



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The “Pastoral” Perspective

Editor's Note: The Rev. Steve Silver is on sabbatical until mid-September 2017. While he is away, our Deacons have volunteered to write this feature. We're again grateful this month to **Susan Montmagny** for offering her perspective.

New Beginnings

Last month I shared, “There Is Still Time!” With the crispness of fall seeming to be inevitable and in the air, I cannot think of how quickly the summer passed for me and most of those with whom I have spoken.

We typically think of spring as the time of year for new beginnings. Easter usually reminds us of eggs, new baby animals, and the renewal of God's plan for us through Christ's resurrection. Consider for a moment, though, all the newness that happens this time of year with the onset of autumn in New England.

On a recent Sunday I attended the closing of *On Golden Pond* at the New London Barn Playhouse. I'm sure most of you know the story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, spending their 48th summer at their home on the lake; the familiar movie version was filmed right here in New Hampshire. Playwright Ernest Thompson knows New England—born in Bellows Falls, Vermont, and growing up in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, he spent summers at Great Pond, outside of Augusta, Maine. The play follows Norman and Ethel's summer, their renewal of family, and the movement of their lives away from Golden Pond at the end of the season.

Our summers here seem to pass way too quickly, at least for me! I think that is especially true for those of us who remember summers as a child, seemingly endless, dragging on. Now, as adults, we ache for one more long weekend, one more BBQ, one more trip to the ocean. Too quickly summer explodes into fall with its radiant colors, marvelous aromas, and warmth of family gatherings. In the fall, we are reminded of new beginnings of a different type.

This summer, with Steve on sabbatical, we've been able to think about our lives at FCC and how we value what we can offer each other through our service. Not only were we treated to a wonderful sabbatical minister in Jo Shelnutt—we got a two-fer, as it were! We welcomed John Torrey, a student in discernment from Andover-Newton Seminary. What a treat

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SUNDAY SERVICE



SEPTEMBER 17 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

Lunch and Outdoor Fun!

Pizza, Salad, and Games

*This Year's Church School Theme—***BIBLE BELIEFS**

What do we believe? Why do we believe it? In the coming year our Church School children will examine their own beliefs and their roots in Biblical stories. Friendship and family, prejudice and acceptance, law and forgiveness, truth and honesty, Heaven and Hell—in these and other areas of life, relationships, and faith, ancient stories from Scripture can still guide our beliefs today.

Join us to kick-off the Church School year, renewing old friendships and beginning new ones!

Worship Transportation

A Congregational Service

Some members of our congregation have difficulty getting to Sunday worship on their own. Many others of us could easily offer them rides. We'd like to get these two groups together!

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

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

Ever wonder how your friends got to hand out bulletins on Sunday morning? Or deliver the call to worship and read scripture? Or walk gracefully from pew to pew to collect the offering?

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

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

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

Your congregation will thank you!

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, September 24, 5:00 pm

Leaders: WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Thanks to **Women of the Church** for organizing this month's dinner! Please lend a hand as you're able, to provide this vital service to our neighbors.

Never helped out at Community Dinner before? Make THIS your month!

Queued for Coffee Hour

September—Diaconate

October—Mission and Social Action

November—Women of the Church

December—Board of Governors

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10a Worship 11:15a Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner	28	29 No Boy Scouts	30 6p UVPRN 6:30p Bel Canto Auditions	31	1	2 No Men's Breakfast
<i>Parish Hall Floor Refinishing</i>						
3 10a Worship (Communion) No MSA	4 LABOR DAY (FCC office closed)	5 7p Boy Scouts	6 6p UVPRN 7p Diaconate (moved from 8/2)	7 7p Choir	8	9 11a-12:30p UVMC Grand Opening Concert 1-3p (IF RAIN) Wings of Hope
10 10a Worship 2p Classicopia: Four-hand Dance	11 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears) 7p Diaconate	12 7p Boy Scouts	13 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN 6:30p Christian Ed Committee 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	14 12:30-4p G-O-S Assn CoCM 7p Choir	15	16
17 KICK-OFF SUNDAY! 10a Worship and Church School 3p Open Sing IV!	18 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears) UVIP Micah Nominations Due	19 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/Troop Committee	20 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	21 7p Choir	22 FCC Retreat at Horton Center (evening arrival)	23 Horton Center (continues)
24 Horton Center (concludes) 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Bd of Gvs 5p Community Dinner	25 6:30p WOC Christmas Sale Planning Mtg OCTOBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	26 7p Boy Scouts	27 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	28 10a-6p NH-WIC 7p Choir	29	30 8a Men's Breakfast 9a-12p CPR Training Session 3p Eagle Scout Ceremony (Suhan Song)
1 10a Worship (Communion) and Church School	2 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears)	3 7p Boy Scouts	4 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	5 7p Choir	6 7:30p Classicopia: Jewish Jazz	7 11a Eagle Scout Ceremony (Justin Rogers)

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

Despite not meeting in August, Council received reports on several relevant issues.

