



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

One of the appointed readings for the Twentieth Sunday in Pentecost is Psalm 137. Many of you may not be as familiar with this text as with, say, the 23rd Psalm. But I suspect a lot of those reading this message recognize Psalm 137's opening verse: "By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion." These lines, too, are probably familiar: "If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy (v. 5-6)."

These are powerful words of yearning. But for all their pathos, these verses pale in intensity to the Psalm's closing plea. This final verse startles us, and its sentiment makes Psalm 137 a most ironic reading for World Communion Sunday, observed on the first Sunday of October: "Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!"

Psalm 137:9 is one of the most jarring sentences in all of Scripture. Born out of the bitterness of exile, it is a raw, unvarnished cry of pain and hatred directed towards the Babylonians, who had destroyed Judah and taken its leaders into captivity. This text's inclusion in the Bible has always reflected for me the power and strength of Scripture. We know that our holy texts were edited as they were collected—yet nobody ever saw fit to excise this verse. Of course, there are lots of things in both the Old and New Testaments that we moderns would quickly expunge, but this verse, calling for infanticide, seems to inhabit its own special, dark place.

Would that this verse were not part of the Psalter! But it is. And to me the Truth of the Bible is reflected in its honesty, as the ugliest of human behavior and emotion is contained in the witness of our forebears, forcing us to confront our own worst impulses, our own unhealed wounds, our own sense of alienation.

As we gather around the Lord's Table to share the bread and the cup, we do so with billions of other Christians around the world, people

Continued on Page 6

SUNDAY SERVICE

2016 Lebanon CROP Walk

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

Registration 12:30 / Walk 1:00 / Lunch at FCC

You can help in one or more of these ways...

Walk!—Participate in the walk itself and get pledges and donations.

Serve!—FCC will again host a post-walk meal, and we need help!

Donate!—Sponsor a walker, or donate online at www.cropwalk.org.



www.cropwalk.org

Participant materials and volunteer sign-ups will be available in the Parish Hall later this month.

Questions? Contact the office or visit
www.cropwalk.org.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, October 23, 5:00 pm

Leaders: Christian Education Committee

We're grateful to Christian Ed for leading this month's dinner! Please consider helping out with this vital service to our neighbors.

Never helped before but interested in trying?
Make THIS your month!

Worship Transportation

A Congregational Service

Some members of our congregation have difficulty getting to Sunday worship on their own. Many others of us have plenty of room in our cars and could easily offer rides. We need to get these two groups together!

If you need assistance getting to church, or if you're willing to give a ride to someone else who does, please contact the Church Administrator.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

Neighbors in Need

UCC Special Mission Offering

Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of this offering funds local initiatives, advocacy, and direct service. The rest funds the UCC Council for American Indian Ministries, continuing a tradition of support for Native American populations. This year's program focuses on the challenges of food insecurity.

Please contribute as generously as you can, either on October 23 or at ucc.org/nin.

New Members Welcome!

Have you worshiped with us a few times? Have you returned because you've found a welcoming, spiritually nourishing church home here? If so, we warmly invite you to join our community of faith as a covenant member.

If you would like to learn more about this invitation, please speak with Rev. Steve Silver or contact the church office.

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

No experience or special training is required for these important roles in leading worship! If you'd like to serve in either capacity, please contact the church office.

Your congregation will thank you!

Queued for Coffee Hour

October—Mission and Social Action

November—Women of the Church

December—Board of Governors

OCTOBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner	26 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	27 4-8p UVIP Phone Bank 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	28 6p UVPRN	29 7p Choir	30	1 8a Men's Breakfast 9a CPR Class 10a Juneberry Music Class 2p/3p Sayon Camara Drum Workshops
2 10a Worship (Communion) 11:15a MSA 12:30p FCC Outing Club 2p Juneberry Comm Chorus	3 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	4 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	5 6p UVPRN	6 7p Choir	7 7:30p Classicopia: Jewish Jazz	8 10a Juneberry Music Class
9 10a Worship and Church School 12:30p CROP Hunger Walk (Lunch following at FCC)	10 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves) No Diaconate (moved to 10/17)	11 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	12 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN 6:30p Christian Ed Committee	13 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn 7p Choir	14	15 10a Juneberry Music Class 7p Aged to Perfection
16 10a Worship (w/ Baptism) and Church School 3p Fauré Requiem Open Sing	17 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves) 7p Diaconate (rescheduled from 10/10)	18 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/Troop Committee	19 6p UVPRN	20 7p Choir	21	22 10a Juneberry Music Class 7p Sunflower Wind Quartet
23 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner	24 3p WCBH After-school Group	25 7p Boy Scouts NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	26 6p UVPRN	27 10a-6p NH-WIC 7p Choir	28	29 10a Juneberry Music Class
30 10a Worship and Church School 3-5p UVIP Micah Award Ceremony (Claremont)	31 HALLOWEEN 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	1 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	2 6p UVPRN	3 7p Choir	4 6-9p Leb Rec Quilt Retreat	5 8a MF Breakfast 9a CPR Class 10a Juneberry 10a-5p Quilters 7:30p Classicopia

