



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

AUGUST 2015

Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

With the arrival of August comes a temptation to begin focusing on the fall. Meetings need to be planned, school preparations made, perhaps contracts for winter fuel delivery signed. If these and other matters aren't handled right now, a frantic, stress-inducing game of catch-up may become the recurring order of the day. There's a good reason the Scouts encourage us to "Be Prepared"—we never know what unexpected demands on our time may arise. Tending to things now will give us more flexibility later on.

All of this is true. And yet all of this is beside the point.

We Christians are most definitely not encouraged to ignore our duties and responsibilities. However, we are called, and indeed created, to remember that *this* is the day the Lord has made.

This very day. God has made it. Remarkable!

Even more wondrous is that you and I are graced to be here in this moment. Whether it's raining or the sun is shining, being present in this hour is a unique gift, bestowed upon us by our Maker. Should we not make the most of this precious blessing?

How will we be present in this hour? Will we serve our neighbors? Will we enjoy the beauty of the Upper Valley (or some other locale)? Perhaps sing a hymn or study Scripture? Maybe we'll renew ties with an old friend, tend to a frayed relationship, meet somebody new? The list of possibilities is endless, a menu of opportunities to honor God by treasuring the day that he has made.

Live for today or plan for tomorrow? It's a false choice, of course, for God has given us the ability to do both. So do take care of that fall planning. Just don't forget that it is still summer and that this season is God's handiwork, meant to be appreciated and experienced to the fullest.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

SUNDAY SERVICE

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 lighting the altar candles? Or walking 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, please contact the church office.

Your congregation will thank you!

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, August 23, 5:00 pm

Leader: JIM ORONTE

Please participate in this vital service to our local community! Thanks to Jim Oronte for leading this month's effort—let's help him out by donating ingredients, serving, and cleaning up.

Sign up on the Missions board in the Parish Hall, or contact the church office.

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

Welcome Guest Preachers!

Rev. Steve Silver will be on vacation for most of the period between August 24 and September 7 (Labor Day). While he's away, we are grateful to welcome these guest preachers to our pulpit:

August 30—Kevin Schwartz

September 6—Heidi Hoskin

New Members Welcome!

Have you worshiped with us a few times? Have you returned because you've found a welcoming, spiritually nourishing church home here? If so, we warmly invite you to join our community of faith as a covenant member.

If you would like to learn more about this invitation, please speak with Rev. Steve Silver or contact the church office.

Queued for Coffee Hour

August—Christian Ed Committee

September—Diaconate

October—Mission & Social Action



Music at the Meetinghouse

Classicopia: QUINTESSENCE

Sunday, August 23, at 2:00 pm

A quintet at FCC! For fifteen years president Marcia Colligan, pianist/artistic director Daniel Weiser, and Classicopia have offered an engaging combination of brilliant musicianship and informative discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. This month Dan welcomes violinists Ralph Allen and David Horak, violist Marcia Cassidy, cellist Iris Jortner, and bassist Paul Horak for two expansive selections from the Romantic period—Franz Schubert's beloved *Trout Quintet* and Robert Schumann's epic *Piano Quintet*.

Suggested admission \$20, FCC members \$10, children 12 and under free.

For more information, call 603-643-3337 or visit www.classicopia.org.

AUGUST 2015 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10a Praise in the Park! No Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner	27 7p Diaconate 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	28 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts	29 6p UVPRN 7p Board of Trustees	30 9:30a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert 5p Headrest Support Group	31	1 No Men's Breakfast No Bible Study 10a Lebanon Community Sing!
2 10a Worship (Communion) No MSA	3 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	4 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts	5 9a-4:30p UVIP Exec Council 6p UVPRN	6 9:30a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert 5p Headrest Support Group	7	8 No Bible Study
9 10a Worship	10 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert No Diaconate	11 10a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 7p Boy Scouts	12 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN	13 No Grafton-Orange Assn 9:30a (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert 5p Headrest Support Group	14	15 No Bible Study 11a Virginia Hough Memorial <i>(*at Ricker Funeral Home*)</i>
16 10a Worship	17 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	18 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts	19 6p UVPRN 7p Christian Ed Committee	20 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert 5p Headrest Support Group	21 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	22 No Bible Study
23 10a Worship No Board of Governors 2p Classicopia: Quintessence 5p Community Dinner	24	25 7p Boy Scouts	26 6p UVPRN	27 10a-7p NH-WIC 5p Headrest Support Group	28	29 1-3p Wings of Hope (Colburn Park)
30 10a Worship	31	1 7p Boy Scouts	2 6p UVPRN	3 5p Headrest Support Group	4	5 (Labor Day Wknd) No Men's Breakfast No Bible Study

