



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

APRIL 2017

Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

A few days ago I settled into my seat in Dartmouth's Loew Auditorium and enjoyed a four-and-a-half-hour-long live broadcast from New York of Mozart's *Idomeneo*. The conducting was sublime, the performances powerful. It was a grand way to spend a Saturday. However, I will note that this is the age of Twitter, with its 140-character-long messages, and there I was, sitting in a room for the better part of an afternoon watching costumed people sing a version of an ancient Greek story in Italian. So perhaps I was a bit behind the times. But I was also, I will note, being subversive.

Now, watching the Met's simulcast wasn't the only time I was subversive that weekend. The same could be said of what I did the following morning: I came to church. If you come to church, you're subversive, too. Singing all those old hymns. Saying those ancient prayers. Doing what your forebears and their forebears and the forebears of their forebears did; it all runs counter to what society says is important—and it's been this way for 2,000 years.

Do you think of yourself as subversive? In the end, it doesn't matter. I don't know that Jesus did. However, I'm pretty confident that he thought of himself as being faithful, as being determined to place his trust in the Father, the one who created the universe and all in it, regardless of the cost. Later in April, we celebrate this commitment, fully aware of just what Jesus was willing to do to devote his life to God—and blessed by the knowledge of what it was that God did with his Son's sacrificial act.

The Christian church through its witness claims that the Resurrection is the single most subversive action in all of history. Through his victory on the cross, God upended every sure thing in this world, giving the last word to love and to life. At times in our lives it may seem like hate and death have prevailed. But the truth is otherwise, and we are called to remember this event and to share this news with one another and the wider community. We'll do that on Easter, when

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SUNDAY SERVICE

Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

Collection on Palm Sunday, April 9

Our Church School children will be collecting lunch-bag offerings for two vital organizations—

David's House (davids-house.org) and
Epilogos Charities (epilogos.org)

David's House offers lodging, meals, and home-away-from-home support for families whose children are in treatment next door at DHMC. Our offering will purchase basic, essential supplies for David's House.

The mission of Epilogos is to improve the lives of people in San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador, a model for focused global outreach and a town dear to many at FCC. Our offering will support SJV's school.

In both cases, this Lenten offering allows FCC's children to help other children in challenging circumstances, encouraging them to consider stewardship as a way to share God's love.

You are asked to use the decorated bags to collect savings from the sacrifice of a regular treat during

Lent. **Whatever your sacrifices, please plan to return your donations on PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9.**

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, April 23, 5:00 pm

Leader: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thanks to Christian Ed and the Church School Children for leading this month's dinner! Please consider lending a hand to provide this vital service to our neighbors.

UVIP Forum on Aging with Dignity

Sunday, April 30, 11:30 am—Potluck After

Please join us after worship on April 30 for a roundtable discussion of one of UVIP's core issues, followed by a potluck lunch.

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 light the altar candles? 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!

Queued for Coffee Hour

April—Mission and Social Action

May—Women of the Church

June—Board of Governors

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

We will again adorn the Sanctuary with flowers for Easter morning, and you're invited to contribute in honor or memory of family and friends. You may either order flowers through the church office or supply your own. All dedications will appear in the worship bulletin on **Easter Sunday, April 16.**

In addition to lilies (6" @ \$13, or 8" @ \$20), you may order hibiscus (6" @ \$16), hyacinth (6" @ \$9), mini-roses (6" @ \$12), and tulips (8" @ \$13).

Orders through the church office must be placed by noon on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 (payment gratefully accepted beyond that date). All dedication information must be received by WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12. If you're donating your own flowers, please deliver them to church by SATURDAY, APRIL 15.