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

Reporting to Council for the **Personnel Committee**, Steve Silver discussed a proposal for increasing Henry Danaher's compensation and growing the music program. Henry's request for a salary increase is based on standards set by the American Guild of Organists and on a comparison with other church musician positions in the Upper Valley (a recent search in Thetford, for example, a congregation that is smaller than FCC).

His plans for enhancing the music program include regularizing an instrumental ensemble for jazz, gospel, and folk music; inviting additional singers to supplement our choir on a more systematic basis; and dedicating a space downstairs for consistent use by instrumental instructors as a practice and lesson room.

Steve emphasized the Personnel Committee's agreement that keeping Henry is imperative,

considering his contributions to worship and music over the past two years and his collaborative relationships with the rest of the church staff. Several affirmed this opinion and recognized Henry's efforts and achievements. Council unanimously approved a plan to raise the Music Director's annual compensation over time.

Reporting for the **Diaconate**, Barb Jones brought forward the revised resolution for an alternative witness in response to the UCC's "boycott and divest" resolutions. After a brief review of the issue and process, Council unanimously agreed to bring the resolution to the congregation for a vote. Steve Silver suggested October 23 as a date for a special meeting.

Marcia Corkins inquired for **Christian Education** about the Christmas stable framework that had been removed for repair. John Gilliatt and Steve Teeter will be making the necessary repairs well before Advent.

For the **Memorial Gardens**, Pete Mason asked whether any further arrangements had been made for Helen Wallace's interment, with some concern about ground freeze within the next couple months. The Church Administrator will follow up with Helen's son Rich.

Brian Clancy reviewed a **full concert schedule** for the fall, starting with several events in October. Barb Jones asked about the possibility of having more music at the services to be led by the deacons at Genesis Lebanon Center in November.

John Gilliatt reviewed the **Board of Governors'** ongoing and pending projects. Several estimates will be received in the next month. In particular, John wanted resolution from Council regarding funding of the Sanctuary painting project. After brief discussion of the color scheme and other minor aspects of work in the Sanctuary, Council returned to the funding question and unanimously agreed to use a

NHC-UCC Annual Meeting 2016

Saturday, October 22, 8:00 am–4:30 pm

Registration Now Open

Be a part of the experience! All are welcome—friends, visitors, delegates, lay and ordained church leaders, everyone!—to attend the annual meeting of the NH Conference of the UCC. Come to this day and hear **Music in the Air**, as we worship together, share in communion, fulfill the business of the NH Conference, enjoy fellowship, and experience the many gifts of our keynote speaker and musician, the Rev. Bryan Sirchio.

Further details and registration information are on the meeting page of the NH Conference website (<http://www.nhcucc.org/ConferenceMinistries/ConferenceAnnualMeeting/>).



COMMITTEE NOTES

bequest from the estate of Ginee Hough for the main Sanctuary and altar portions of the painting, postponing the rear section until further funding is identified.

John also noted that the kitchen water-heater project, after much discussion of its cost and power source, would ideally be finished in time for Thanksgiving. An energy audit will also be conducted this fall. Another improvement under consideration is the purchase of an AED, for which Nan Parsons is investigating grant support. Pete Mason pointed out that gifts given in memory of Gordon Place were also intended to support such a purchase.

There will be no fall clean-up day this year. Steve Silver was asked by the Ledyard Charter School about possible service opportunities for

its students, and leaf-raking and cleaning up the grounds seemed like ideal tasks for this.

For the **Mission & Social Action Committee**, Corrine Erskine noted that preparations for the CROP Walk on October 9 were largely in place. And whereas our work project with the Penobscot nation has been postponed, it's possible that we will arrange to work on a local Habitat project.

