



News and Events

He Is Risen!



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The Pastoral Perspective

Each Sunday, we join together during our service to say the Lord’s Prayer. We declare our hope as a congregation that God’s “kingdom come,” God’s “will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” These are powerful, beloved words—but what do they mean to us, for us? Are they a hope for a world transformed and redeemed, a new creation, or just one where everyone is polite and sort of, kind of gets along? And then, beyond the question of what we pray for, there’s the matter of when: when, exactly, would we like these things to happen? Next week? Next year? Maybe sometime after we pass from the scene? After all, while this world may not be perfect, it’s one we know well, grudges, slights, pains, resentments, sins and all. Fortunately, we have Eastertide during which we can begin to puzzle all this out.

Easter, of course, isn’t just a day, but a season of the church, running from the Feast of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday. It’s a time for us to tell and consider, among other things, the story of the early church, of how the faithful grappled with the death and resurrection of Jesus, discerned what that meant for them, and then tried to share the good news with others. Easter, though, is even more than this: it’s a state of mind, one that we hopefully will hold onto throughout the year. Easter is the start of something wondrous, something that is unfolding at this very moment.

That means the kingdom isn’t coming; it’s here right now.

That means God’s will isn’t something to be done here on earth at some future time, but should be defining our lives as individuals and as a community today.

My hope and prayer this Easter season (and beyond) is that when we say the Lord’s Prayer, whether with our friends and neighbors on Sunday in church, or at other times as part of our own devotions, we will do so as Easter people—not ones who are waiting for God to do something tomorrow, but who are living into, and giving thanks for, the new reality, the resurrection-redefined life that God is sharing with us this day.

Yours faithfully, *Steve*

SUNDAY SERVICE

New Members Welcome!

Have you worshiped with us regularly?
Have you found a welcoming, spiritually
nourishing church home here?

We warmly invite you to consider
formally joining our community of
faith as a covenant member.

If you are interested in learning more
about this invitation, please contact
Rev. Steve Silver or the church office
(church@fccleb.org or 603-448-4281).



FORUM Returning in May

May 5, 12, and 19, at 9:00 am

Join us in the Parlor on Sunday
mornings in May for a Forum series
in which we'll explore the history of
the early church as revealed in the
book of Acts. All are welcome to
join any or all of these informative
dialogues! (Each is intended as a
stand-alone discussion.)

Queued for Coffee Hour

April
Mission & Social Action

May
Women's Fellowship

June
Board of Governors

COMMUNITY DINNER

April 28 at 5:00 pm

Team Leader Still Needed!

Please plan to participate in this vital service to our
local community. Volunteers are always needed to
donate ingredients and help with cooking/prep,
set-up, serving, and clean-up.

**To offer help, please sign up in the Parish Hall,
or contact the church office.**

A Community Dinner Appeal

We still need team leaders!

We are looking for Team Leaders for our Community
Dinners in 2013. If you are interested, please sign up in
the Parish Hall or contact the church office.

**Please consider leading this effort! If you have
questions about what being a team leader involves,
please contact the church office or Barb Laro
(603-448-0151 / blaro47@gmail.com).**

APRIL 2013 CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| 31 EASTER 6a Sunrise Service 6:30-8a Community Breakfast 10a Festival Service | 1 5:30p Cub Scouts | 2 7p Boy Scouts | 3 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto | 4 7p Choir | 5 7p Cub Scouts Committee | 6 8a Men's Breakfast 9a Bible Study |
| 7 10a Worship & Church School (Communion) | 8 5:30p Cub Scouts 7p Diaconate | 9 7p Boy Scouts | 10 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto | 11 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange Association 7p Choir | 12 6-9p Leb. Rec. Dept. Quilters' Retreat | 13 9a Bible Study 10a-5p Leb. Rec. Quilters' Retreat |
| 14 10a Worship & Church School | 15 | 16 7p Boy Scouts 7p Church Council | 17 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto 7p Christian Education Committee | 18 7p Choir | 19 | 20 9a Bible Study 2p Memorial Service for Whit Dickey |
| 21 10a Worship (w/ Bel Canto) & Church School 11:15a Mission & Social Action | 22 MAY NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE 7p Board of Governors | 23 7p Boy Scouts | 24 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto | 25 | 26 | 27 9a Bible Study 7:30p Bel Canto Concert |
| 28 10a Worship & Church School 5p Community Dinner | 29 5:30p Cub Scouts | 30 7p Boy Scouts | 1 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto | 2 7p Choir | 3 7p Cub Scouts Committee | 4 9a Bible Study 6p Quicksilver Comedy Dinner Theater for WISE |

