

Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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Praise in the Park!.....6-7



A Visit with Friends7



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The "Pastoral" Perspective

Editor's Note: The Rev. Steve Silver is on sabbatical until mid-September 2017. While he is away, four of our Deacons have volunteered to write this feature. We're grateful this month to **Susan Montmagny** for offering her perspective.

Where has the summer gone? Here it is, August already. Summer for me means time with my family, following my passions, and vacation! There was so much on my to-do list for the summer, and I feel like time is moving too quickly. Is it the same for you? Well, don't worry: **"There's Still Time!"**

Part of my summer plans included doing what I love on my vacation. Many call me crazy, but I spend that time at the local theaters sewing costumes. Why would I trade 8-hour days with two breaks and a lunch hour for 12-hour days "chained" to a sewing machine? It's simple. In the theater I am knowledgeable, wanted, needed, appreciated, loved, and respected—and most importantly, it's my passion. I returned to my day job renewed, filled with gratitude that I have the ability to follow my passion even if it is on a limited basis.

So here's where those old adages come to mind. You know, like this oldie but goodie—"Stop and smell the roses" (or the fabric softener in my case). Another came across my Facebook feed recently that struck a chord, "Do something today your future self will thank you for."

In our family, we recently had two pieces of major news. First, we had the incredibly joyful, long-awaited news of an impending birth (*see Page 5!*), and then the extremely devastating news of a family member who does not have long to live, possibly as little as two months. While reveling and struggling with these two events that came to us within a few weeks of each other, I was reminded of how tenuous life can be, and how it only takes a moment for your life to change, for the better or the worse.

One of the shows I was so happy to be a part of this summer was *Godspell*, at the New London Barn Playhouse. Although it was given a "facelift," as it were—set in the present day with contemporary dialogue,

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SUNDAY SERVICE

Worship Transportation

A Congregational Service

Some members of our congregation have difficulty getting to Sunday worship on their own. Many others of us could easily offer them 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!

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 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!

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, August 27, 5:00 pm

Leaders: BOY SCOUT TROOP 279

Thanks to our resident Boy Scout Troop and its leadership for organizing this month's dinner! Please consider lending them a hand as needed, to provide this vital service to our neighbors.

Never helped out at Community Dinner before? Make THIS your month!

Look for sign-ups in the Parish Hall.

Worship Exchange with West Lebanon UCC

Sundays, August 6 and 13, 10:00 am

** Congregational Breakfast at 8:30 am **

On the first two Sundays of August, we will again share worship with West Lebanon Congregational Church. We'll all gather at FCC on August 6, with the Rev. Jeff Scott preaching; communion will also be served. The following Sunday at WLCC, the Rev. Jo Shelnutt will preach.

Please note that there will NOT be a worship service at FCC on Sunday, August 13.

* * *

ATTENTION MEN'S FELLOWSHIP!

The WLCC men's group has offered to serve everyone a congregational breakfast at 8:30 am on August 13. **We'll do the same on August 6,** so please contact the church office if you're willing to cook, serve, or otherwise contribute.

Church School Returns in September!

BIBLE BELIEFS

What do we believe? Why do we believe it? In the coming year our Church School children will examine their beliefs as rooted in Biblical stories. Friendship and family, prejudice and acceptance, law and forgiveness, truth and honesty, Heaven and Hell—in these and other areas, ancient stories from Scripture can still guide our beliefs today.

Plan to join us next month as we kick-off the new Church School year!

