

# News and Events

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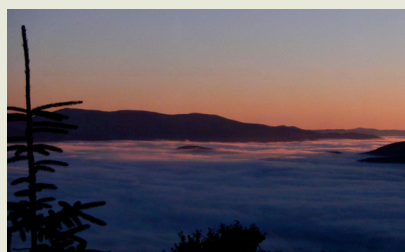
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## The Pastoral Perspective

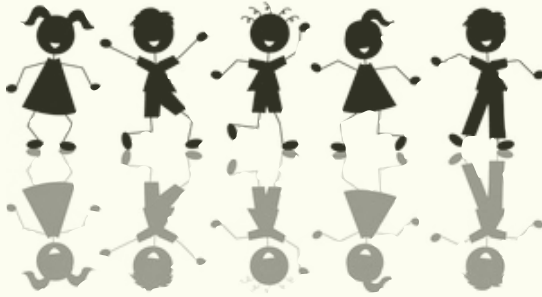
Each morning from Monday through Saturday at 8:00, a small group of people gather in the Chantry Chapel in St. Thomas Episcopal Church at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 53rd Street in Manhattan to share the Eucharist. The service is thoroughly Anglo-Catholic: the priest, wearing an impressive, multicolored chasuble, distributes wafers to communicants; the acolyte offers the wine-filled chalice; the liturgy, replete with “thous” and “thees” and “thines,” is drawn from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. It is all utterly un-Congregational, and whenever I’m in New York, I look forward to participating. This different way of doing things challenges my assumptions, refreshes my experience, and reminds me that there is more than one way to worship the Lord. Plus, there’s the rumble of the subway.

There’s something gloriously, incongruously wonderful about the muffled roar of the E or M train providing a background to the intonations of the Nicene Creed or Lord’s Prayer amidst the splendor of a High French Gothic-Revival church. Delightfully, to me at least, the sound of a 20th-century engineering triumph within the confines of a medieval worship space is a gift, a welcome reminder that the One we worship and the Gospel we share are not confined to one era or place. Instead, the great works of God, particularly as made know to us in Jesus Christ, transcend any and all barriers. I find this knowledge to be immensely comforting.

We hear a lot these days about the potential perils of Big Data. In times past it was Big Oil or Big Pharma that we needed to fear. And let us not forget the anxieties provoked by Big Government, most famously personified by George Orwell in the figure of Big Brother. All of these “Bigs” point to forces or entities that are bent on controlling our world and, in the process, disempowering and disenfranchising you and me. It’s possible to be left feeling helpless, impotent, and unimportant.

*Continued on Page 5*

# SUNDAY SERVICE



## SEPTEMBER 14 KICK-OFF SUNDAY!

**The Blessing of the Backpacks**  
*Bring yours to worship!*

**Church School Registration**  
Age 4–Grade 1, Grades 2-4, Grades 5-6

**Our Theme for the Year**  
“God’s Big World: Building Diverse Communities”

**Lunch and Outdoor Fun**  
*Pizza, Salad, Ice Cream, and Games*

**AND A BIG SURPRISE on the Front Lawn!**

### ***Participate in Worship!***

**Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher**

Ever wonder how your friends ended up handing out bulletins on Sunday? Or delivering the call to worship and reading scripture from the lectern? Or walking gracefully from pew to pew collecting the offering?

**It’s easy—we asked, and they said yes.**

No experience or training is required for any of these important roles in worship!

If you’d like to serve as either a liturgist or a greeter/usher, please contact the church office.

***Your congregation will thank you!***

### **COMMUNITY DINNER**

**Sunday, September 28, at 5:00 pm**

**Thanks to WOMEN OF THE CHURCH  
for organizing this month’s dinner!**

Please consider donating food or volunteering to set up, serve, or clean up. Our service is vital to those in our local community who look forward to this meal every month.

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

### ***New Members Welcome!***

Have you worshiped with us regularly? Have you found a welcoming, spiritually nourishing church home here? Would you like to become more involved in our programs and events?

