

**First Congregational Church
of Lebanon**
United Church of Christ

APRIL 2014

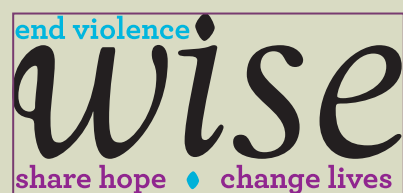
News and Events

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The Pastoral Perspective

In less than three weeks we'll join together on Easter morning to celebrate in song, word, and sacrament the resurrection of Jesus two millennia ago. We will do this believing, with the Christian church throughout the ages, that the resurrection was an actual, physical event in history, something that occurred in a particular place at a moment in time—like the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the invention of penicillin, or the Red Sox victory over St. Louis in the 2004 World Series.

Yet as we gather to rejoice over a miraculous, history-changing event of long ago, we are simultaneously celebrating something that the Christian church, as reflected in its liturgical calendar, treats as an annual recurrence. In Colburn Park at sunrise, and in our flower-bedecked sanctuary four hours later, we will proclaim not “He rose!” but “He is Risen!” We will proclaim that what happened long ago is happening right now—and will happen again. The Resurrection is not simply ancient history; it is our present reality and it is our future.

As Christians, we confess that God's new creation has been, is being, and will be revealed in Jesus Christ. Looking around our world, we may not see evidence of good besting evil, of hope trumping despair, of life victorious over death, but it is there. God is at work doing a new thing. We will celebrate this truth on Easter morning. We will give thanks for what God has done and what he continues to do. And we will rejoice that we are part of God's ongoing, grace-filled activity, as God reveals his new creation.

On Easter Day we will once again encounter a fundamental, powerful truth about God's new creation: it does not function by the rules of the old. We live in a linear world, with events that have transpired, events that are unfolding, and events that have yet to occur. This kind of time is known within the church as *chronos* time: the past leads to the present that in turn will lead to the future. But God, as creator of the universe, is not bound by *chronos* time; instead, his actions are defined by *kairos* time, in which it is possible for things to have happened and to have not yet happened. The most profound such

Continued on Page 4

SUNDAY SERVICE

Lenten Lunch Bag Collection

Palm Sunday, April 13

The Church School children remind you to bring in those paper-bag collections you've accumulated during Lent! Like last year, this collection will be split between funding a scholarship for students in El Salvador and purchasing supplies for David's House at DHMC. **Please give as generously as you can—children everywhere thank you!**

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

Ever wonder how your friends ended up handing out bulletins on Sunday morning? 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! If you'd like to serve either as a liturgist or as a greeter/usher, please contact the church office.

Your congregation will thank you!

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, April 27, at 5:00

Thanks to members of the CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE for organizing this month's dinner!

Please help out by donating ingredients or volunteering to help with set-up, serving, or clean-up. Our service is vital to those in our local community who look forward to this meal every month.

Please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact the church office.

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

Queued for Coffee Hour

April—Music Committee

May—Women's Fellowship

June—Board of Governors

July—Church Council

LILIES FOR EASTER

We will once again adorn the Sanctuary with flowers for Easter morning, and you are invited to contribute in honor or memory of family and friends. You may either order flowers through the church office or supply your own; in either case, please fill out and return a dedication form, available as a bulletin insert or from the church office. (You may also contact the office with your order and information.) *Dedications will appear in the bulletin on Easter morning, April 20.*

In addition to lilies (6-inch @ \$14), this year we are offering tulips (10-inch @ \$17), daffodils (8-inch @ \$13), and gardenias (6-inch @ \$20).

Orders through the church office must be placed no later than noon on Friday, April 11; all dedication information must be received by noon on Wednesday, April 16. If you plan to donate your own flowers, please deliver them to church either Saturday, April 19, or Easter morning.