Corrine noted for **Women of the Church** that they had reorganized and cleaned out their storage room downstairs. This contributes to a larger, coordinated reorganization of all downstairs spaces, many of which have been cluttered with seldom-used or discarded items. (Another focus of that reorganization would be to improve the storage of FCC's cache of historical documents,

October Meetings

Mission/Social Action 10/2, 11:15

Christian Education 10/12, 6:30

Diaconate 10/17*, 7:00

Church Council 10/18, 7:00

Board of Governors 10/23, 11:30

*rescheduled from 10/10

Congregational Meeting

October 23, Following Worship

November Meetings

Mission/Social Action 11/6, 11:15

Christian Education 11/9, 6:30

Diaconate 11/14, 7:00

Church Council 11/15, 7:00

Board of Governors 11/27, 11:15

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2016

A special meeting of the congregation of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, is hereby called for Sunday, October 23, 2016, immediately following the worship service, for the purpose of voting on the following resolution proposed by the Diaconate:

"The Diaconate and Church Council recommend that the church vote to offer an alternative witness locally, regionally, and nationally to the resolutions of the 30th General Synod of the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the New Hampshire Conference (NHC) to 'boycott and divest' from companies doing business in the West Bank, and to the process that led to these resolutions.

- We affirm that First Congregational Church of Lebanon does not support the UCC's partisan resolutions in favor of boycott and divestment, which can make peace harder to achieve.
- We call upon the UCC instead to take an active role as true peacemakers, working to develop ties with and encourage **both sides**, acknowledging that the best future for **all** residents of the Middle East is a peaceful future.
- We ask that future UCC actions on the Middle East reflect these peacemaking principles; refrain from positions favoring one side over another; acknowledge the rights of all peoples to live with peace, justice, freedom, and dignity; and incorporate diverse perspectives and robust, open, and inclusive debate in its decision processes."

COMMITTEE NOTES

FCC's Micah Heroes for 2016 are Barb and Steve Teeter

The congregation joins in appreciating Barb and Steve Teeter, selected by last month's vote to be our church's UVIP Micah Heroes for this year.

Congratulations, Barb and Steve!

We can be proud of the many individuals among our congregation to whom this honor might just as easily have been given—in fact, twelve people received a vote this year. Our church offers ample witness to Micah's exhortation to “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly” with our God.



Tickets for Micah Awards Ceremony—Sunday, October 30, 3-5 pm, Claremont, NH

The Teeters will join UVIP's other honorees from across the Upper Valley at a ceremony on Sunday, October 30, at the Claremont Senior Center (5 Acer Heights Road, Claremont). This event offers UVIP member groups and supportive businesses and non-profits a chance to connect and build support for strong community engagement. FCC has a limited number of tickets available for anyone who would like to attend. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door (\$10 in either case for children 13 and under); cash or checks payable to UVIP are accepted, and assistance may be available from the Diaconate.

For all tickets and inquiries, please contact the church office.

now inadequately kept in file cabinets in the boiler anteroom.)

The WOC has decided to postpone its “Nearly New” sale of Christmas decorations until next year, as not enough items have been received to justify the sale this year. The group has also investigated options for Sanctuary window treatments, and Council generally felt that a congregational survey of a few alternatives would be advisable.

In his **pastor's report**, Steve Silver expressed gratitude not only for summer vacation time but also for his return to our pulpit. He noted the start of the program year with two special services, a commemorative liturgy for the 15th anniversary of September 11 and Kick-off Sunday the following week.

He also proudly noted our church's role in the annual Wings of Hope event. He has begun planning for

both the ecumenical Thanksgiving service and Advent and Christmas.

Steve planned to attend the NHC-UCC's clergy convocation in Maine, a vital time of learning, prayer, and fellowship; he also will join the Horton Center retreat but return early to lead worship on 9/25. In his service of the wider church, he is presiding over two installation services and an ecclesiastical council this fall.

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

with traditions, theologies, and cultures quite different from ours. Jesus Christ called us to be one people, one family, rooted in the saving love of our Creator. Psalm 137 is a reminder of how pain and loss can drive us to despair, contempt and hate, all in the name of something we treasure. As we share the eucharist, let us remember that God knows our suffering, and he has shared it. But he does not want it to define us. Instead, walking with us, holding us, nurturing us, the One who came to us in the person of the man from Nazareth invites us to move forward into the Kingdom, where we will all know God's healing, God's grace, and God's love.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



KICK-OFF SUNDAY!



THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



HORTON CENTER RETREAT



A Letter from El Salvador

The following letter (which arrived after about two months in transit) comes from Aileen Aguiluz, the young student whom our Church School supported earlier this year with a scholarship donation from its Lenten Lunch Bag offering. Proudly enclosing a copy of her school transcript with her letter, Aileen is effusive in her faithful gratitude. *(Translated from the Spanish by the editor.)*

San Jose Villanueva
May 27, 2016

San José Villanueva

27-mayo-2016

Un cordial saludo a The church of Lebanon, New Hamps hire, esperando que sus labores diarias sean de éxitos, contando siempre con la compañía del señor y su espíritu santo.

El motivo de la presente es para extender mis agradecimientos, ya que hace poco se me comanico que ustedes serian patrocinador de mi beca. En realidad me siento agradecida con Dios, por permitir que personas como ustedes, tengan la buena voluntad de brindarme su ayuda. Así mismo me esforzare mucho más en mis calificaciones, puesto que es la mejor manera de poder agradecerles. Mi correo electrónico es: aileenmartir@yahoo.com por si ustedes quisieran tener contacto conmigo.

Me despido deseando que el señor les derrame muchas bendiciones.

Agradecida por todo.

Att: Aileen Aguiluz

A cordial greeting to the church of Lebanon, New Hampshire, hoping that your daily efforts are successful, ever counting on the companionship of the Lord and the Holy Spirit.

The reason for this letter is to extend my grateful thanks, because I recently was told that you were the sponsors of my scholarship. Actually, I feel grateful to God for enabling people like you to have the good will to offer me your help. Likewise, I will strive all the harder in my studies and my

assignments, as that is the best way I can thank you. My email is aileenmartir@yahoo.com, if you wish to get in touch with me.

I leave you with the wish that the Lord pours many blessings on you. Thanks for everything.

Aileen Aguiluz

MINEDU

MINISTERIO DE EDUCACIÓN
REGISTRO ACADÉMICO
DIRECCIÓN NACIONAL DE CENTROS PRIVADOS
Y ACREDITACIÓN INSTITUCIONAL

CORREGO: 8022
CENTRO: COMPLEJO EDUCATIVO CATÓLICO SAN JOSÉ VILLANUEVA

Nº: 36190
NOMBRE: AGUILUZ MÁRIZ, AILEEN ARACELY
SECCIÓN: SEGUNDO AÑO DE BACHILLERATO TÉCNICO VOCACIONAL COMERCIAL OPCIÓN CONTABILIDAD B AÑO: 2016

ASIGNATURA	PERI	PI	RIR	RIRE	RIX	NF
CIENCIAS NATURALES	9.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
ESTUDIOS SOCIALES Y CÍVICA	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
IDIOMA EXTRANJERO	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
INFORMÁTICA	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
LABORATORIO DE CREATIVIDAD	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
LENGUAJE Y LITERATURA	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
MATEMÁTICA	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
ORIENTACIÓN PARA LA VIDA	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
PRÁCTICA	8.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
SEMINARIOS	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
TECNOLOGÍA	8.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

PI PROMEDIO INSTITUCIONAL

NºE: RESULTADO INSTITUCIONAL DE RECUPERACIÓN EXTRAORDINARIO

Nº NOTA FINAL

E. EXCELENTE
 MB. MUY BUENO
 B. BUENO
 R. REGULAR

Complejo Educativo Católico San José Villanueva

Estudiante: Aileen Aracely Aguiluz Máriz Grado: segundo año de Bachillerato "B"

Materias	Periodos			
	Primer periodo	Segundo periodo	Tercer periodo	Cuarto periodo
Educación en la fe	9.3			
Educación Física	9.3			
Conducta	9.0			

OUR LOCAL MISSION

end violence
wise
share hope ♦ change lives

WISE Volunteer Training

Foundations of Gender-Based Violence

Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 11-27, 6:00–8:30 pm

Supporting Survivors

Tuesdays and Thursdays, November 1-29, 6:00–8:30 pm

Saturday, November 19, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

The WISE 24-hour crisis line is available to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence thanks to a group of dedicated, empathetic volunteer advocates, who dedicate over 6,000 hours each year to this vital service. Advocates respond to crisis-line calls after hours, offering empowerment-based support, connections to resources, guidance to local police and hospitals, and facilitation of emergency shelter. Equipped with a pager and the support of WISE staff, volunteers respond to calls safely from home.