Queued for Coffee Hour

August—Christian Education

September—Diaconate

October—Mission and Social Action

AUGUST 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10a Worship	31 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	1 7p Boy Scouts	2 6p UVPRN No Diaconate <i>(moved to 8/9)</i>	3 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	4 5:30p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	5 No Men's Breakfast 3-6p Duruflé Rehearsal
6 <i>Worship Exchange Part 1—@ FCC</i> 8:30a Breakfast 10a Worship (Communion) No MSA	7 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	8 7p Boy Scouts	9 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN No Christian Ed Committee 7p Diaconate <i>(moved from 8/2)</i>	10 10a-3p G-O-S Assn CoCM 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	11 5:30p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	12 3-6p Duruflé Rehearsal
13 <i>Worship Exchange Part 1—@ WLCC</i> 8:30a Breakfast 10a Worship	14 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	15 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts	16 6p UVPRN	17 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	18 5:30p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	19 9a-12p CPR Training Session 7:30p Classicopia: The Power of Four
20 10a Worship	21 1-4p Musical Drama Camp!	22 1-4p Musical Drama Camp! 7p Boy Scouts/Troop Committee	23 1-4p Musical Drama Camp! 6p UVPRN	24 10a-6p NH-WIC 1-4p Musical Drama Camp! SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	25 9a-12p Duruflé Rehearsal 1-4p Musical Drama Camp! 5p Performance and Cookout!	26 11a-3p Duruflé Rehearsal
27 10a Worship 11:15a Board of Governors 2p Duruflé Requiem (Enfield, MK Chapel) 5p Community Dinner	28	29 7p Boy Scouts	30 6p UVPRN	31	1	2 Labor Day Wknd 8a Men's Breakfast
<i>P a r i s h H a l l F l o o r R e f i n i s h i n g</i>						

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

At their July meeting, the Board of Governors noted that the **Parish Hall floor** refinishing had been rescheduled for the end of August, as scheduling conflicts arose for the original dates of July 17-21. Wayne Braley coordinated the change with the church office and Valley Floors. The group also discussed the Sanctuary floor, which itself is in need of refinishing and even repair. This should be done prior to replacing the carpeting, another pending project. Wendell Smith also noted that the lefthand hymn-number display has been repainted and will be re-hung.

The group also discussed fixing the **Sanctuary sound system**, noting that the Diaconate has investigated this frustrating interference problem as well. Susan Montmagny's son will try to repair the system in August, and we will also consider

updating and replacing the system with more current technology. These improvements will facilitate the portability of the lectern.

Brandon Mason reported that progress could now be made on **insulation projects** in the Sanctuary and elsewhere, as recommended in our energy audit last winter. Depending on scheduling and cost, some of these projects could happen this fall.

Among other projects, Wendell Smith has fixed the large-bathroom water heater by adjusting the flow of water through it. Walter Scott will be working to fill and seal various cracks in the pavement on the front sidewalk. And the utility room downstairs (the anteroom to the dirt cellar under the Sanctuary) is being cleaned up for better use as storage for all paint, hardware, building materials, and related equipment.

August Meetings

Mission/Social Action	(no mtg)
Diaconate	8/9, 7:00
Christian Education	(tbd)
Church Council	8/15, 7:00
Board of Governors	8/27, 11:15 (at the Parsonage)

September Meetings

Mission/Social Action	(tbd)
Diaconate	9/6, 7:00
Christian Education	9/13, 6:30
Church Council	9/19, 7:00
Board of Governors	9/24, 11:15

At the **Parsonage**, Brandon Mason and John Gilliatt will be replacing latticework with more durable vinyl material. And a full chimney cleaning will be scheduled during August, while Steve Silver remains on sabbatical. The Board's next meeting will take place at the Parsonage on August 27.

Call for Nominations — 6th 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, consistently volunteer themselves to work for a vital cause, and offer their community a living role model of faith in service. Each UVIP member organization is invited to honor its own Micah Hero(es).

All are welcome to nominate up to three members of our congregation who best represent the spirit of the Micah Awards (only our previous winners, Ron Bailey, Pete Mason, and the Teeters, are ineligible). The individual receiving the most votes will be our congregation's Micah Hero for 2017. Keep in mind that this is an annual award, and so nominations typically reflect service during the past year.

Nominations (up to three per person) must be submitted to the church office no later than FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1. Please contact the church office with any questions.