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thanks to all our church family for your contributions to the children's Lenten Lunch Bag project! Your generosity helps their efforts to provide a scholarship for a student in El Salvador and to donate some needed supplies to David's House. The children will be helping with the shopping and will have an opportunity to visit David's House when we deliver the supplies.

Looking ahead, June 9 will be Children's Day this year.

CHURCH COUNCIL

At its regular March meeting Council heard a proposal from Bob Moses to use funds from the Clifton Waldo trust for our upcoming roof repairs. Bob also reported on the possibility of using a portion of the Dole funds for the roof, since Dole money is partly designated for capital improvements. Those present all agreed that these were sound choices.

New Diaconate chair Valerie Nevel proposed that Ike Jacobs, Linda Jacobs, and Barb Teeter fill the three current vacancies. All three are former deacons, and Council confirmed these choices unanimously. Valerie also reported on the Diaconate's plans for a retreat on April 27 focusing on the discernment goal of "Growing Deeper."

Jon Scott reported that the Stewardship Committee had recently met to begin work on reinforcing the church's stewardship effort. One priority that Jon noted was to strengthen connections with the Diaconate and Mission and Social Action Committee.

Council Chair Warren Belding reported on proposals received from Nancy Brown, a consultant who assists churches in working through challenging issues. She recently met with a number of church members to discuss the difficulties currently facing our congregation. Council revisited Nancy's proposals on March 26 at an open meeting held for that purpose, which Nancy herself attended. *(For more on Nancy Brown's proposals, please see the next page.)*

DIACONATE

In our March meeting the deacons reflected on Jesus' disciples as they are portrayed in the gospel of Matthew.

We welcomed new deacons Matthew Goodrich and John Gilliatt and elected the following officers: Valerie Nevel, Chair; Jen Grant, Vice-Chair; Carolyn Crocker, Secretary; Matt Goodrich, Treasurer; and Deb Scott, Pastoral Relations. Current vacancies on the Diaconate will be filled by prior deacons recommended by the diaconate chair and appointed by Council, as prescribed in the church's by-

laws. We also expressed our gratitude to Deb Scott for her service as Chair in the past year.

Plans for March coffee hours, Holy Week services, and Confirmation Class were discussed. The Deacons are also planning a Diaconate retreat, in which both current and former Deacons will be invited to participate. The retreat will include a strategic planning session on ways our church can grow deeper. It will probably happen on Saturday, April 27, at a site to be determined; more details will follow.

Discussion and prayers focused on restoring health and wholeness to our church in these difficult days.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Music Committee met on March 17 to assess its priorities for the coming year. The group was very enthusiastic, thoughtful, and creative in considering all aspects of our music ministry. Discussion ranged from worship music to choir recruitment and youth participation. We also discussed the Music at the Meetinghouse series in terms of programming, promotional strategies and audience development.

The committee plans to survey the congregation regarding these and other issues in the near future. Please feel free to offer your opinions and ideas!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP

The committee held its first meeting on Sunday, March 17. In addition to electing a new chair (Jon Scott) and vice-chair (Barry Schuster), the group started mapping out goals and plans for the rest of 2013, aimed at making the different aspects of stewardship in our church and community more visible and engaging for everyone. This will include several steps which, we hope, will allow us to talk more comfortably and openly about the financial aspects of stewardship.

We also hope to amplify our engagement in other aspects which are no less important: how we recognize and deploy the deep reservoirs of talent we are blessed with in our congregation; how church operations can become even more environmentally sound, save money and resources, and make us more efficient and effective; and how we deploy our money, time, and talents to make a difference locally and around the world.