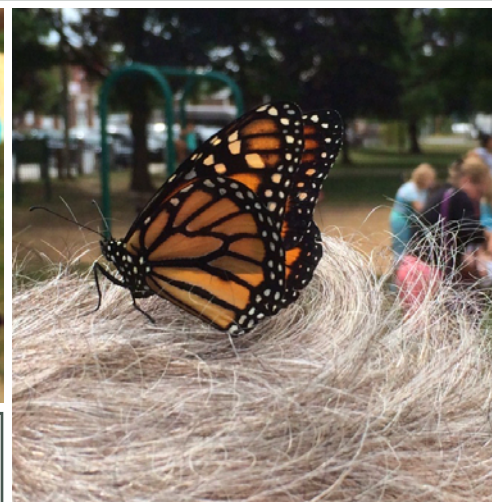
To learn more about volunteering for WISE, visit www.wisewv.org/join-us.html#volunteer or call 603-448-5922 x105.

Thanks to Our Partners in the Open Door Ministry

Our church has long offered assistance to the community in the form of gas cards, food cards, and modest assistance for rent, utilities, and other expenses. Together, these gestures comprise our Open Door Ministry, supported by the Diaconate—through monthly communion offerings—and the Mission and Social Action fund. Available to anyone in greater Lebanon, the Open Door Ministry is one of the most vital services we extend to our neighbors.

Aside from your generous support as a congregation, we are grateful to get our gas and food cards from Jake's Market and Price Chopper, respectively. Every time we purchase a batch of ten or twenty cards, each business typically adds one or two extra cards as a donation—keeping our door “open” just a little wider.

We thank these community partners for helping us serve our neighbors in such an important way!



WINGS OF HOPE. Henry Danaher and Steve Teeter (yes, that's his hair) and their butterfly companions.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music at the Meetinghouse

FALL CONCERTS

In the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

Classicopia: Jewish Jazz—Friday, October 7, at 7:30 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser welcomes clarinetist Steve Loew for a fascinating exploration of the connections between Klezmer folk music and early American jazz composers.

Aged to Perfection (with Fast Track)—Saturday, October 15, at 7:00 pm

This sensational women's *a cappella* quartet returns with special guests Fast Track, for an entertaining program in a variety of genres, including jazz and Broadway standards, doo-wop, ballads, and more.

Fauré Requiem Open Sing—Sunday, October 16, at 3:00 pm

With our own Henry Danaher accompanying on piano, Hal Sheeler will conduct this sing-through of Gabriel Fauré's beloved *Requiem* (1890). All are welcome to sing—or just come listen!

Sunflower Woodwind Quartet—Saturday, October 22, at 7:00 pm

Faith Goodness (flute), Carolyn Stone (bassoon), Steve Jordan (oboe and English horn), and Tom Norton (clarinet) offer their warm, blended sound on a program of music from Europe and the American South.

Classicopia: Four-hand Ferocity—Saturday, November 5, at 7:30 pm

Dan Weiser welcomes back his good friend Philip Liston-Kraft for another sensational performance of four-hand piano arrangements, featuring music of Rachmaninoff, Grieg, Bizet, and more.

Henry Danaher and Friends—Weekend of November 18-20 (Details TBD)

Classicopia: Vagabond Violin—Saturday, December 3, at 7:30 pm

Violinist Paul Chou joins Dan Weiser for folk-influenced music by Smetana, de Falla, Grieg, and others.

Elizabeth Borowsky and Bob Cafaro—Sunday, December 11, at 7:30 pm

Pianist Elizabeth Borowsky welcomes Bob Cafaro, cellist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Mr. Cafaro, who has written a book about living with multiple sclerosis, will share some of his experience.

Christmas with William Ögmundson—Friday, December 16, at 7:00 pm

Former FCC music director Will Ögmundson celebrates the Advent season with a lively program of piano virtuosity. Will will surely offer us the gift of an audience-request medley!

Messiah Sing!—Sunday, December 18, at 6:00 pm

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 • 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

FALL CONCERTS

All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

***Classicopia: Jewish Jazz*—Friday, October 7, at 7:30 pm**

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A warm blend of woodwind voices on a program of music from Europe and the American South.

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