After conversations with Mascoma Bank, we have changed the **Mission & Social Action account** to an account type that avoids monthly minimum-balance fees. We will also be spending less on checks for this account.

Terry Ellison has investigated opening a **corporate credit card** with at least two banks at this point. It seems typical for credit-card issuers to require documented financial history (e.g. a few years' worth of audits, tax returns, etc.) that FCC can't necessarily provide. Prior to this year, we haven't had a professional audit for several years, and the reports included in our Annual Reports may not be sufficient in themselves. At this point, the Finance Committee and

Trustees should look at the credit-card arrangement in light of this year's now-complete audit. It may be advisable for Council to hear a report from Valerie Nevel about the audit at its September meeting; Terry will report on 2017 budget status then, too.

The **Board of Governors** recently completed two Parsonage projects, the repair and replacement of lattice work and a full chimney inspection and cleaning. The group also plans some energy conservation efforts at the church, following guidance from our energy audit last winter. A few remaining Sanctuary projects (e.g. floor refinishing, pew cushions, and carpeting) will be designated for 2018.

The **Diaconate** has revisited the process of counting the offering collection after worship, specifically the consensus that more than one person should be involved in this.

September Meetings

Mission/Social Action	(tbd)
Diaconate	9/11, 7:00
Christian Education	9/13, 6:30
Church Council	9/19, 7:00
Board of Governors	9/24, 11:15
Women of the Church	9/25, 6:30

October Meetings

Mission/Social Action	10/1, 11:15
Diaconate	10/9, 7:00
Christian Education	10/11, 6:30
Church Council	10/17, 7:00
NHC-UCC Annual Mtg	10/21
Board of Governors	10/22, 11:15

The Deacons have also begun to consider how to supplement the funding for our Open Door Ministry, as expenditures for this ministry have been outpacing the Deacons' Fund.

Deadline Extended to MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Call for Nominations — 6th Annual Micah Awards

Sponsored by the United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP)

The prophet Micah calls us to consider what it means to live into God's expectations for us, offering guidance on how to live up to those expectations: "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

UVIP's Micah Awards annually recognize local "Micah Heroes" who live into the prophet's words in some exemplary manner—people who contribute time and energy to community service, consistently volunteer themselves to work for a vital cause, and offer their community a living role model of faith in service. Each UVIP member organization is invited to honor its own Micah Hero(es).

All are welcome to nominate up to three members of our congregation who best represent the spirit of the Micah Awards (only our previous winners, Ron Bailey, Pete Mason, and the Teeters, are ineligible). The individual receiving the most votes will be our congregation's Micah Hero for 2017. Keep in mind that this is an annual award, and so nominations typically reflect service during the past year.

Nominations (up to three per person) must be submitted to the church office no later than MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18. Please contact the office with any questions.

COMMITTEE NOTES



NHC-UCC ANNUAL MEETING 2017

In Search of Sanctuary: Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Saturday, October 21, 8:00 am–4:30 pm

Registration Now Open!

Be a part of the experience! All are welcome—delegates, lay and ordained church leaders, congregation members, friends, visitors, everyone!—to attend the Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the UCC. The theme this year draws from the parable of the Good Samaritan, and the keynote speaker will be Bishop Dwayne Royster, founding pastor of Living Water UCC in Philadelphia. Conference participants will worship together, share communion and fellowship, and fulfill the business of the NH Conference.

For further details and registration information, please visit the meeting page on the NH Conference website (www.nhcucc.org/ConferenceMinistries/ConferenceAnnualMeeting/).

The **Women of the Church** will look at a late October or early November date for its “Nearly New” Christmas Sale. More details to come.

Steve Silver will return from his **sabbatical** officially on Wednesday, September 13. **Kickoff Sunday** will be the following week, Sept. 17.

DIACONATE

At their August meeting the Deacons approved additional funds for food and gas cards and considered the need for additional funding sources and strategies for the **Open Door Ministry**. Biff Simpson suggested a dinner-theatre fundraiser, with a show by Valley Improv. The Dole Fund was also suggested.

As part of the Ministry of Caring, a suggestion was made to appeal in the bulletin for help with **specific worship transportation needs** as those arise, without identifying the

recipient. The Deacons agreed that we would not volunteer members to transport individuals who require wheelchairs.

