



# Grace Notes

*The Newsletter of First Congregational Church*

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## The Pastoral Perspective

There is something wonderfully, wildly dissonant for me about taking communion in the Lady Chapel at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Fifth Avenue in New York City. There is the way that this great ecclesiastical edifice stands as a monument to tradition in the midst of a roiling sea of modernity. There is the intimacy of morning prayer on a weekday when there are usually no more than a few of us present, a striking counterpoint to the thrusting mass of humanity streaming by outside the front doors. There is the kneeling to receive of the round wafer disc embossed with a cross and the lifting of the goblet to my lips by the priest so I might drink the wine. The experience is quite different from the celebration of the Lord's Supper here at First Congregational Church, where we share homemade bread that we consume with grape juice.

Most of all, though, there is the rumble of the subway. Reverberations from the E and M trains make their presence known in the quiet of a worship space expertly recreated from a French high-Gothic cathedral, as my fellow communicants and I say prayers that have been offered by the faithful for generations. It is in those moments that past and present collide, and the life-defining Gospel truth we profess—that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow—is made palpable to me in a way that never ceases to fill me with wonder.

The Good News we receive in Jesus and share at the communion table is meant to break down walls between individuals and communities, to open up and free our hearts, our minds, our souls. The distinctions we create, the divisions we accept, the barriers we erect all fall away when we let the Holy Spirit get to work. And then, amazing things may happen. New connections may be formed, new ties forged, new relationships discovered. Life in Jesus Christ is made new.

*Continued on Page 6*

## SUNDAY SERVICE

### *Participate in Worship!*

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

No experience or training is required for these important roles in leading worship! If you'd like to serve in either of these capacities, please contact the church office.

*Your congregation will thank you!*

### *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.

### *Worship Transportation*

#### *A Congregational Service*

Some members of our congregation have difficulty getting to Sunday worship on their own. Many others of us have plenty of room in our cars and could easily offer rides. We'd like to get these two groups together!

If you need assistance getting to church on Sunday mornings, or if you're willing to give a ride to someone else who does, please contact the Church Administrator.

*Our congregational life will be all the richer for this small but vital ministry!*

### **Queued for Coffee Hour**

August—Christian Education Committee

September—Diaconate

October—Mission and Social Action

### **Worship Exchange** *with West Lebanon UCC*

**Sundays, August 7 and 14, 10:00 am**

**\* Congregational Breakfast at 8:30 \***

On the first two Sundays of August, we will share worship with the West Lebanon Congregational Church. We'll all gather at WLCC on August 7, with Steve Silver preaching; communion will also be served. The following Sunday at FCC, Jeff Scott will preach. Both services will feature special music.

*Join us for this "Congregational" exchange!*

\* \* \*

### **ATTENTION MEN'S FELLOWSHIP!**

The WLCC men's group will be serving everyone a congregational breakfast at 8:30 on August 7. **The next week on August 14, it's our turn!** Please contact the church office if you're willing to cook, serve, or otherwise contribute. *Thanks!*

### **COMMUNITY DINNER**

**Sunday, July 24, 5:00 pm**

**Leaders: The Duvalls and Susan Montmagny**

We're grateful to Elizabeth, Jim, and Susan for leading this month's dinner! Please consider helping out with this vital service to our neighbors.

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

### *Welcome Guest Preachers!*

Rev. Steve Silver will be on vacation from August 22 until Labor Day. While he's away, we gratefully welcome these two guest preachers to our pulpit:

*August 28—Kevin Schwartz*

*September 4—Heidi Hoskin*

# AUGUST 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> <b>10a Praise in the Park!</b>	<b>1</b> <b>7p</b> (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	<b>2</b> <b>10a</b> (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN	<b>4</b> <b>11a</b> (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth <b>12p/7p</b> (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>No Men's Breakfast</b> <i>(moved to 8/14 for FCC/WLCC exchange)</i> <b>10a Zentangle Class</b>
<b>7</b> <b>8:30a Breakfast at WLCC</b> <b>10a Worship at WLCC (Communion)</b> <b>No MSA</b>	<b>8</b> <b>No Diaconate</b> <b>7p</b> (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	<b>9</b> <b>10a</b> (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> <b>8a-4p</b> NH-WIC <b>6p</b> UVPRN <b>7p</b> Christian Ed Committee	<b>11</b> <b>9:30a-4p</b> Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn <b>11a</b> (IF RAIN) WCBH Youth <b>12p/7p</b> (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	<b>12</b> <b>7:30p Classicopia: Russian Rhapsody</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>8:30a Breakfast at FCC</b> <b>10a Worship at FCC</b>	<b>15</b> <b>1-4p Musical Drama Camp!</b> <b>7p</b> (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	<b>16</b> <b>1-4p Musical Drama Camp!</b> <b>7p</b> Church Council <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts/Troop Committee	<b>17</b> <b>1-4p Musical Drama Camp!</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN	<b>18</b> <b>1-4p Musical Drama Camp!</b>	<b>19</b> <b>1-4p Musical Drama Camp!</b> <b>5p Performance and Cookout</b> <b>7:30p Classicopia: Quintessence II</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>10a</b> Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN	<b>25</b> <b>10a-6p</b> NH-WIC	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>10a</b> Worship <b>11:15a</b> Board of Governors <b>5p</b> Community Dinner	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>31</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <i>(Labor Day Wknd)</i> <b>8a</b> Men's Breakfast

If your event is missing or incorrect, please notify us at [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org) or 603-448-4281.

## COMMITTEE NOTES

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

In a late-June meeting the Board of Governors discussed options for refinishing the floor in the Parish Hall, a project that Wayne Braley is investigating. The Board also discussed an issue with the water-heater unit in the small bathroom.

The group discussed the kitchen water-heater proposal extensively, considering the choice between electric and propane-fueled systems and their respective costs and benefits. Most preferred the electric option, and the group will pursue proposals and estimates accordingly. As for funding the project, the Men's Fellowship is unable to pay for it up front, as originally hoped; thus, the Board of Governors will pay for it directly, assuming funds can be drawn from the treasury.

The Board also met on July 27; they still plan to hold an August 28 meeting as well.

### DIACONATE

At their July meeting, the Deacons prioritized a task list for the rest of 2016. The first such priority would be the formation of a three-person In-Care Committee for Eliot Fay, former pastor of First Baptist Church, now considering ordination in the UCC. Steve Silver will provide instruction regarding the duties involved, and it was stressed that committee members must be willing to serve for however long the process takes, perhaps as long as six years. Any member of the congregation may serve on the

committee. (Susan Montmagny has already volunteered.)

Following up discussion at its June retreat, the Diaconate also plans to work toward a vote on the proposed alternative witness to the UCC's "boycott and divest" resolutions. Deacons will vote on a revised proposal before bringing it to Church Council, which in turn will call a special meeting of the congregation for a vote.

The Deacons also discussed how to strengthen our identity as a welcoming community, including our status as an ONA (Open and Affirming) congregation. Our bulletins and advertisements now state our ONA status, new pew inserts will raise more awareness, and a rainbow strip will be added to the lower edge of our sign on the front lawn.

The group also considered the creation of a new-member Welcome Packet, for which Biff Simpson drafted an introductory letter and list of frequently asked questions. The "What to Expect" page on our website also offers guidance in this regard. For those who are already involved with our church, Deacons will more actively contact the members on their individual lists, in order to make these relationships more effective.

The consideration of how to strengthen FCC's pastoral care ministry focused on collaboration among Called to Care, the Prayer Team, and other lay pastoral care efforts. Deacons hope to play a more active role visiting members

at home for prayer, communion, and other outreach. (Steve Silver has already created an order of worship for home communion, which has been used in recent years.) Deb Scott suggested the Brethren Press' *Deacon Manual* as a good resource for scripture and prayer; the UCC may also offer a similar resource.

The Deacons also discussed ways to revive and expand an adult bible study program at FCC, in order to foster faith formation and spiritual development. This might include the original Saturday morning group, but offering different meeting times might encourage others to be involved. Deacons also worked on adopting a common prayer that could be used for specific occasions or in individual devotion.