**We warmly invite you to formally join our  
community of faith as a covenant member.**

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

### **Queued for Coffee Hour**

September—Diaconate

October—Mission & Social Action

November—Women of the Church

December—Board of Governors

# SEPTEMBER 2014 CALENDAR

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>31</b><br>10a Worship  | <b>1</b><br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br><i>(FCC office closed)</i>                    | <b>2</b><br>7p Boy Scouts                       | <b>3</b><br>6p UVPRN<br>7p Oneness VT Meditation  | <b>4</b><br>6:30p Cub Scout Leaders<br>7p Choir       | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>8a Men's Breakfast<br>9a Bible Study<br>1-3p Wings of Hope Benefit (Colburn Park)                               |
| <b>7</b><br>10a Worship (Communion)   | <b>8</b><br>5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears)<br>7p Diaconate                          | <b>9</b><br>7p Boy Scouts                       | <b>10</b><br>8a-4p WIC<br>6p UVPRN<br>7p Christian Ed Committee<br><i>(Note: 2nd Wed)</i> | <b>11</b><br>9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange Assn<br>7p Choir | <b>12</b><br>7:30p <b>Classicopia: Four-hand Rhapsody</b>                               | <b>13</b><br>9a Bible Study   |
| <b>14</b><br><b>Kick-off Sunday!</b><br>10a Worship/Church School<br>11:15a M&SA / Stewardship  | <b>15</b><br>5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears)   | <b>16</b><br>7p Church Council<br>7p Boy Scouts | <b>17</b><br>6p UVPRN   | <b>18</b><br>7p Choir                                 | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b><br>9a Bible Study<br>10:15a Juneberry MS  |
| <b>21</b><br>10a Worship/Church School<br>4p Redeemer: <b>The Life of Jimmy Carter</b>  | <b>22</b><br>9:30a-5p WIC<br>3p WCBH After-school<br>5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears) | <b>23</b><br>7p Boy Scouts                      | <b>24</b><br><b>OCTOBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE</b><br>6p UVPRN                            | <b>25</b><br>6p Cub Scouts Join-Up Night<br>7p Choir  | <b>26</b><br><b>ALL-CHURCH RETREAT AT HORTON CENTER</b><br><i>(through Sunday a.m.)</i> | <b>27</b><br><b>ALL-CHURCH RETREAT</b><br>9a-3p Habitat for Humanity VT Affiliates<br>9a Bible Study<br>10:15a Juneberry MS |
| <b>28</b><br><b>ALL-CHURCH RETREAT (ends)</b><br>10a Worship/Church School<br>11:15a Board of Governors<br>5p <b>Community Dinner</b> | <b>29</b><br>5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears)   | <b>30</b><br>7p Boy Scouts                      | <b>1</b><br>6p UVPRN  | <b>2</b><br>6:30p Cub Scout Leaders<br>7p Choir       | <b>3</b><br>7:30p <b>Classicopia: Triple Threat</b>                                     | <b>4</b><br>8a Men's Breakfast<br>9a Bible Study<br>10:15a Juneberry MS   |

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

# COMMITTEE NOTES

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members of Christian Education are excited for the start of the new Church School year on **Kick-off Sunday, September 14**. This year's theme, "God's Big World: Building Diverse Communities," will offer children the chance to discover and celebrate the wonder, diversity, and creativity of God's people around the world. We look forward to having everyone join in the fun on September 14, with lunch, games, and ice cream for all following worship.

Please note that the committee will now be meeting on the second Wednesday of every month, rather than the third.

*From Church Council and the Nominating Committee*

### **Are You Being Served?**

Have you found the ideal service opportunity for yourself at FCC? Have you considered working on a new program or committee? Do you have ideas or suggestions for a particular aspect of church life or governance? Church Council and the Nominating Committee want to know! If you are interested in serving or learning more about an FCC program or committee, please contact the church office or **Amy Driscoll (603-448-0976 or [amykdriscoll@gmail.com](mailto:amykdriscoll@gmail.com))**.