APRIL 2014 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9a Adult Ed: Jonah 10a Worship/ Church School (One Great Hr of Sharing) 3p BHAM IV!	31 5:30p Wolf Cubs	1 7p Boy Scouts	2 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto	3 7p Choir	4 6p Bear Cubs 7p Cub Scouts Committee	5 8a Men's Breakfast No Bible Study 6/7p WISE-Quicksilver Benefit
6 9a Adult Ed: Jonah 10a Worship/ Church School (Communion)	7 3p WCBH After-school 5:30p Wolf Cubs 6p Tiger Cubs	8 7p Boy Scouts	9 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto	10 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange Assn 7p Choir	11 6p Bear Cubs	12 No Bible Study
13 PALM SUNDAY 10a Worship/ Church School (Lunch Bag Offering) 11:15a M&SA / Stewardship	14 5:30p Wolf Cubs 7p Diaconate	15 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts	16 6p UVPRN 7p Christian Ed Committee 7p Bel Canto	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7p Service (Communion, Tenebrae)	18 GOOD FRIDAY 12-3p Quiet Meditation 3p Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Walk 7p Service	19 9a Bible Study
20 EASTER 6a Sunrise Service 6:30a Easter Breakfast 10a Worship/ Church School	21 MAY NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE 3p WCBH After-school 5:30p Wolf Cubs	22 7p Boy Scouts	23 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto	24 7p Choir	25 6p Bear Cubs	26 9a Bible Study 7:30p Concert: A Bel Canto Bouquet
27 10a Worship/ Church School 11:15a Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner	28 5:30p Wolf Cubs 6p Tiger Cubs	29 7p Boy Scouts	30 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto	1 7p Choir	2 6p Bear Cubs 7p Cub Scouts Committee	3 8a Men's Breakfast 9a Bible Study

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

LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2014

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

APRIL 13—PALM SUNDAY

10:00 am: Liturgy of the Psalms (“House of Cards,” *Matthew 21:1-11*)

Church School Lenten Lunch Bag Collection: A special offering supporting student scholarships in El Salvador and supplies for David’s House at DHMC

APRIL 17—MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 pm: Service of Communion and Tenebrae, with Stripping of the Altar (“The Church’s Original Sin,” *John 19:13-16*)

APRIL 18—GOOD FRIDAY

Noon-3:00 pm: Quiet Meditation in the Sanctuary on the Seven Last Words

3:00 pm: Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Walk (meet at Sacred Heart Church)

7:00 pm: Service of the Word and Prayer (“Midnight,” *Psalms 22*)

APRIL 20—EASTER SUNDAY

6:00 am: Ecumenical Sunrise Service (in Colburn Park)

6:30 am: Community Breakfast to benefit Second Growth

10:00 am: Festival Worship Service (“Good Morning!” *Matthew 28:1-10*)

ENGAGING THE WORD

“Where Are You?”—A Lenten Sermon Series

On Good Friday we recall Jesus’ poignant plea from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” This sermon series, considering our biblical forebears and those times when God seems absent, concludes on **April 6** with “**Mary: Loss**” (*John 19:25b-30*).

Jonah: Unlikely Prophet, Unlikely Penitent

Though included among the Bible’s Twelve Prophets, Jonah is never called a prophet, and his book contains no oracles. What does this seemingly familiar but very strange book teach us about the life of faith, especially during Lent? Join us for this adult education discussion on **April 6 at 9:00 am**.

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

event is the arrival of the kingdom of heaven. It is here, yet it is not. A contradictory proposition? Not in light of the resurrection proclamation: Yes, Christ rose some 2,000 years ago, but he is rising on the 20th of April, 2014, and he will rise again in years to come. In other words, God’s love has come, is coming now, and will continue to come, to us and all the world in the days and years to come.

Yours faithfully, *Steve*

COMMITTEE NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

With prior approval of Council, the Board of Governors signed a contract with Don Collins and High Meadow Builders to scrape and paint the east side of the church building later this spring. The contract is for just over \$17,000. This will complete the exterior painting of the church.

The Board has addressed an issue of low water pressure to the main kitchen sink and dishwasher. Three plumbers have looked at the situation and submitted bids, but complications have arisen to require further assessment—namely, the need for a mixing valve and the related question of how best to heat water for the two bathrooms.

Jon Scott spoke briefly to the Board about the high cost of heating the church and how committees might work together to lower fuel and usage costs. Information on energy audits was given to all members for possible future consideration.

