24	25 8a-1p CPR/First Aid Training
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 7p Choir	31 7:30p Samara Piano Quartet	1 7:30p Classicopia: The Folk Spirit

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

At Council in April Brian Clancy noted a very full **Music at the Meetinghouse** schedule during May and June. One special event is the debut of the Anonymous Coffeehouse on June 7, for which he has been working out logistical details with the organizer, Adam Sorscher. A call for musicians has attracted several good options, and a temporary stage platform will be constructed for the Parish Hall. Assuming that the June 7 event is successful, the Coffeehouse would eventually happen monthly.

For the **Diaconate**, Barb Jones reported on worship participation during Holy Week, the Deacons' involvement in campaign visioning, and other issues currently under consideration. She expressed her appreciation that Stacey Steele is now a covenant member, with full status as a deacon.

Corrine Erskine observed for **Mission and Social Action** that the shopping-cart initiative has been successful so far, and April has brought a collection of pet supplies and food for the Upper Valley Humane Society. We've also scheduled this year's visit by the Bike & Build group for June 15-17, which will again offer two dinners and a breakfast, along with a show by Valley Improv. This year's visit includes a Sunday morning, which presents the challenge of holding worship, church school, and coffee hour while also storing the group's belongings on their build day.

Jon Scott reports that the **campaign planning group** would be meeting

again in May in order to translate the discussions of April's visioning session into clear, actionable goals and consider a timeline forward. Jon also pointed out the need to coordinate campaign goals with regular stewardship and determine the pledge process for both.

For the **Board of Governors**, John Gilliatt reviewed plans for Sanctuary insulation projects. He clarified that the walls can be insulated but only by opening holes in the exterior siding for blowing in the insulation material, a costly process that would extensively alter the exterior of our historic building. It has also been determined that the Sanctuary's ceiling structure can accommodate the added load of insulation. In other areas, the Board is assessing the replacement of the front portico decking with a synthetic material (rather than wood). The Parsonage energy audit will hopefully be done soon, but if not it may have to wait until the fall. Our annual Spring Clean-up will be Saturday, June 8.

In his **pastor's report**, the Rev. Steve Silver looked back at Holy Week and thanked all those who had served in some way in worship services and other events. He also acknowledged the success of our recent campaign planning forum and distributed copies of the poster sheets of proposed target areas, which show fairly even support among all purposes. Relative to the goal of creation care, Valerie Nevel has explored the possibility of revising FCC's United Church Funds portfolio to minimize our investment in fossil-fuel interests.

Steve also reported on his recent trip to Cleveland for a productive meeting of the UCC's Historical Council, including a consultation with John Dorhauer about the denomination's newly developed set of foundational theological claims. This has been an important achievement, developed over two years and representing broad participation and consensus despite a diverse range of beliefs.

Looking ahead, Steve noted that Pentecost Sunday in June will mark the retirement of Marcia Corkins, to be observed with appropriate recognition and grateful celebration of her years leading the Church School. Steve plans to take study leave in May for a trip to New York for a program with distinguished theologian N. T. Wright. He is also making summer vacation plans, for which Jo Shelnutt will provide pastoral coverage.

May Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	5/5, 11:15
<i>Christian Education</i>	5/8, 7:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	5/13, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	5/19,* 11:15
<i>Church Council</i>	5/21, 7:00

*moved due to Memorial Day

June Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	6/2, 11:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	6/10, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	6/12, 7:15
<i>Church Council</i>	6/18, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	6/23, 11:15

COMMITTEE NOTES

DIACONATE

Reporting to the Diaconate in April, Steve Silver noted that while participation in the Lenten Bible Study varied, discussion was good and more will be scheduled. He stated that Eliot Fay has completed his Clinical Pastoral Education process, with a paper of his thoughts on ordination to follow. Deacons supporting his candidacy were all encouraged to attend worship at his church in Newport. Steve has spoken with Jo Shelnutt regarding summer preaching, likely for three weeks in July.