#### August Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action and Stewardship</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Diaconate</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Christian Education</i>	8/10, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	8/16, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	8/28, 11:15

#### September Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action and Stewardship</i>	(tbd)
<i>Diaconate</i>	9/12, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	9/14, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	9/20, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	9/25, 11:15



## COMMITTEE NOTES

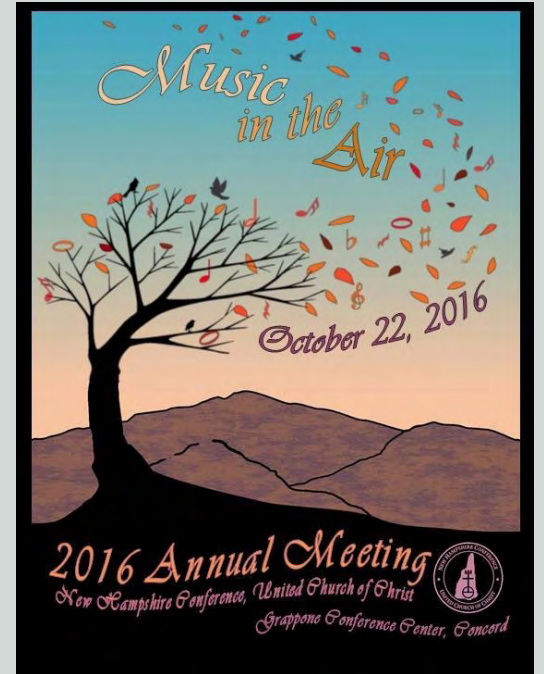
### *NHC-UCC Annual Meeting 2016*

Saturday, October 22, 8:00 am–4:30 pm

Registration Opens August 22

Be a part of the experience! All are welcome—friends, visitors, delegates, lay and ordained church leaders, everyone!—to attend the annual meeting of the NH Conference of the UCC. Come to this day and hear **Music in the Air**, as we worship together, share in communion, fulfill the business of the NH Conference, enjoy fellowship, and experience the many gifts of our keynote speaker and musician, the Rev. Bryan Sirchio.

Further details and registration information are on the meeting page of the NH Conference website (<http://www.nhcucc.org/ConferenceMinistries/ConferenceAnnualMeeting/>).



**UVIP Fights Predatory Lending.** Cayla Dyer, Kathy Beckett, and a UVIP volunteer work on props for "Shark Week" in late June.

### Call for Nominations — 5th 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 time and energy to community service, who consistently volunteer themselves to work for a vital cause, who offer their community a living role model of faith in service. Each UVIP member organization is invited to honor its own Micah Hero.

All are welcome to nominate up to three members of FCC's congregation who best represent the spirit of the Micah Awards (only our previous winners, Ron Bailey and Pete Mason, are ineligible). The individual receiving the most votes will be our congregation's Micah Hero for 2016. Keep in mind that this is an annual award, so nominations typically reflect service during the past year (next year's Micah Hero will be someone new, and many will have an opportunity for recognition).

Nominations (up to three per person) must be submitted to the church office no later than **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**. Please contact the church office with any questions.



### Our First Musical Drama Camp!

Monday-Friday, 1:00-4:00 pm, August 15-19

Performance and Family Cookout, Friday at 5:00 pm

Join us for a fun week exploring the exciting story of King David. Kids will learn about God, have fun, and prepare the musical *King David and the National Treasure*, which they will perform at the end of the week! This exciting program will be led by Elizabeth Duvall, Marcia Corkins, and Nicole Mason, with Henry Danaher and Rev. Steve Silver.

All children ages 6-12 are invited to participate, and campers needn't be members of our congregation—they just have to be ready to have a great time! There is no cost, although free-will donations to support the church's ministry are welcome.

Questions? Contact Steve Silver at 603-448-4281/silver@fccleeb.org.



**Summer Scenes.** Guest preacher Heidi Hoskin leads a Children's Moment, and Corrine Erskine, Marcy Chong, and Linda Jacobs enjoy the Song Garden in Cornish.

