



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

As I write this, the Lebanon fire station is being demolished, part of the project to build a new facility that will serve our community and keep our firefighters safe.

Some of you may know that my predecessor, the Rev. Richard Slater, served as chaplain to the department. After I arrived at FCC, I visited the department to offer my services but learned that the firefighters had a volunteer from within their ranks who served as chaplain. I'm glad they recognized the importance of that function.

Richard also celebrated the wedding of one of the firefighters, a fact I learned as I talked with two retirees from the department who stood on our front steps to watch the station's demolition (*see pg. 4*). I had been in the Sanctuary to see if any cracks had appeared as a result of the work (as yet, none have), and while there, I heard an insistent knocking on the front door. I investigated and found our retirees—along with a FedEx driver, who didn't know how to reach our back entrance.

After dealing with the delivery situation, the former firefighters and I talked about their memories, including Richard Nixon's visit to our church in March 1989. From their perch on the side of the station, they watched the former president arrive for the funeral of his friend, the late Senator Norris Cotton, a member of our congregation. It is Mr. Cotton's former home that now serves as the church parsonage.

There's a lot of history here. Along with Senator Cotton, Governor Lane Dwinell worshiped at our church. Today, we have no bold-name politicians at First Congregational, but we do have a hard-working state representative who sings in our choir.

Whether our congregation's political makeup has shifted or stayed the same over the years, as our political parties have changed, is a discussion for another day. What *has* stayed the same is that we all respect one another and our views. I pray that this will remain true long into the future, that what unites us—our desire to follow the path of Jesus Christ—will always carry more weight than our disagreements over matters of public policy.

Yours faithfully, *Steve*

SUNDAY SERVICE



SEPTEMBER 15—10:00 AM KICK-OFF SUNDAY!

Come share our annual inauguration of a new year for the **Children's Community Corner!** We look forward to supporting FCC's kids as they start the school year, with the Blessing of the Backpacks and a time of fellowship and fun outside after worship. **Plan to join us!**

Community Dinners Returning This Fall!

Sunday, September 22, at 5:00 pm

Leaders: DAWN TROUTMAN AND THE DIACONATE

Many thanks to Dawn for her efforts to lead the revival of our monthly dinners! The hope is that our congregation can offer leadership and guidance for each meal, with the hard work shared by outside volunteers. And all are welcome to come, eat, and share fellowship, regardless of need or affiliation.

Anyone can lend a hand with setup, serving, and cleanup—family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, ANYONE! If you're interested in leading a month, menu resources are available, and the church can reimburse costs. Please contact the church office.

*Please help us provide this important meal!
Look for sign-ups in the Parish Hall.*

All Are Welcome to Worship at FCC Sundays at 10:00 AM (Sanctuary/Zoom)

Coffee Hour Served Weekly!

New volunteers welcome to provide food and serve.

Zoom Greeters and Liturgists Needed!

All are invited to serve in these essential worship roles, and no prior experience is needed.

If you're interested in these opportunities to serve, please contact the church office.

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

We're currently collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of:

THE UPPER VALLEY HAVEN

For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/.

Please consider a donation, and thank you!

Neighbors in Need Special UCC Offering—Mental-Health Justice for All!

Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion across the US. Two-thirds of the collection funds the UCC's **Justice and Witness Ministries** for local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, and the fight against systemic injustice. The rest goes to the **Council for American Indian Ministry**, the voice for Native Americans in the UCC, sustaining a proud denominational tradition of assisting Native groups. This year, NIN focuses on mental-health justice, treating mental health as a God-given right and dismantling the shame and stigma around it.

Please contribute as you are able, either payable to FCC (memo "NIN") or online at ucc.org/nin.



SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 10a Worship <i>(Gail Dimick, guest preacher)</i>	26	27	28	29 7p NA Group	30 10a Cameo Baroque	31
1 10a Worship/CCC (Communion)	2 <i>Labor Day</i>	3 12p Cameo Baroque 3:30p FCC Choir	4 6:30p Bel Canto Auditions	5 7p NA Group	6	7
8 10a Worship/CCC	9 4-9p UVMC Suzuki Program 7p Diaconate	10 12p Cameo Baroque 3:30p FCC Choir No Council <i>(moved to 9/17)</i>	11 8a-3:30p WIC 2-6:30p UVMC 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	12 1-5p UV Baroque 7p NA Group	13 11a-4p UV Baroque 7:30p Anon Coffeehouse <i>(Season Opener)</i>	14 2p UV Baroque: Le Vent Français 7p UV Baroque: Le Vent Français
15 KICK-OFF SUNDAY! 10a Worship/CCC	16 4-9p UVMC Suzuki Program	17 12p Cameo Baroque 3:30p FCC Choir 7p Council <i>(moved from 9/10)</i>	18 2-6:30p UVMC 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	19 3-5:15p UVMC/ Children's Choir 7p NA Group	20	21 10a UVMC Music Together 7p Roots and Branches
22 10a Worship/CCC 5p Community Dinner	23 4-9p UVMC Suzuki Program	24 12p Cameo Baroque 3:30p FCC Choir	25 2-6:30p UVMC 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	26 11a-6p WIC 3-5:15p UVMC/ Children's Choir 7p NA Group	27 6-9p Leb Rec Quilters Retreat	28 9a-5p Leb Rec Quilters Retreat 7:30p Anon Coffeehouse
29 10a Worship/CCC	30 4-9p UVMC Suzuki Program	1 12p Cameo Baroque 3:30p FCC Choir	2 2-6:30p UVMC 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	3 3-5:15p UVMC/ Children's Choir 7p NA Group	4	5 10a UVMC Music Together

If you have questions or corrections regarding any event, please notify us at church@fccleb.org or 603-448-4281.

Church St Closed! Fire Station Going, Going...

As work crews demolish and clear Lebanon's 1954 fire station to make way for its new facility, the northern end of Church Street is now closed, from South Park Street to the entrance of FCC's parking lot, until at least the fall of 2025. Access to our lot is possible *only* via detours along Water and Valley Streets or Spring Street. Thanks for your patience during the closure!



If you live, work, or otherwise participate in the community life of downtown Lebanon, you may [contact Lebanon City Council](#) to voice your opinion on the City's plan to permanently convert the northern end of Church St to one-way, northbound traffic upon completion of the new station.

**A New Directory Is Here...
But We Still Need Photos!**

We now offer our church directory in a digital format that can easily be updated as our congregation grows and changes. Available to everyone as a PDF document, the directory will be distributed by email on the first Friday of each month, with printed copies also available on request.



If you haven't yet done so, please submit a current photo (along with any updated contact details) to the church office as soon as possible. Photos should be JPG or PNG files, in a frontal, head-and-shoulders format clearly showing faces (like these fine examples above!).

EVERYONE who feels connected to FCC's congregation is invited to be listed in our directory—regardless of whether or not they have formally joined the church as a covenant member.

NHC-UCC ANNUAL MEETING 2024

Saturday, October 26—Geneva Point, Moultonborough, NH

All are invited—lay or ordained leaders, congregation members, friends, visitors—to attend the 223rd Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the UCC. This year's theme, "Into the Potter's Hands: Regeneration and Renewal," draws inspiration from Jeremiah 18:6, and the keynote speaker is Rev. Darrell Goodwin, Executive Minister of the Southern New England Conference, who has previously served the UCC in various roles in Washington state, Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota.



In addition to worship, the business meeting, and plenary events on October 26, several optional online sessions run October 15-29. For complete schedule and details, visit www.nhucc.org/events/am-2024.

FCC will pay for up to four delegates to attend (either in person or via Zoom); registration is open until 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 8. If you're interested, please contact the church office.

The 2024 Lebanon CROP Walk—Sunday, October 13, at 12:30

Begun in 1969 in Bismarck, ND, the CROP Hunger Walk is now run nationally by Church World Service. CROP Walks across the country raise about \$9 million a year to fight food insecurity and poverty worldwide.

FCC will offer light food and refreshments to all participants on the front lawn, renewing our long tradition of post-walk fellowship and hospitality.

YOU can help in any or all of these ways...

Walk!—On your own or with a group.

Serve!—Contribute food or help with post-walk fellowship (*details TBD*).

Donate!—Sponsor a walker or give directly online using the link below.



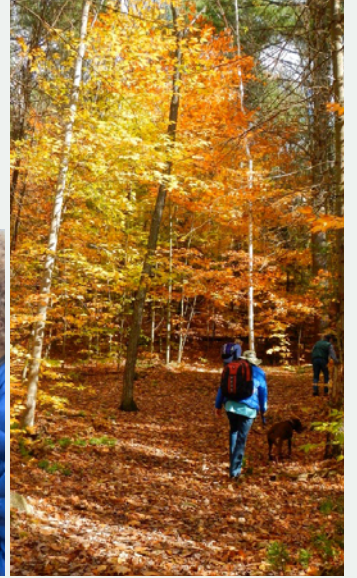
www.cropwalk.org

Questions? Contact the church office or visit crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/hanovernh.