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9a Bible Study 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Bd of Govs 5p Community Dinner	27 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	28 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	29 6p UVPRN	30 7p Choir	31	1 No Men's Breakfast <i>(moved to 4/8)</i> 10a Juneberry Music Class 2:30p UVMC Suzuki Recitals
2 10a Sanctuary Rededication (Communion) and Church School 11:30a AED Training Session 12:30p UVMC Suzuki Recitals	3 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	4 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	5 6p UVPRN 7p Diaconate <i>(Note: New regular meeting time.)</i>	6 7p Choir	7 6-9p Leb Rec Quilters' Retreat 6:30p Piano Master Class w/Chad Bowles	8 8a Men's Breakfast 10a Juneberry Music Class 10a-5p Leb Rec Quilters' Retreat 6p Family Movie Night!
9 PALM SUNDAY 10a Worship (Liturgy of Palms) and Church School 2p UVMC Student Ensembles	10 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	11 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	12 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN No Christian Ed Committee	13 MAUNDY THURSDAY 12:30-4p G-O-S Assn CoCM 7p Communion and Tenebrae	14 GOOD FRIDAY 12-3p Seven Last Words 7p Service of Word and Prayer	15 10a Juneberry Music Class
H O L Y W E E K						
16 EASTER SUNDAY 6a Sunrise Service 6:30a Easter Breakfast 10a Festival Worship and Church School	17	18 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/Troop Committee	19 6p UVPRN	20 7p Choir	21	22 7a-4p NH Button Society 10a Juneberry Music Class 7:30p Classicopia: Cello Charm
23 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Bd of Govs 2p Sonatas for Spring 5p Community Dinner	24 MAY NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE 10a-6p NH-WIC 3p WCBH After-school Group	25 7p Boy Scouts	26 6p UVPRN	27 11a Annual Senior Lunch 7p Choir	28	29 10a Juneberry Music Class
30 10a Worship and Church School 11:30a UVIP Aging w/Dignity <i>(Potluck Following)</i>	1 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	2 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	3 6p UVPRN 7p Diaconate <i>(Note: New regular meeting time.)</i>	4 7p Choir	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast 9a-12p CPR Training Session 10a Juneberry Music Class

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

Corrine Erskine reported for **Mission and Social Action** that Twin Pines Housing Trust may buy a boarding house behind the Carter building, in order to help with Lebanon's affordable-housing problem, and FCC can look at ways to help. UVIP is moving forward with an alternative-lending program and will host a forum at FCC on aging with dignity, after worship on April 30. Kathy Beckett is also investigating the possibility of our hosting a Syrian refugee film here.

For the **Board of Governors**, John Gilliatt reported on recent repairs and maintenance. The kitchen range and oven have been cleaned. Based on the recently completed energy audit, we've installed weather stripping and sealed the Parlor chimney; more weather stripping and insulation projects are planned. John installed our two AED units, for which a

training session will be held after worship on April 2. A handrail prototype has been developed for the altar steps, with a final version in progress. The front portico deck will be repaired when the weather warms, and cracks in the front walk will be sealed. The Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, May 13.

The **Diaconate** did not meet in February due to weather; they held an organizational meeting in March. Barb Jones will continue as chair, Barb Teeter as vice-chair, and Kathy Beckett as secretary. Terry Ellison was elected Treasurer (pending his acceptance), in hopes of facilitating the consolidation of all church accounts in the Treasury.

Barb Jones reported on **plans for sabbatical coverage** following Steve Silver's last Sunday on May 14. Kevin Schwartz will preach three Sundays (5/21, 5/28, 6/11), Heidi Hoskin one (6/4). Jo Shelnett will be here

New AED Units Installed

The Board of Governors has just installed two new AED units, one each in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall. Bill Wood of the NH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services led a training session on April 2, attended by about twenty members of the congregation.



Women of the Church

invites

All Seniors in the Church Family

to be our guests for

Luncheon

served in your honor

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

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

Performance by the LHS Superlatives at **12:00 noon**

Luncheon served at **12:30 pm**

RSVP to the Church Office by April 24

COMMITTEE NOTES

for the remaining three months, from June 18 through September 10. Barb and Ginger Smith, joined in part by Brian Clancy, had a good meeting with Jo about the interim period; the Deacons enthusiastically recommended that she be hired. Council unanimously approved her appointment.

The Deacons are also developing a new **lay pastoral-care ministry**. Jon Scott mentioned that a forum will be offered after worship on Palm Sunday to recruit people to the Prayer Team, and the Diaconate would use information to engage people, eventually building out the program to include home visits.

Council was reminded that it needs to address **childcare coverage**. Linda Oronte noted that Ashley has been

concerned about not having a partner. Corrine has inquired at Hartford High School, but nobody has reached out to church yet; she will contact them again. Jon Scott suggested outreach to Dartmouth childcare and to CRREL; Linda also suggested River Valley CC's childcare program. Jon asked if we could raise childcare pay to \$20 for 1.5 hours (from the current \$15) to attract candidates.

Marcia Corkins noted that **Christian Education** is planning its Easter egg hunt. There will be a puppet show offered to all families on Saturday, May 20, at 2:00 pm. Christian Ed is also preparing for its annual Children's Sunday exhibit in June.

For **Stewardship**, Jon Scott sought Council's feedback regarding the

possibility of making automatic payments available, as we continue to see a drop in offering collections during the summer. Jon asked whether he could investigate this; Council approved. He will follow up with the Finance Committee.