The carpet in the sanctuary and narthex will be cleaned prior to Holy Week by Elite Cleaners.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Our annual **Children's Day** this year is **June 8**. Children will once again lead worship that morning, and there will be refreshments

and an exhibit in the Parish Hall showing all that the children have learned during the year in church school. Kids will wear costumes and share projects exploring the theme of "Life in Biblical Times." Please plan to have your children participate in some way—and prepare to celebrate!

CHURCH COUNCIL

At the March Council meeting Todd Heatherton reviewed our **budget figures** through February. He pointed out that the Treasury still "owes itself" some funds and reported that heating costs are still high, prompting discussion of how we heat the church. Todd also commended Check-Write, our payroll service, for improving the monthly payroll process.

While discussing Ruth Friend's compensation for directing the choir during this interim period between organist/directors, Todd suggested the complexities of paying church members for some responsibilities while relying on volunteers for others. Council agreed that it would be advisable to draft a description spelling out compensation and its limitation to the interim period.

Brian Clancy updated Council on the search for a **permanent organist and choir director**. Despite widespread distribution of the position listing, we have received few serious applications.

Brian continues to welcome any suggestions and help in posting the job listing, and he's tried to assess the position in terms of the American Guild of Organists' standards for time requirements and compensation, in order to align it appropriately within the church music profession.

Jennifer Grant reviewed the **Deacons'** February discussion of a **proposed amendment** to the clause in our by-laws that outlines Diaconate membership. She characterized the discussion as agreeable and productive, noting a general consensus to encourage gender balance and youth representation without requiring them, since these aren't always possible. Jennifer presented the Diaconate's preferred version of the amendment, and Council unanimously approved it for a vote at a congregational meeting called for that purpose, according to the church by-laws. (*Please see the meeting warrant on Page 7.*)

On behalf of **Nominating** chair Amy Driscoll, Barry Schuster proposed two minor changes in committee membership. First, Pete Mason volunteered to fill a vacancy on Board of Governors. Second, as Barb Jones expressed interest in serving on the Pastoral Relations Committee, a proposal was made whereby Nan Parsons, currently the at-large member of the PRC, would cede this spot to Barb but remain on the PRC as

COMMITTEE NOTES

the representative of the Board of Governors. Council unanimously approved both changes.

Pete Mason reported that the **Memorial Gardens Committee** will be planting the gardens in front and side of the building as soon as spring weather permits.

After recognizing that Corrine Erskine is now chair of **Mission and Social Action**, Jon Scott reported for both that committee and **Stewardship**. Plans for FCC to participate in a mission trip to El Salvador with Epilogos in October are taking shape. The committee hopes that an annual calendar can be established for the Community Dinner, to get volunteer commitments earlier. The committee has considered the issue of cold-weather shelter in the area, but it determined that it was neither necessary or feasible at this time to consider offering the church facility for such a purpose.

Lastly, Barry Schuster encouraged everyone to **submit any potential discussion items prior to future meetings**, so that at least a basic agenda might be circulated to all Council members in advance.

DIACONATE

Jennifer Grant opened the March Diaconate meeting by asking for contributions to a “prayer pot.” Barb Teeter reported for **Called to Care** that the Hembergers are

settled in Florida, where Mike is dealing with Alzheimer’s. Prayers were also received for Corrine Erskine’s son K. C. in Texas, and for Corrine as she visited him.

Rev. Steve Silver reported that the ecumenical **Ash Wednesday** service at First Baptist Church was successful, with our church well represented. This was the first time in many years that the Baptists participated.

Steve is offering a four-week **Lenten sermon series**, entitled “Where Are You?”, exploring the challenges of faith through the stories of four biblical characters. For the duration of the series, we will read just one lesson from Scripture; weekly lectionary readings will be included in the bulletin. Steve is also offering a three-week **Adult Ed series on Jonah**. He encouraged the deacons to participate in Holy Week services, noting that there will be many opportunities to provide worship leadership.

In a new meeting activity, “**Experiencing the Divine**,” the deacons considered how and where they perceive God acting in their lives. The discussion asked each deacon whether particular places make them feel closer to God and why, and whether they would consider those places “holy.”

The deacons also discussed plans for future **all-church forums**, including one in May on home

funerals. Jennifer thanked Ron Bailey, too, and everyone else who made the “**Fire and Ice**” event at Ron’s house on March 2 such a great experience. A group of seventeen people cooked out and snowshoed, continuing the fellowship and spirituality of the church’s “outing club.”