FCC Outing Club—Fall Foliage on Farnum Hill, Lebanon

Sunday, September 29, at 12:30 pm—Meet at Trailhead on Rolling Ridge Rd

All are welcome—regardless of ability!—to enjoy this low-impact hike, led as always by ranger-extraordinaire **Ron Bailey**. We'll follow a route we've not taken before, hiking along the Farnum Hill ridge to Middle and North Peaks, which afford great views for foliage season. Ron may offer a brief geology lecture, at no extra charge!



Take Poverty Ln to Foliage View Rd, then left on Rolling Ridge Rd; trailhead is about 100 yards up on the right. Park along road, off pavement. Bring water, lunch or snacks, bug/tick repellent, appropriate clothing.

All church members, friends, and/or dogs are invited to share this experience of God's creation!



SUMMER SCENES. The NH State Button Society staged its summer exhibition at FCC in late July, while August brought Classicopia's summer music camp and concerts. In worship, Rev. Silver shared a new children's book and Phil Hammond shared an old favorite hymn.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



**Music
at the
Meetinghouse**

FALL CONCERTS

All in the Sanctuary. Masks welcome but optional.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse: Season Five!—Fri., Sept. 13; Sat., Sept. 28; and Fri., Oct. 11, all 7:30 pm

Our comfy community venue for live folk music returns for its fifth season! An informal “listening room” for emerging musicians, each show features several acoustic acts. Come and go as you please; baked goods and hot drinks available. *Free admission, donations welcome. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org/.*

Upper Valley Baroque: Le Vent Français—Saturday, September 14, at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Known for stunning performances at the highest level on period instruments, Upper Valley Baroque brings its chamber series to FCC. “Winds Across Europe” showcases 17th-century woodwind innovations in music of François Couperin, Jean-Baptiste Lully, Georg Philipp Telemann, and more. *Adults \$35 and up; ticket options, performer listings, and full program information at uppervalleybaroque.org/concerts.*

Roots and Branches: Music for Piano, Cello, and Birbyne—Saturday, September 21, at 7:00 pm

The superb pianist Elizabeth Borowsky and her mother, renowned cellist Cecylia Barczyk, present a soulful musical journey with special guest Vytautas Kiminius, a virtuoso on the enchanting Lithuanian birbyne. The program weaves Eastern-European folk music with classical compositions in a captivating tapestry of sound. *Adults \$20 suggested, 18-and-under free; more at intermusearts.org/vytautas-kiminius-tour-2024.html.*

Jacqueline Schwab, Piano: Tunes for Troubled Times—Sunday, October 6, at 4:30 pm

Known for playing on over a dozen of Ken Burns’ acclaimed documentaries, Jacqueline Schwab returns to FCC with a program to soothe souls, inspire reflection, and encourage agency and action in a challenging world. She’ll offer engaging, vintage music from American, Celtic, Ukrainian, and Latin traditions. *Program details and admission cost TBD; more information on Jacqueline Schwab at www.jacquelineschwab.com.*

Classicopia: Fabulous Four-Hand Frolic—Saturday, October 12, at 7:30 pm

Pianists Dan Weiser and Elizabeth Borowsky share the keyboard for this thrilling four-hand program of French and American composers. Music of Georges Bizet, Gabriel Fauré, and New Hampshire’s own Amy Beach, along with George Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*, which celebrates its centennial this year. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/fabulous-four-hand-frolic/.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse: Season Five!—Fridays, Oct. 25, Nov. 8 and 22, and Dec. 6, all 7:30 pm

The Sunflower Quintet (Presented by UVMC)—Sunday, November 10 (time TBD)

Classicopia: Jewish Jazz—Saturday, November 16, at 7:30 pm

Classicopia: Four-Hand Holiday—Sunday, December 8, at 2:00 pm

Bel Canto Chamber Singers Winter Concert—Sat., Dec. 14, 7:00 pm / Sun., Dec. 15, 4:00 pm

UVMC Messiah Sing!—Sunday, December 22, at 3:00 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 • Music: music@fccleb.org • Newsletter Submissions: church@fccleb.org



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10 South Park Street
PO Box 230
Lebanon, NH 03766

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**SEPTEMBER 15
KICK-OFF
SUNDAY**

Neighbors in Need
Mental-Health Justice for All!
Special UCC Mission Offering

FCC Outing Club
Farnum Hill Foliage
Sunday, September 29



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

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First Congregational Church of Lebanon

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist and Choir Director • Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • Barbara Jones, Moderator

603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org