In his **Pastor's Report**, Steve noted his regular activities of preaching, pastoral care, and general ministry. He's planning for our service of rededication in the Sanctuary on April 2 and Holy Week from April 9 (Palm Sunday) through Easter on the 16th. (It was earlier noted that Men's Fellowship, led by Jon Scott and Larry Doyle, will organize the Easter breakfast after the Sunrise Service.) Steve has been involved in plans for his sabbatical, the duration of which has now been set as May 15 through September 10.

Steve Silver's Sabbatical Begins May 15

As most everyone is aware, the Rev. Steve Silver will be taking his well-earned sabbatical this summer. His plans are still evolving, but they will include considerable study, writing, and related travel.

Steve will lead worship as always on Sunday, May 14, but he then will be officially away from FCC until Monday, September 11.

Kevin Schwartz and Heidi Hoskin will preach Sundays through June 11, after which we are fortunate that the Rev. Jo Shelnutt will serve as Interim Pastor through the remainder of the summer.

Save the Date—Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, May 13, 9:00-1:00 (Rain Date: May 20)

Please help out the BOARD OF GOVERNORS with this seasonal effort to clean up the church yard after the winter! We'll rake lawns, trim hedges, and generally pick up around the grounds. We will also work on some necessary reorganization of interior storage space.

Bring a rake, gloves, and any other tools that might be useful. Please join us for this important work!

April Meetings

Mission/Social Action	4/2, 11:15
Diaconate*	4/5, 7:00
Christian Education	(no mtg)
Church Council	4/18, 7:00
Board of Governors	4/23, 11:15

May Meetings

Diaconate*	5/3, 7:00
Mission/Social Action	5/7, 11:15
Christian Education	5/10, 6:30
Church Council	5/16, 7:00
Board of Governors	5/21, 11:15

***Please note:** Effective in April, the Diaconate has decided to move its regular meeting time to the **first Wednesday** of each month at 7:00.

COMMITTEE NOTES

DIACONATE

At their March meeting, the Deacons elected officers for the coming year and discussed changing their regular meeting day to the first Wednesday of the month. They also approved the purchase of additional food and gas cards for the Open Door Ministry.

The Deacons all enthusiastically approved the **Rev. Jo Shelnutt** to act as Interim Minister during Steve's sabbatical, pending Council approval. Rev. Shelnutt's long association with FCC was noted, and she may well be involved with FCC's musical drama camp in late August. Jo's duties as Interim Minister include preaching, administering Communion, and providing emergency pastoral care. She will begin her time here on June 18, and the Deacons will meet with her to discuss how they can help serve the FCC community. Steve will also speak with both Jo and Kevin Schwartz, who will also offer service to FCC during the sabbatical. Steve will seek advice regarding the terms of violating sabbatical under special circumstances.

The Diaconate will lead **worship services at Genesis** on Sunday afternoons during the month of November, as they did last fall.

Steve Silver asked the Diaconate for feedback regarding a request for the **use of church space**. The Upper Valley Democrats asked to use the Parish Hall for an issue-oriented forum. The Deacons strongly advised against this request, due to concerns that FCC might be seen as affiliated with a particular political party. It was suggested that Council establish a policy for such requests.

Biff Simpson stated that **Movie Night** has evolved into the offering of a "kids' movie" every two months. He emphasized that others need to be trained to set up for the movies. Snacks and drinks will be offered. The next movie to be shown will be *Milo and Otis*, on April 8.

Biff also informed the Deacons of two successful **Scouting** events—a camp-out for the Boy Scouts and the annual Blue and Gold Banquet for the Cub Scouts.

Steve Silver reported on a UVIP group that is developing an alternative to car-title lending with the assistance of Mascoma Bank. The program, which depends on \$25,000 in seed money to start, will also require loan recipients to participate in financial coaching. UVIP is coordinating a **forum and potluck on end-of-life planning** on April 30 after worship, led by Cayla Dyer, Lead Organizer for UVIP, assisted by Steve Teeter, Ron Bailey, and Carolin Bassett.

In consideration of our **lay pastoral-care ministry** ("Umbrella of Caring"), the Deacons hope that more people will become involved in FCC's Prayer Circle. Steve Silver will lead a Prayer Forum after worship on Palm Sunday. Deb Scott has been working on a system for receiving prayer requests. Related concerns include ensuring that names are transferred from prayer lists, how to bridge from prayer to a person we encounter during and after worship, and the need for a point person for this ministry. These issues will be discussed during April's meeting.