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

DIACONATE

At the July-August meeting of the Diaconate on July 27, Steve Silver reported that **Praise in the Park** was a huge success, with 149 in attendance. Steve and his clergy colleagues are discussing **more opportunities for ecumenical worship**. While not possible this summer, pulpit exchanges are being considered for next year.

Steve will be leading a memorial service for longtime FCC member **Ginee Hough** at Ricker Funeral Home at 11:00 am on August 15, with a reception following at FCC. He also offered a **pastoral care** update on Pete Mason and his family, the Dubies, and Nancy Laren. He also reported that he is contemplating a **cancer ministry**, and the congregation is invited to share thoughts about this ministry with him.

Steve will be taking two weeks of **vacation** at the end of August until Labor Day. In his absence, Kevin Schwartz of Christ Redeemer Church in Hanover will preach on August 30, and Heidi Hoskin will be in the pulpit September 6. Greg Marshall will preach here on September 27, so that Steve can participate in the Horton Center retreat. He also plans to take **study leave in San Jose Villanueva** in November. Following up on Hilary Ryder's recent sermon on the so-called BDS movement, Steve offered to articulate his own position on this issue in the future.

The Deacons also discussed two events planned for next month. On Sunday, September 20, the **FCC Outing Club** will hike on Balch Hill, led as always by Ron Bailey. The following weekend (September 25-27) is our annual church **retreat at the UCC Horton Center** in the White Mountains. The entire congregation is welcome to participate in both events; please look for further information soon.

The church has voted to join the **United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP)**. Ron Bailey and Steve Teeter are our representatives in this important alliance of area faith communities and service organizations. UVIP will again recognize local **"Micah Heroes"** this fall, and church members are invited to submit up to three nominations to the church office by Monday, August 24.

The church has an agreement with Lifetouch Photography to **produce a new church directory**. Two dates will be offered for photo shoots—Wednesday, October 28 (2-9pm), and Saturday, November 14 (10am-5pm). Congregation members will be able to sign up for times online, and all photos will be available for individual purchase. More details will follow in September.

Considering their collective worship responsibilities, the Deacons shared their views on our practice of presenting monthly communion by intinction. All spoke to the merits of this format.

In November the Deacons will lead Sunday afternoon worship services in teams of two at Genesis. Bulletins and hymn booklets will be provided.

Community Dinner Fund Available

The Mission & Social Action Committee and the Treasurer remind the congregation that a fund has been established to encourage the provision of more nutritional and (when possible) locally-sourced food for our Community Dinners every month.

To request reimbursement, please submit your receipts to Treasurer Nan Parsons.

August Meetings

Mission/Social Action and Stewardship	(no mtg)
Diaconate	(no mtg)
Church Council	8/18, 7:00
Christian Education	(tbd)
Board of Governors	(tbd)

September Meetings

Mission/Social Action and Stewardship	9/6, 11:15
Christian Education	9/9, 7:00
Diaconate	9/14, 7:00
Church Council	9/15, 7:00
Board of Governors	9/27, 11:15

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 13 **KICK-OFF SUNDAY!**

Plan to join in the Blessing of the Backpacks, Church School registration, pizza and ice cream, and lots of outdoor fun.

Church School Starts September 13!