### **Got Keys?**

A couple years ago we re-keyed the entire church facility, in part to keep better track of keys distributed to church members who need them for certain committee responsibilities.

**If you finish a term as a committee chair or another "key" position, we ask that you return your key to the church office.**

In addition to helping us keep track of keys, this policy ensures that new officers may be given keys without making new copies.

***Your cooperation is much appreciated!***

## **Travelers Still Needed for El Salvador!**

### **Epilogos Trip to San Jose Villanueva, October 18-25**

Nine participants have now committed to our mission trip to El Salvador with Epilogos Charities. In order to optimize our travel arrangements and project potential, however,

***we are still looking for THREE more individuals to join this exciting opportunity!!***



Our group has a chance to collaborate with one family to construct their entire house—from the ground up! Providing safe homes for families is now Epilogos' utmost priority, and a larger crew would enable us to commit to this important, rewarding project. **So, we need YOU!**

**To inquire about joining the trip, please contact the church office or Wendell Smith (603-632-1117 or [wms@polestarltd.com](mailto:wms@polestarltd.com))**

**AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

### **September Meetings**

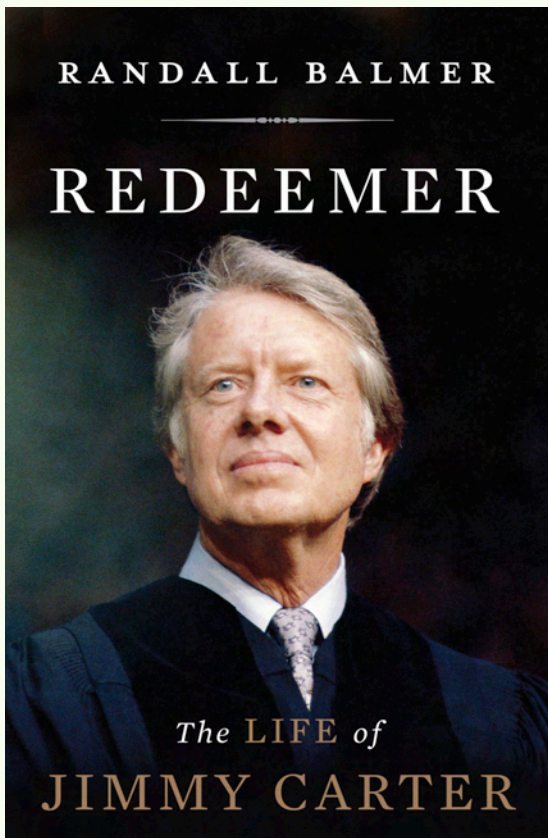
|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Diaconate</i>                                   | 9/8, 7:00   |
| <i>Christian Education</i>                         | 9/10, 7:00  |
| <i>Mission &amp; Social Action and Stewardship</i> | 9/14, 11:15 |
| <i>Church Council</i>                              | 9/16, 7:00  |
| <i>Board of Governors</i>                          | 9/28, 11:15 |

### **October Meetings**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Mission &amp; Social Action and Stewardship</i> | 10/12, 11:15 |
| <i>Diaconate</i>                                   | 10/13, 7:00  |
| <i>Christian Education</i>                         | 10/15, 7:00  |
| <i>Church Council</i>                              | 10/21, 7:00  |
| <i>Board of Governors</i>                          | 10/26, 11:00 |



# Redeemer The Life of Jimmy Carter



*A special event with*

**Prof. Randall Balmer**  
Department of Religion  
Dartmouth College

**Sunday**  
**September 21**  
**4:00 pm**

Join us for what promises to be a lively and engaging presentation and discussion with Randall Balmer, chair of the Department of Religion at Dartmouth, about his latest book, *Redeemer: The Life of Jimmy Carter*.

Prof. Balmer explores Jimmy Carter's political career through the lens of the 39th president's faith, along with the profound and consequential changes that occurred within the evangelical movement during his presidency.