Sue Pratt has completed one shawl for the **prayer shawl ministry**, and Ginger Smith is working on another. The pattern is available for anyone who wishes to participate. Sue noted that more than one shawl is needed for the blessing ceremony.

Jo Shelnutt offered a **pastor's report**, noting her role in memorial services in June in addition to her regular leadership of worship here, which will conclude September 10. She and Brian Clancy attended the annual Clergy Breakfast at the Upper Valley Haven, joining roughly 40 other area clergy and church staff. Jo has also been preparing to direct FCC's Musical Drama Camp, featuring *Daniel in the Lion's Den*.

Jo has been supervising **Student in Discernment John Torrey**, meeting

with him once weekly. John will preach twice in late August, with Jo assisting him in preparation. His last Sunday here will be September 3.

Barb Jones and Sue Pratt will work with a Grantham team to present the **UVIP Aging with Dignity** curriculum; they may also present at the Woodlands. Barb and Sue encouraged other FCC members take the facilitator training, since Sue is away for a significant time each year. Kathy Beckett mentioned that members of UVIP have been standing with immigrants at INS hearings at the Federal Building the first Tuesday of each month.

A ceremony to **welcome Rev. Steve Silver back** from sabbatical was suggested. Marcia Corkins will be asked how the Church School kids might participate.

Effective in September, the Deacons will resume meeting on the second Monday of each month.

COMMITTEE NOTES

REFINISHING THE PARISH HALL FLOOR. Given the frequent, varied use of this space by our congregation and community groups, this project provides immediate and lasting value. It's just one of many projects that members of our active Board of Governors have either contracted, coordinated, or completed themselves.



The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

to help him in his own journey and send him off with our gratitude for the perspective that he brought to us. We welcomed these visitors, while awaiting our rested and renewed pastor.

This fall we look forward to Kick-off Sunday, when we welcome our Church School students and teachers back. Schools around the area are all back in session. Back-to-school often means new shoes, clothes, and supplies to aid in students' success. The fall fairs have begun, in which participants show off their hard work raising livestock or crops. They share the "fruits" of their labor, in hopes for that elusive Blue Ribbon.

So it is with our personal growth as Christians. During the summer, some of us take time off from attending worship, but in the fall we begin anew and in earnest. We'll have new adventures, new committees, new opportunities available to us. I'd like to suggest also that we each consider renewing our commitment to God. With all the unrest and sadness in the world at this time, I challenge you to get behind the good works being done right here in our own community as one possible way of renewing your commitment to God.

Why not renew our commitment, for example, by supporting our LGBTQ brothers and sisters? If you haven't already, please consider sending a note to our neighbors at the West Lebanon Congregational Church, supporting them for joining the Open and Affirming UCC churches recently! We've also recently talked about hurricane relief to help those in need in Texas and Florida. And our parishioners are involved in wonderful community initiatives such as No Pipeline Here, the Upper Valley Interfaith Project, the Economic Justice Team, the Alternative Loan Program, and Aging With Dignity.

"And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25:40)

Take time to take it all in. Take in the amazingness of autumn in New England, the excitement of new opportunities to serve God, and, indeed, even the possibilities of a new chapter, as we say goodbye to our own summer "On Golden Pond."

Yours faithfully,

SUSAN MONTMAGNY

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



To All Those Who Helped,

Jim and I send sincere gratitude for the amazing reception you all hosted following Marilyn's memorial service. It was so lovingly put together, the spread was magnificent, and the gathering provided the perfect opportunity to share stories of our interaction with Marilyn.

To all the organizers, bakers, coffee makers, servers, and clean-up crew, we send out heartfelt thanks. The love you shared with us renews us.

With much appreciation,

Dayle and Jim Mason



WORSHIP EXCHANGE WITH WLCC. The first two Sundays in August we once again shared worship with our friends in West Lebanon. Rev. Jeff Scott and members of his congregation led worship and communion here at FCC; a week later, Rev. Jo Shelnutt, Henry Danaher, and Ron Bailey brought our service across town. A large joint choir backed tenor Peter Lake, one of four Opera North singers Henry invited to worship this summer.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



RESCUE IN THE NIGHT! Twelve lively children, some with no prior connection to our congregation, enjoyed a fun-filled week at our **Musical Drama Camp**. Jo Shelnutt and Marcia Corkins directed *Rescue in the Night: The Story of Daniel in the Lions' Den*, but it was the kids who brought their roles to life!