Lastly, the deacons reviewed their individual **member outreach lists** and agreed to provide updates to Jennifer Grant.

April Meetings

<i>Mission & Social and Stewardship</i>	4/13, 11:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	4/14, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	4/15, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	4/16, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	4/27, 11:15

Community Dinner Fund Available

The Mission & Social Action Committee and the Treasurer remind the congregation that a fund has been established to subsidize Community Dinner preparation. The fund is meant to encourage more nutritional and (when possible) locally-sourced food for these dinners.

To request reimbursement, Team Leaders should submit receipts, with an explanatory note, to Todd Heatherton.

COMMITTEE NOTES

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A special meeting of the congregation of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, is hereby called for Sunday, April 27, 2014, immediately following the worship service, for the purpose of voting on an amendment to the church's CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

The amendment concerns Article V, Section 2 of the BY-LAWS, concerning membership of the Diaconate. The current language reads as follows:

"The Diaconate shall consist of six deacons, six deaconesses, and two junior members, all covenant members. Two deacons and two deaconesses shall be elected at each annual meeting for a term of three years. Two junior deacons or deaconesses (preferably one of each) shall be elected at each annual meeting for a term of one year."

The amended language, proposed by the Diaconate and unanimously approved by Church Council for a congregational vote, reads as follows:

"The Diaconate shall consist of twelve deacons, all covenant members and, when possible, equally balanced between men and women. Four deacons shall be elected at each annual meeting for a term of three years. The Diaconate may also include as many as two youth deacons, preferably covenant members, who shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year."

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Parsons, Church Clerk
March 31, 2014

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

Women of the Church invites all SENIORS in the church family
to be our guests for

Luncheon

served in your honor

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

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
QUICKSILVER
COMEDY PLAYERS

Improv Comedy at Its Best!

DINNER THEATER BENEFIT

for

end violence

wise

share hope ♦ change lives

Saturday, April 5, at FCC—Dinner 6:00, Show 7:00

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

All proceeds support WISE of the Upper Valley



Serving the entire Upper Valley from its facility in Lebanon, WISE provides advocacy, crisis services, and community education to those affected by domestic and sexual violence and stalking. For more information, please visit www.wiseftheuppervalley.org.

Support this vital community resource... And have some laughs too!



First Congregational Church of Lebanon
10 South Park Street, PO Box 230
Lebanon, NH 03766
www.fccleb.org / church@fccleb.org

TICKETS:
603-448-4281 or church@fccleb.org

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Are you 55 or older?

Do you enjoy working with children?

You Can Help Change Lives!



A long-standing federal program offers seniors the opportunity to serve as tutors and mentors in schools and childcare centers near their homes. The Friends Program, a non-profit human services organization based in Concord, has sponsored this initiative in New Hampshire since 1970.

Working with the age group of their choice, seniors read and listen to children, help them adjust to school-day activities, share their experience and encouragement, and provide essential guidance during a critical developmental period. In return, they receive a modest, tax-free stipend (without affecting social-security benefits or other assistance), training and staff support, and meals—as well as an invaluable sense of satisfaction and connectedness from enriching the education of children.

For more information and to enroll, visit www.friendsprogram.org or contact Cindy Yanski (cyanski@friendsprogram.org or 603-228-1193/800-536-1193 ext. 0).

Volunteer at David's House!



David's House is the dream of a little boy named David Cyr, who passed away in 1984 after struggling with acute leukemia. During his treatments at the children's hospital in Hanover, David and his father Dick met many families who were determined not to leave their sick children but had nowhere to stay locally and couldn't afford a hotel. Soon after David's passing, his parents and their friends began raising funds to establish David's House, which in 28 years has welcomed and served over 12,500 families from around the world, while their children receive the specialized treatment they need next door at DHMC.

Although David's House is generously supported by a variety of sources near and far—including our own Church School children!—volunteers are essential to its operations.

If you would like to know more about volunteering at David's House, please contact Katie Nolen (603-643-2298 or katie.nolen@davids-house.org).

C2C CALLED TO CARE

Called to Care offers great opportunities for stewardship within our congregation.