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

But we need not lose heart. For bigger than all of these is God, who truly is grander, more awesome and amazing than we can imagine. He has made the universe and all in it—and he has chosen to know each of us. That's remarkable, and should be a source of inspiration and encouragement to us all.

Scripture asserts repeatedly that God is always with his people. Sometime he does this in ways one might expect of the Deity: before the assembly in a great, roiling thunderhead that envelops a mountaintop, or as a mighty pillar of smoke and fire that guides a liberated people from bondage, through the wilderness, and into freedom. Other times, he will make himself known in the most surprising and unexpected of places, like in the subterranean rumble of the subway train or when two or three gather around the table to share a meal in his name. But present he will be, offering us strength and power and grace so that we may never forget that he has chosen us to live fully into the promise of his beautiful, blessed new creation.

Yours faithfully,

*Steve*

## Name Our Newsletter... VOTE THIS MONTH!

This is the last issue of FCC's *News and Events*—because next month, we'll report our church's news and events under a clever new name  
**CHOSEN BY YOU, THE CONGREGATION!**

In August we received the nominations below (listed alphabetically; similar entries combined):

*The Bell*

*The Carillon*

*Faith, Hope, & Charity*

*First Class Communications*

*The Gospel Courier*

*The Meetinghouse Crier*

*The Messenger / Meetinghouse Messenger*

*Our Mission*

*Mixed Blessings*

*On Our Way*

*One in the Spirit*

*Providence*

*The Sensational Congregational*

*Signs of the Spirit*

*The Welcome Mat*

Do any of these choices resonate with your sense of our church's image, evoke our shared faith, or otherwise catch your attention?

**Vote for it now! All votes must be received by the church office by Sunday, September 28.**

## OUR CHURCH'S “ATTIC”

There's not much in FCC's attic, such as it is—the space over our Sanctuary contains little more than roof and ceiling structure, and our building has no other truly usable attic space. But in the basement, closets, and other areas of the church building, we do possess a variety of artifacts from our past, from disused signs and old prints to meeting minutes. Much of this treasure was displayed a couple years ago, and while some was identified, repurposed, tossed, or otherwise dealt with, a significant cache of our historical objects and records remains to be sorted and catalogued.

A late-July article in the *New York Times* explored this very dilemma. The article suggests both the potential richness of historical resources and the increasing threat that such resources face from damage, neglect, or merely institutional amnesia: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/30/us/in-church-attics-private-life-of-early-america.html?emc=eta1&r=0>

The Congregational Library in Boston seems an obvious ally in considering the stewardship of our historical records, mainly because FCC supports it financially and Steve Silver serves on its board. But there is still much to be done!

**Are you interested in learning more about our church records, or even perhaps in taking a role in cataloguing and preserving them?**

**Contact the church office!**

*(Thanks to Barry Schuster for suggesting the Times article.)*



**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.

## OUR CHURCH'S LOCAL MISSION

### Volunteer with WISE!

Fall Advocate Training Oct. 7–Nov. 13

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00–8:30 pm

Saturday, October 25, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

end violence  
**wise**  
share hope • change lives

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.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a WISE Volunteer Advocate, contact Chelsea Williams at 603-448-5922 (x120) or [chelsea.williams@wiseoftheuppervalley.org](mailto:chelsea.williams@wiseoftheuppervalley.org).

### Wings of Hope

Butterfly Release to Benefit Hospice Care

Saturday, September 6, 1:00–3:00 pm  
Colburn Park

For the fifth year, the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Association of VT/NH is organizing this memorial and benefit event. (FCC is the rain location.) You may purchase butterflies to be released for \$20 each, or simply attend as a spectator.

For more information, call 888-300-8853 or visit [www.vnavnh.org](http://www.vnavnh.org).

### CASA of NH Training Begins September 13

CASA of NH trains and supports compassionate adults who want to make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. Offering their own common sense, skills, and experiences and committing just 8-10 hours a month, volunteer advocates help ensure that children have the chance to grow up in a safe, permanent home.