Bible Buddies: Heroes, Heels, and Other Friends in Faith

This coming year our Church School children will meet several figures—some famous, some not so familiar—from both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. They will learn about faithful but sometimes fallible women and men whose stories can show us all, young and not-so-young alike, how to walk with God.

So join us next month as we kick-off the new Church School year, renewing old friendships and beginning new ones!

FCC Outing Club! Balch Hill and Pine Park

Sunday, September 20, 12:30 pm

Mark your calendars for the next adventure of FCC's Outing Club, led as always by our beloved, in-house park ranger, Ron Bailey. September's expedition consists of two segments in Hanover. The first is a modest 10-minute hike to the cleared summit of Balch Hill, where we will have lunch while enjoying nice views of the town and valley below. After lunch we'll carpool to nearby Pine Park, for an easy trek through a beautiful forest stand along the Connecticut River and Girl Brook.

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

We'll meet at 12:30 at the trailhead parking area on Hemlock Road in Hanover (off Reservoir Road near the Ray School). Bring a picnic lunch, water, a blanket or chair, bug spray, and sunscreen.

Don't miss this latest opportunity to grow deeper by walking farther!

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Friday to Sunday, September 25-27
UCC HORTON CENTER, WHITE MOUNTAINS

Next 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 is available from the Diaconate.

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

OUR LOCAL MISSION



Wings of Hope

Butterfly Release to Benefit VNH Hospice

Saturday, August 29, 1-3 pm
Colburn Park (Rain Location: FCC)

For six years, the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT/NH has offered this memorial and benefit event, honoring the lives which have benefited from hospice care.

To participate, you may purchase butterflies to be released for \$20 each, or simply attend as a spectator.

For more information, call 888-300-8853 or visit www.vnhcare.org.

A Challenge from Women of the Church!

WISE Seeks Items for Safe-Home Welcome Packets

WISE offers a local residence as a **Safe Home** for women and children escaping domestic and sexual violence. To welcome families and make them feel comfortable, WISE provides items such as bed linens, towels and soap, and kids' games, puzzles, and activity books.

Women of the Church has committed to gathering items for four of these much-needed Welcome Packets, which offer a touch of kindness to families in a difficult situation.

They have challenged the congregation to match that with enough for four more packets, so that we can give WISE eight complete packets by the end of the summer.

More information is posted in the Parish Hall.
Please contribute as you can!!



end violence
wise
share hope ♦ change lives

Call for Nominations — 4th 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 abundant time and energy to community service, who consistently volunteer to work for a vital cause, who offer us a living role model of faith in service. As

FCC joins UVIP as a full member, we are invited to choose our congregation's Micah Hero.

All are welcome to nominate up to three members of our congregation who best represent the spirit of the Micah Awards (only last year's winner, Ron Bailey, is ineligible). The individual who receives the most votes will be our congregation's Micah Hero for 2015. Please keep in mind that this is an annual award, so nominations typically reflect service during the previous year (next year's Micah Hero will be someone new, and many will have an opportunity for this recognition).

Nominations (up to three per person) must be submitted to the church office no later than Monday, August 24. Please contact the office with any questions. Thanks!

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



PRAISE IN THE PARK!



News from the Raven Food Pantry at First Baptist Church

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the July 26 Praise in the Park offering for the Raven Food Pantry at First Baptist Church. In addition to donations of food items, the offering generated **\$411.66** for this important community resource! Further donations are welcome at any time.

PLEASE NOTE that FBC is now opening the pantry an additional day each month to accommodate more of those in need. If you're interested in helping out, please contact the FBC office at 603-448-5618 or office@lebfirstbaptist.com.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



Summertime Scenes. Above: While serving as lay preacher on July 19, Hilary Ryder leads a most engaging Children's Moment. Right: Henry Danaher performs—without either a keyboard or a net!—at the home of Don Rowell and Denise Moriearty, who informally had a few church families over to cool off. Bottom: Patricia Norton leads Juneberry Music's Lebanon Community Sing on August 1, which brought singers from across the area to our church for an invigorating morning of music.



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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