### The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

The next time you take communion, whether it is with this congregation or while you are somewhere else, I invite you to look and listen for things that will scramble your perceptions of the Lord's Supper, help you to experience the Eucharist in a new way, and give you a glimpse of the wonder and glory and beauty of God's promised New Creation. Dissonance can be unsettling—but it can also bring us closer to the One who comes to us in the bread and the cup.

Yours faithfully,

Steve



## COMING IN SEPTEMBER



### Wings of Hope

*Butterfly Release to  
Benefit VNH Hospice*

Saturday, September 10, 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](http://www.vnhcare.org).

### SEPTEMBER 11 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 11!*

### Word Search:

*Exploring the Who, What, When,  
Where, Why, and How of the Bible*

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!

### ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Friday to Sunday, September 23-25

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!***



## THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



### PRAISE IN THE “PARK”

Intermittent rain sent our annual ecumenical service into the Sanctuary. LUMC’s Becca Girrell enjoyed a moment with the children, Joyce and Jean Johnson sang *Homeward Bound*, and Meg Davis played clarinet.



**Eagle Scouting in West Leb.** Justin Rogers of Boy Scout Troop 279—which calls FCC home—planned a nature trail and outside classroom at the Mt. Lebanon School for his Eagle Scout service project. By nature, Eagle projects must benefit the community in a permanent way, and Justin and his fellow Scouts cut a new trail up and across the hillside behind the school, building steps to a fire ring with seating at the top. Congratulations, Justin!





# MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



## Music at the Meetinghouse

## August Concerts

In the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

### CLASSICOPIA RETURNS!

Now in its fifteenth year under the leadership of Marcia Colligan and Daniel Weiser, Classicopia offers an engaging combination of brilliant musicianship and informative discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. Suggested admission \$20, FCC members \$10, children free. For more, call 603-643-3337 or visit [www.classicopia.org](http://www.classicopia.org)

### **Russian Rhapsody—Friday, August 12, at 7:30 pm**

Internationally known cellist Cecylia Barczyk and her daughter, pianist Elizabeth Borowsky, join Dan Weiser for Sergei Rachmaninoff's beautiful Cello Sonata and Vocalise, Antonin Dvorak's Slavonic Dances, and several arrangements for four-hand piano.

### **Quintessence II—Friday, August 19, at 7:30 pm**

Dan Weiser welcomes back violinists Ralph Allen and David Horak, violist Marcia Cassidy, and cellist Iris Jortner for two tuneful, folk-inspired piano quintets by Antonin Dvorak and Erno Dohnanyi.



**JUNEBERRY**  
at UVMC

*Do you like to sing? Do you want to improve vocal skills and sing in a choir without performance pressure? Would you like to connect with others and improve your health in a choral setting?*

### **Get out of the shower and into the choir!**

Founded in 2012, Juneberry Music—now affiliated with the Upper Valley Music Center!—helps people of all ages and backgrounds develop choral singing skills in a fun and affordable way. We welcome you wherever you are, whether completely inexperienced and untrained or more comfortable and ready to challenge yourself. Participants in this 10-week class encounter music from across centuries and cultures, while gaining the skills and confidence to sing in church choirs, community choruses, and other groups.

### **Saturday Mornings at FCC, September 17 through November 12**

First Class 10:15-11:30, Skills Class 11:15-12:30 / Final session in Thetford, Sunday, November 13

Cost—\$90 for full ten-week course, \$12 for drop-in per session

For more information or to register, please visit [www.juneberrymusic.com](http://www.juneberrymusic.com) or contact director Patricia Norton ([juneberrymusic@gmail.com](mailto:juneberrymusic@gmail.com)/802-785-4740).

### **New! COMMUNITY CHORUS**

Rehearsals on Sunday afternoons, 3:00-5:00 pm, Location TBD.

Contact Juneberry Music for more information. All are welcome!!

### **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](mailto:church@fccleb.org) • [www.fccleb.org](http://www.fccleb.org)  
Rev. Stephen R. Silver — [silver@fccleb.org](mailto:silver@fccleb.org) • Newsletter Submissions — [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org)



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

10 South Park Street

PO Box 230

Lebanon, NH 03766

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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at the  
Meetinghouse**

***Classicopia in August!***

In the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

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