To inquire about becoming a CASA volunteer, contact Jen Buteau at 603-536-1663 or [jbuteau@casanh.org](mailto:jbuteau@casanh.org).



[www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org)



Save the date—and participate!

### 2014 Upper Valley CROP Walk

Sunday, October 5 – Registration 12:30 / Walk 1:00

Organized by Church World Service, this nationwide event annually raises substantial funds to combat hunger locally and globally.

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

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

**Serve!**—Our church will once again host a post-walk meal. We need help!

**Donate!**—Sponsor a walker, or make a gift at [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org).

Participant materials and volunteer sign-ups will be available in the Parish Hall later in September. Questions? Contact the office or visit [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org).

## MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music  
*at the*  
Meetinghouse

## FALL CONCERTS

*All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church*

### Friday, September 12, 7:30 pm—Classicopia, “Four-hand Rhapsody”

Pianists Daniel Weiser and Philip Liston-Kraft open Classicopia’s fall season with a lush selection of works by Mozart, Moszkowski, Ravel, and Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*. *Suggested \$20, FCC members \$10.*

### Friday, October 3, 7:30 pm—Classicopia, “Triple Threat”

Dan Weiser joins Tim Schwarz (violin/viola) and Soo Goh (clarinet) for trios by Mozart, Bruch, Milhaud, and the infamous Peter Schickele. *Suggested \$20, FCC members \$10.*

### Saturday, October 11, 7:30 pm—An Evening with Aged to Perfection

Members of Zazzle Quartet return as a new ensemble for a fun program of tight *a cappella* harmony.

### Saturday, November 1, 7:00 pm—UVMC’s Annual Bluegrass Mandolin Festival

### Sunday, November 2, 1:00 pm—Classicopia, “Beethoven’s Cello”

### Saturday, December 13, 7:00 pm—Christmas with Counterpoint

### Sunday, December 14, 4:00 pm—Will Ögmundson’s Night of Las Posadas

First Congregational Church of Lebanon *welcomes...*



JUNEBERRY MUSIC

Choral Singing School

Do you like to sing? Do you want to improve vocal skills and sing in a choir without performance pressure? Would you like to connect with others and even improve your health in a choral setting?

### **Get out of the shower and into the choir!**

Founded in 2012, Juneberry Music’s Choral Singing School helps people of all ages and backgrounds develop choral singing skills in a fun, affordable way. We welcome you wherever you are, whether completely inexperienced and untrained or more comfortable and ready to challenge yourself. We’ll help you reach your choral singing goals—or simply discover what those goals are!

Participants in this 10-week choral class encounter music from across centuries and cultures, while gaining the skills and confidence to sing in church choirs, community choruses, and other groups.

Meeting in the Parlor on Saturday Mornings, 10:15-12:30

September 20 through November 15 (Final Class in Thetford, Sunday, November 16)

Cost—\$90 for a Ten-week Session

For more information or to register, contact Director Patricia Norton

([juneberrymusic@gmail.com](mailto:juneberrymusic@gmail.com)/802-785-4740) or visit [www.juneberrymusic.com](http://www.juneberrymusic.com).



## ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Friday to Sunday, September 26-28  
UCC Horton Center (near Gorham, NH)

This month we'll once again join members of Meriden and Hooksett Congregational Churches for a weekend of worship, prayer, spiritual study, and fellowship in the White Mountains. Offering both individual and group activities, the retreat will also include structured time for children and youth.

**Families are strongly encouraged to come!**

The schedule will be flexible enough to allow participation in particular activities; attending the whole weekend is not required. We'll collaborate with the other churches on some meals and activities.

**RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

To assist in planning the retreat, please let us know whether you're planning to come or even considering it. Questions and suggestions welcome; contact the office or your deacon.



*Last year's retreat was wonderful... Don't miss your chance to join us this month for another enriching experience of building community and faith!*

**First Congregational Church of Lebanon**

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