Here's a preview of two projects in the works, on which your Stewardship Committee welcomes your feedback:

1) Building a new "talent box" file of information about our members' skills and volunteer interests, so that

when needs arise we know whom to ask—anything from helping a member with a move to hauling bricks or pounding nails for a building project; from planning and leading a community dinner to working with our youth; and much more.

2) Making it possible for anyone who wants to support our church to make pledges, regular offerings, or special gifts through our church web site, using secure online tools. This would not replace what we're currently doing, but would make more options available and hopefully easier for some members.

What do you think of these ideas? Would you be willing to complete a short survey or volunteer form, or talk to a committee member on the phone, so that we can learn more about special talents and volunteer interests you may have? If you had the option of pledging or donating online for the support of our church, would you find that helpful?

To share your thoughts, please contact Jon Scott (jscottnh@comcast.net, 603-298-8644), Barry Schuster (barry@ivylegal.com), or any other committee member: Steve Teeter, Linda Jacobs, Alden Hall, and Wendell Smith.

April Meetings

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Diaconate</i> | 4/8, 7:00 |
| <i>Church Council</i> | 4/16, 7:00 |
| <i>Christian Education</i> | 4/17, 7:00 |
| <i>Mission & Social Action</i> | 4/21, 11:15 |
| <i>Board of Governors</i> | 4/22, 7:00 |

May Meetings

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Diaconate</i> | 5/13, 7:00 |
| <i>Christian Education</i> | 5/15, 7:00 |
| <i>Mission & Social Action</i> | 5/19, 11:15 |
| <i>Church Council</i> | 5/21, 7:00 |
| <i>Board of Governors</i> | 5/27?, 7:00 |

Council Receives Report and Proposal

Nancy Brown, a professional consultant recommended by the NH Conference of the UCC, assists churches in negotiating and resolving difficult issues. On the first weekend in March, Nancy met with a number of church members individually in order to assess the issues facing our congregation. She has since submitted a proposal to Church Council, which will discuss it at its next meeting on April 16. All are welcome to attend and participate.

In the meantime, all members of the congregation are encouraged to read the proposal and consider the issues involved, thoughtfully and prayerfully.

Nancy Brown's report is available electronically from any member of Council or the church office (paper copies may also be obtained from the office). For more information, please contact Warren Belding (603-448-2630 or warren.d.belding@dartmouth.edu).

Epilogos—Our Mission Partner in El Salvador

On March 10 the Mission and Social Action Committee invited Ed Warren, a member of the Board of Directors of Epilogos, to speak briefly in church and follow up with a more detailed presentation after worship. Epilogos is a charitable organization working to improve housing and education in San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador. A good crowd attended Ed's presentation and responded with much enthusiasm and many questions about the ongoing work of building simple, sturdy houses with families who will inhabit them. Ed told us about the inspirational leadership of Mike and Susie Jenkins, who have been instrumental since the earliest efforts of Epilogos.

We further discussed the work of increasing education, health, and employment opportunities for people in the community of San Jose Villanueva. Just in the field of education, remarkable changes have already taken place. Before Mike and Susie's arrival, there were no computers, no literacy classes, and no scholarships for bright, motivated students born hopelessly poor. And now...

- *Hundreds of needy kids have received educational financial support, shoes, backpacks, school supplies and learning aids.

- *Three village schools now have state-of-the-art computer systems and new facilities.

- *1500 students have newly constructed science labs and a new internal lending library with hundreds of books and educational CDs.

- *Local art, English, and science teachers are learning new classroom skills from volunteer teachers from the U.S.

- *Many schools now provide healthy lunches and snacks to more than 800 children.

Great progress has also occurred in the field of health and nutrition. Dental services were once primitive, medicine was scarce, and water, if available, was contaminated. There was virtually no eye care. And now...

- *The village has a complete dental clinic and welcomes visits by volunteer dentists from the U.S.

- *Volunteer medical professionals conduct rural health clinics several times a year.