If you would like to learn more or join the group, please contact Linda Jacobs (mrandsrs.j@comcast.net or 802-296-8251).

Don't forget the...

Lenten Lunch Bag Collection Palm Sunday, April 13

You can support David's House with a gift to the Church School's special collection for Lent. We will present a check to Epilogos and deliver supplies to David's House on Children's Sunday, June 8.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

My Life—My Faith—My Church

An Informal Conversation Sponsored by the Grafton-Orange Association Visitation Team

Saturday, April 5, 9:00 am to Noon—First Congregational Church, Claremont

All are invited to a morning of spiritual inquiry, considering the “tools” and “vessels” of our faith and identifying the hopes and assets of our congregations. The agenda is available from the church office; RSVP to Heidi Hoskin (heidi@schoolhousefarm.net).

Powering a Bright Future—A Discussion on Energy

Sponsored by the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee

Wednesdays, April 2 and 9, 6:30 pm—Kilton Library, West Lebanon

Most of us are convinced that climate change is real, but we need guidance in taking action against it. This two-part program, developed by the Northwest Earth Institute, explores current energy crises and offers steps we can take as individuals and communities to enact sustainable use of energy.

Prior to each meeting, participants read 15-20 pages from a collection of solution-based readings by energy experts. For more information, and to sign up and pick up a booklet, visit the Kilton Library or contact Rainie Kelly at ltompkinskelly@gmail.com.

As stewards of God's creation, we are called to consider and pursue energy conservation and sustainability. All are invited to join these stimulating discussions!

Free Clothing for the Upper Valley! Spring/Summer Community Clothing Swap



Donations of good, pre-worn clothing (please no stains or rips, no shoes or accessories) accepted:

April 19-25—Upper Valley Food Co-op, 193 N. Main Street, White River Junction

Saturday, April 26, 10 to 2—Bugbee Senior Center, 262 N. Main Street, WRJ

Volunteers will sort and organize all donations, and then...

Sunday, April 27, 10 to 2—FREE clothing available at Bugbee Senior Center, WRJ

Clothing for the whole family! Donations not required! All are welcome!

The Upper Valley Community Clothing Swap is an all-volunteer, semi-annual event. No money is ever exchanged, although contributions to cover advertising costs are welcome.

For more information, email uvclothingswap@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook.

FIRE *and* ICE

Having conquered steamy summer heat and brisk fall winds, the FCC “Outing Club” ventured out into fields of snow and ice on its latest excursion. A group of seventeen, including five children, gathered at Ron Bailey’s in Plainfield on a brisk, beautiful winter afternoon. We gathered round the campfire for a cookout, before trekking on snowshoes into the back country behind Ron’s house. After about an hour’s loop, out to Blow-Me-Down Brook and back, we returned to the fire for some hot cocoa, s’mores, and engaging fellowship and conversation.

Those who participated will affirm that the Outing Club’s hikes have become a favorite event, bringing the life of our congregation out into the wonder and variety of God’s creation!



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



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Spring Concerts!

All in the FCC Sanctuary

Bel Canto Chamber Singers
A Bel Canto Bouquet

Saturday, April 26, 7:30 pm

Our “resident chorus” offers a fine program to welcome spring! In his final performance as director, Hal Sheeler leads Fauré’s *Cantique de Jean Racine*, Haydn’s *Mass in Time of War*, selections from Brahms’ *German Requiem*, and a bouquet of other music to lift spirits as we emerge (finally!) from a long winter.

\$12 admission, \$6 for students, children 12 and under free. For more, visit www.belcantosingers.org.

And mark your calendars for... *Classicopia*—May 23, June 14, and July 20

For thirteen years Marcia Colligan, pianist Daniel Weiser, and Classicopia have offered an engaging combination of brilliant musicianship and informative discussion in a relaxed atmosphere.

This spring we are delighted to welcome them back for three programs:

“An American Affair”—Friday, May 23, at 7:30, with Dan and violinist Tim Schwarz

“The American Songbook”—Saturday, June 14, at 7:30 with Dan and mezzo-soprano Erma Mellinger
July 20 program TBA. For more information, call 603-643-3337 or visit www.classicopia.org.