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Upcoming Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

Classicopia: Four-hand Dance—Sunday, September 10, at 2:00 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser welcomes back his good friend Philip Liston-Kraft for another entertaining four-hand performance, featuring dances by Gershwin, Moszkowski, Rimsky-Korsakov, Saint-Saëns, and more.

Open Sing IV! Haydn and Vaughan Williams—Sunday, September 17, at 3:00 pm

Hal Sheeler and Henry Danaher offer another opportunity for community choral music, featuring Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* and Vaughan Williams' *Toward the Unknown Region*. Join the chorus or just listen!

Classicopia: Jewish Jazz II—Friday, October 6, at 7:30 pm

Clarinetist Steve Loew and Dan Weiser offer a reprise of last fall's wildly popular concert celebrating the exchange among Jewish culture, classical music, and jazz in the early 20th century.

Vocal Master Class with Richard Lissemore—Friday-Saturday, October 13-14, at 7:00 pm

Baritone and performance coach Richard Lissemore offers a master class for voice students of the Upper Valley Music Center. The public is welcome to attend and listen in!

Passages Through Time, Memory, and Imagination—Saturday, October 21, at 7:00 pm

A collection of duos and trios from the Baroque era to the present, performed by flautists Linda Alexander and Leslie Stroud, harpsichordist Heywood Alexander, and pianists Ernie Drown and Henry Danaher.

UVMC Faculty Trio Concert—Sunday, October 29, at 3:00 pm

Pianist Victoria Nooe, cellist Benjamin Kulp, and our own in-house clarinetist Meghan Davis offer a fall concert showcasing the talented faculty of Upper Valley Music Center, now FCC's next-door neighbor.

COMING LATER THIS FALL

Classicopia: Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano—Sunday, November 5, at 2:00 pm

Elizabeth Borowsky, Piano, and Roseminna Watson, Violin—Saturday, November 11, at 7:00 pm

Bel Canto Chamber Singers—Saturday, December 9, 7:30 pm/Sunday, December 10, 4:00 pm

Classicopia: Violin and Piano—Friday, December 15, at 7:30 pm

UVMC Messiah Sing!—Saturday, December 16, at 6:30 pm

And introducing...

LOH ON LOCATION

Two special events at FCC presented by the Lebanon Opera House!

Johnny Gandelsman, Violin—Friday, November 17, at 7:00 pm

lebanonoperahouse.org/event/details/johnny-gandelsman-violin/

The Eric Mintel Jazz Quartet—Sunday, December 3, at 4:00 pm

lebanonoperahouse.org/event/details/eric-mintel-quartet/

FCC RETREAT AT HORTON CENTER

Friday to Sunday, September 22-24
UCC HORTON CENTER, WHITE MOUNTAINS

This month we will once again join members of Meriden and Hooksett Congregational Churches for a weekend experience of fellowship, recreation, and worship amid gorgeous natural surroundings on Pine Mountain, near Gorham. Although we collaborate with the other churches on some meals and activities, the schedule is completely flexible and open; attending the whole weekend is not required.

All are invited and encouraged to come, especially families!

Cost is \$25/night (\$20/night for children), including meals; assistance available from the Diaconate.



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 church office or your deacon.



Don't miss this incredible opportunity to build community and faith amidst God's creation!

OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION

Save the Date—and Participate!

2017 Lebanon CROP Walk

Sunday, October 8

Registration 12:30 / Walk 1:00

Lunch Following 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. 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 church office or visit www.cropwalk.org.

Mark Your Calendars

The “Nearly New” Christmas Sale!

Saturday, October 28, 10:00 am—2:00 pm

Presented by Women of the Church

Proceeds to Support FCC Mission Projects

Too many Christmas decorations and trying to downsize? Looking for those elusive items to complete your holiday decorating extravaganza?

Solve both problems next month!

Invite your family and friends, enjoy coffee and treats, and find some Christmas decoration bargains—all for the benefit of FCC mission programs. Let's make this a fun, successful day for our congregation and community!

Donations still welcome of gently-used items for the sale. Questions? Contact Corrine Erskine at 603-448-3919/cerskine2@yahoo.com.

WOC Planning Meeting!—MON 9/25 @ 6:30



COMMUNITY DINNER IN UNIFORM. Members of Boy Scout Troop 279 served Community Dinner in August, helping our neighbors while sustaining FCC's long history as the charter organization for our local Scouts.

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

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PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

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HORTON CENTER**

**Friday to Sunday,
September 22-24**

UCC HORTON CENTER,
WHITE MOUNTAINS

RSVP to the Church Office

2017 Lebanon CROP Walk

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Lunch Following at FCC

Walk! Serve! Donate!

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



www.cropwalk.org



**Music
at the
Meetinghouse**

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