Our campaign planning session went well, with over 30 participants,

no lingering disagreements, and paper submissions now available for further analysis. A breadth of interests was supported but needs further consideration, including the feasible scale of commitments for given areas. Phil Hammond expressed an interest in youth programming, and it was noted that, in addition to resources, any initiative needs the commitment of someone to motivate it. Steve plans to update consultant Bob Barr on these steps.

Steve and the Deacons will revisit the creation of a new welcome brochure for the pews. The Deacons will reassess the Sanctuary sound system, liturgist training, and usher

oversight. Steve also noted plans for installation of a removable handrail to facilitate use of the altar stairs as needed.

Barb Jones and Steve will follow up with Brian Clancy to review our membership roster, to identify any members without even minimal recent engagement. Barb Teeter will share her knowledge of past engagement of long-time members. In a related note, Barb said that Ardell Mansfield had attended a centennial event at her childhood church in Lyndonville, VT.

The Deacons will also be discussing the possibility of a new meeting time, as some have conflicts on Monday nights.

Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, June 8, 9:00-1:00 (Rain Date: June 15)

Please join the BOARD OF GOVERNORS in this seasonal effort to tidy up the church yard after the winter! We'll rake lawns, trim hedges, and generally pick up around the grounds. Some indoor projects will need to be done as well.

Bring gloves, a rake, gardening tools, and anything else that might be useful (such as a truck!).

Please help out with this important work!

BIKE & BUILD RETURNS



SATURDAY-MONDAY, JUNE 15-17

Please consider helping out with meals and plan to meet this amazing group of young advocates for affordable housing!

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

coming months, we will be asking these questions, especially of our children and their parents. This spring, Nan will be visiting other churches in the area and would like to take our kids with her on some fact-finding trips. If you're a parent, we hope you'll allow your child to participate (we also hope you'll want to help out). If you're a non-parent, we hope you'll pray for the success of our children's ministry.

One thing I will say in closing is this: we all have roles to play in the education and nurture of our church's children. Let's meet this challenge with joy and faith.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

OUR LOCAL MISSION

Thank You

From the Children of Our
Church School!

This year's **LENTEN LUNCH BAG OFFERING** raised almost \$850, which will be split between supplies for David's House and school scholarships for the children of San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador.

Many thanks to all those who participated!

FCC Fights Local Poverty and Food Insecurity

Our March shopping-cart collection for Listen and the Haven brought a hugely generous response, as our congregation responds to rising poverty and hunger in the Upper Valley. The Mission and Social Action Committee proposes to sustain that effort year-round, with a different beneficiary designated each month.

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

THE UPPER VALLEY HAVEN

Do your part to fill the cart!

*** Food Donations for Headrest ***

FCC has for many years collected food in a basket in the Narthex for the benefit of our friends in recovery next door at Headrest. Please consider contributing as you're able, anytime during the month.

Thanks to all for joining these efforts to support our neighbors in the wider community.

What's WIC?

Getting to Know One of FCC's Regular Guests

For almost five years, First Congregational Church has hosted twice-monthly clinics of 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!) 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 vital program the space it needs, our congregation extends the love and compassion that Christ asked us to share with each other.

For more, call 800-WIC-4321 or, for Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Program (which runs clinics in Grafton County), 603-225-2050/800-578-2050. Alternatively, please visit 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 contact Belknap-Merrimack CAP (see phone numbers at left).

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



NEW MEMBERS AND JOYFUL PALMS. Juliet and Stacey Steele and Dominic Watson join as covenant members on Palm Sunday, after a festive procession around the Sanctuary. Below, the children collect the Lenten Lunch Bag offering and Katie Clancy leads a tutorial on how to weave a cross from a palm frond.



Women of the Church
warmly invites the FCC congregation to the
Annual Senior Luncheon
served in honor and celebration of our older members
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019
Coffee, Tea, and Fellowship at 11:30 am
Luncheon Following
Congregational Hymn Sing Send Your Requests!
RSVP to the church office by May 15

FCC Outing Club—Indian Ridge

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 12:30 PM (RAIN DATE JUNE 9)

Plan to join us for this adventure of FCC's Outing Club, led as always by our in-house park ranger, Ron Bailey! This expedition explores the unique forest and stream habitats in the "wild" area between DHMC and Indian Ridge. We'll hike up to the ridge's summit, enjoy a picnic lunch, and then loop through the Trout Brook area and a DHMC trail back to the trailhead. The hike is approximately 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 church members and friends are invited to share this experience of exploring God's creation. Grow deeper by walking farther!



THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

HE IS RISEN! Beginning with the ecumenical sunrise service, a joyous and full Easter morning brought celebration, music, humor, fellowship, and delicious food. (Yes, it's the Easter Moose!)



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Spring Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

Classicopia: Musical Mothers—Saturday, May 11, 7:30 pm

Cellist Cecylia Barczyk joins pianist Dan Weiser for beautiful, dramatic, but sadly neglected music for cello and piano by three female composers of late-19th-century France: Melanie Bonis, Luisa LeBeau, and Cecile Chaminade. Admission \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; tickets at classicopia.org/concert/musical-mothers/.

LOH ON LOCATION: April Verch Band—Friday, May 17, 7:30 pm

Champion Canadian fiddler, singer, and stepdancer April Verch plays traditional styles from her native Ottawa Valley but adds a dynamic, fresh interpretation of bluegrass, country, and Americana. Adults \$18.50, youth \$8.50; tickets and more at lebanonoperahouse.org/events/april-verch-band/.

UVMC Sing & Play Festival—Saturday, May 18, 2:00 pm

Reprising last year's Sing & Play 50k, our neighbors at UVMC have planned a full afternoon of music at various sites in downtown Lebanon—including our Sanctuary and Parish Hall—to be sung and played by faculty, students, and audiences alike. Full schedule and contribution information at www.uvmusic.org/spfestival.

Camerata New England—Sunday, May 19, 2:00 pm

Violinist Omar Chen Güey, cellist Linda Galvan, and pianist Hannah Shields share a wonderfully lush program of Rachmaninoff's G minor cello sonata (op. 19) and Dvorák's F minor piano trio (op. 65). Adults \$28, under 18 free; tickets available online at cameratanewengland.org, by phone at 802-785-4833, or at the door.

Samara Piano Quartet—Friday, May 31, 7:30 pm

This excellent chamber ensemble—Keene-based pianist Nicholas Burns, violinist Louisa Stonehill, violist Marcia Cassidy, and cellist Paul Cohen—play a gorgeous program of music by Vincent d'Indy, Camille Saint-Saëns, and Gabriel Fauré. Adults \$20, students \$5; more at www.samarapianoquartet.org/.

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

Pianist Dan Weiser welcomes siblings Emmanuel and Frances Borowsky on violin and cello, respectively, for Antonin Dvorak's beloved "Dumky" trio as well as works by Astor Piazzolla and Paul Schoenfield. Admission \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; tickets at classicopia.org/concert/the-folk-spirit/.

Cantabile Women's Chorus: The Sun, the Moon, and the Stars—Sunday, June 2, 4:00 pm

Directed by Kathy Sherlock-Green, this superb ensemble returns to FCC with a program celebrating celestial bodies, in musical settings of poets Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Christina Rossetti, Sara Teasdale, and more. Adults \$15, seniors \$10, students \$5, under 12 free; more at www.cantabilewomen.org/june-2019-concert.

And Introducing...The ANONYMOUS COFFEEHOUSE—Friday, June 7, 7:30 pm

FCC is delighted to host this exciting new venue for live, local music! Conceived as an informal "listening room" for emerging musicians, each show will feature four acoustic acts, and patrons may come and go as they please. Baked goods and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. And it's all free of charge, so please come and enjoy! For more information, please visit anoncoffee.org/ or email anoncoffeehouse@gmail.com.

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



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Spring Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

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Annual Senior Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

**Coffee and Tea at 11:30 am
Luncheon Following
Congregational Hymn Sing**

RSVP by May 15

Children's Sunday JUNE 9

**Children Lead Worship with
Readings and Music**

**Recognition of Volunteers
Special Coffee Hour / Exhibits**