- *Health professionals donate mosquito nets and home water-purification units to families.

- *Hundreds of villagers have received eye exams, glasses, and surgeries at greatly reduced cost.

- *Thanks to donations from professional groups in the U.S., a non-profit eye care facility in the capital city offers thousands of eyeglasses.

These are just a few of the areas in which Epilogos is changing lives. The Mission and Social Action Committee is excited to explore ways in which we can enhance the work of Epilogos. Look for more information soon on opportunities to get involved!

For more, visit the Epilogos website (www.epilogos.org) or speak to a member of the Mission and Social Action Committee.

COMING EVENTS

serious fun!

Quicksilver Comedy Players Dinner Theater to Benefit WISE

Saturday, May 4—Dinner at 6:00, Shows at 7:00 and 8:00

Tickets: \$15 (Dinner/Show) and \$7 (Show Only)

Enjoy the improvisational comedy of the Quicksilver Players, along with a delicious dinner served by the Men's Fellowship—and support one of FCC's local mission partners in the process! Serving the entire Upper Valley from its facility in Lebanon, WISE provides advocacy, crisis services, and community education to combat domestic and sexual violence.

Support this worthy cause and have some laughs too!

Questions? Please contact Biff Simpson at 603-632-1083 or biff.simpson@gmail.com.

* * * *Save the Date!* * * *

The Women's Fellowship invites all SENIORS in the church family
to be our guests for

Luncheon

served in your honor

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Coffee, tea, and fellowship starting at 11:00 am

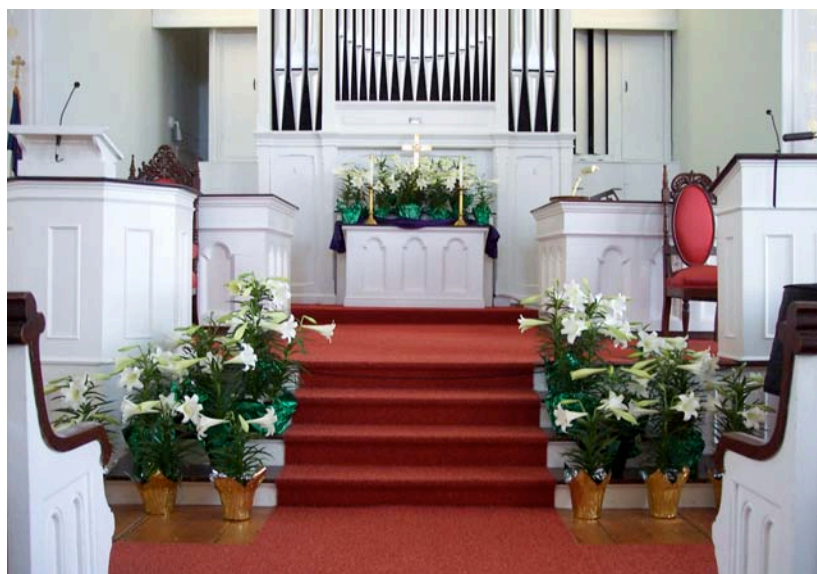
Performance by the Superlatives of Lebanon High School at 12:00 noon

Luncheon served at 12:30 pm

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

Easter Lilies!

Some views of the lilies that were donated this Easter in honor or memory of beloved family and friends.



Music *at the* Meetinghouse

SPRING CONCERTS

*All concerts in the Sanctuary,
First Congregational Church of Lebanon.*

Bel Canto Chamber Singers

Saturday, April 27, at 7:30 pm

A program featuring Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, along with works by Gwyneth Walker, Rebekah Driscoll, Jan Sweelinck, and C. V. Stanford.

Admission \$12, students \$6, ages 12 and under free.

Classicopia Returns!

Sunday, May 5, at 1:00 pm—Four-hand Piano

Sunday, May 26, at 1:00 pm—Violin and Piano

Sunday, June 16, at 1:00 pm—Voice and Piano

Sunday, July 14, at 1:00 pm—Piano Trios

The 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 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