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

we gather in Colburn Park and in our sanctuary for worship. But we'll also do it on non-holiday Sundays and in fellowship and through service and care for our neighbors, all throughout the year.

This Easter, I pray that you and yours are not only blessed by the Resurrection but that you are inspired to a bit of holy subversion. I pray that you are called to mix things up on behalf of the One who upended tables, consorted with aliens and sinners, and gave his all that we might have new life.

Yours faithfully,



HOLY WEEK AT FCC

April 9—Palm Sunday

10 am: Liturgy of the Palms, Sanctuary

April 13—Maundy Thursday

7 pm: Service of Communion and Tenebrae,
Stripping of the Altar

April 14—Good Friday

12-3 pm: Quiet Meditation on the Seven Last Words,
Sanctuary

7 pm: Service of the Word and Prayer, Sanctuary

April 16—EASTER SUNDAY

6 am: Ecumenical Sunrise Service, Colburn Park

6:30 am: Ecumenical Community Breakfast to
benefit WISE, Parish Hall

10 am: Festival Service, Sanctuary

All Are Welcome!



SANCTUARY RE-DEDICATION. Our worship service on April 2 celebrated the renewed life of our 189-year-old worship space—newly painted and refurbished during the winter—with powerful responsive readings, an evocative scriptural text and sermon, and special choral music. And cake!

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

It's a Boy!

The congregation extends joyful congratulations to
Nicole and Brandon Mason on the birth of

Caleb Allen Mason

March 5, 2017

Caleb enjoys the love of his parents and proud
great-grandparents Marilyn and Pete Mason!



SCENES DURING LENT. Katie Clancy introduces the Church School's Lenten Lunch Bag Offering; Henry Danaher leads the choir; a new rainbow stripe affirms our church's ONA welcome.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

Saturday, April 8, 6:00 pm—*Milo and Otis*

The Diaconate invites everyone for a night of fellowship and family fun with *Milo and Otis*, the story of two faithful friends on an epic journey.

Come as you are! Please feel free to bring favorite snacks to share—and your friends!



Coming in May from Christian Education

Lindsay's Puppet Pals!

Saturday, May 20, at 2:00 pm

The Christian Ed Committee invites everyone, especially families, to enjoy this special treat next month. Puppeteer Lindsay Aucella's colorful, hand-crafted characters, comedic timing, and highly interactive performances have delighted the young and young-at-heart throughout New England.

For more, visit www.lindsayspuppetpals.com.



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music at the Meetinghouse

Spring Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

Piano Master Class with Dr. Chad Bowles—Friday, April 7, at 6:30 pm

Dr. Bowles, director of the piano program at the Peabody Conservatory, works with young pianists.

Classicopia: Cello Charm—Saturday, April 22, at 7:30 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser welcomes Eric Kutz, cello professor at University of Maryland and an internationally distinguished performer, to play a passionate program of Mendelssohn, Balakirev, Barber, and Cassadó.

Suggested admission \$20, church members \$10, children free.

Sonatas for Spring—Sunday, April 23, at 2:00 pm

As part of Upper Valley Music Center's faculty concert series, clarinetist Meghan Davis and pianist Victoria Nooe offer brilliant sonatas by Brahms, Hindemith, and Poulenc. *Admission \$25 (under 18 free).*

Classicopia: Violin Voyages—Saturday, May 20, at 7:30 pm

Dan Weiser brings back the excellent violinist Omar Chen Guey for a program featuring W. A. Mozart, Camille Saint-Saëns, and Richard Strauss. *Suggested admission \$20, church members \$10, children free.*

Cantabile: Music for Women's Voices—Saturday, June 3, at 4:00 pm

Now in its 17th year, this excellent women's choral ensemble sings at FCC for the first time. *(Program TBA.)*

A Cappella Showcase with Harmony Night—Saturday, June 10, at 7:00 pm

Dan Signor brings his community a cappella group Harmony Night back for this popular concert.

Benjamin Kulp, Cello, and Victoria Nooe, Piano—Saturday, June 24, at 7:00 pm

We are delighted to host this concert as part of Upper Valley Music Center's Hanover Street Chamber Music Festival, which concludes that weekend. And we celebrate UVMC's relocation as our new neighbor!



ST PATRICK'S IN THE SANCTUARY. In a special afternoon concert on March 17, Roger Burridge plays fiddle and Anthony Santoro shows off the uilleann pipes he recently acquired in Ireland.

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sundays, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12
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First Congregational Church of Lebanon

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Meetinghouse

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