COMMITTEE NOTES



NHC-UCC ANNUAL MEETING 2017 **In Search of Sanctuary: Won't You Be My Neighbor?**

Saturday, October 21, 8:00 am–4:30 pm

Registration Opens August 28

Be a part of the experience! All are welcome—delegates, lay and ordained church leaders, congregation members, friends, visitors, everyone!—to attend the Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the UCC. The theme this year draws from the parable of the Good Samaritan, and the keynote speaker will be Bishop Dwayne Royster, founding pastor of Living Water UCC in Philadelphia. Conference participants will worship together, share communion and fellowship, and fulfill the business of the NH Conference.

For further details and registration information, please visit the meeting page on the NH Conference website (www.nhcucc.org/ConferenceMinistries/ConferenceAnnualMeeting/).

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

sets, music (a rap!), and costumes—the story is still the same and still relevant. As one of the show's best known songs reminds us, we must live “Day by Day,” for while today is here, tomorrow is never promised. God's word is still here, still relevant, and still open to us, and in contrast is ALWAYS promised.

This summer, with our major family news and that reminder of God's promises, I have decided I need to do things that allow me to be happy, to create joy. I recently read an article about the Harvard psychologist Shawn Achor, who argues in his book *The Happiness Advantage* that the key to creating joy is to increase the level of dopamine in one's body. We can do that, Achor suggests, by following a few simple steps: 1) Checklist small tasks. 2) Get focused on something you enjoy. 3) Exercise. 4) Get a streak going. 5) Increase tyrosine. 6) Listen to music. 7) Meditate.¹

So it is with God's promises. No matter where we are on our life's journey, there's still time. Time to stop and smell the roses, or the fabric softener in my case!

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN MONTMAGNY



CONGRATULATIONS from our church family to Elizabeth and Jim Duvall (and Grandma Montmagny!) on the news that they're expecting their first child this winter!

¹<http://thepowerofideas.ideapod.com/harvard-psychologist-reveals-single-important-factor-creating-joy/>, 20 July 2017.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



A CHILDREN'S MOMENT WITH CHILDREN!
With worship attendance erratic because of summer plans, Rev. Jo Shelnutt was grateful to have a full group on July 9, leading a choreographed version of "Jesus Loves Me."



PRAISE IN THE PARK

We were blessed with a gorgeous mid-summer morning for our annual ecumenical service with the Lebanon and White River Methodist churches. Rev. Jo Shelnutt directed a truly epic Children's Moment, having the kids recreate the story of Jacob's Ladder and his offering of oil at Bethel. *Next page:* Rev. Becca Girrell—after a poetry-slam-worthy reading with her daughter—appropriately urged us in her sermon to "work it out in the public square." Mezzo-soprano Elisabeth Slaten of Opera North competed with birdsong in the trees, and Sue Pratt read scripture with authority (and without a mic).

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



VISITING FARAWAY FRIENDS. Marcia Corkins, Corrine Erskine, and Linda and Ike Jacobs toured the state over the July 4th weekend on visits with longtime FCC members Betty Howard (Laconia) and Laura Place (Concord).

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 17 KICK-OFF SUNDAY!

Plan to join us next month for the Blessing of the Backpacks, registration for Church School, pizza and ice cream, and lots of outdoor fun. And we will welcome the Rev. Steve Silver back from his sabbatical!

FCC RETREAT AT HORTON CENTER

Friday to Sunday, September 22-24
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!



Wings of Hope

8th Annual
Butterfly Release
Benefiting VNH Hospice

Saturday, September 9, 1-3 pm
Colburn Park (Rain Location: FCC)

The Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT/NH again offers this memorial and benefit event, honoring those who 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.



FCC AT THE PROUTY. Nasty weather held off just enough for this year's Prouty on July 8. Barb Jones (pictured), Terry Ellison, and Bob Gerlach all rode in this important annual fundraiser.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Upcoming Concerts

Classicopia: The Power of Four—Saturday, August 19, at 7:30 pm, FCC Sanctuary

For fifteen years Marcia Colligan, pianist Daniel Weiser, and Classicopia have offered an engaging combination of brilliant musicianship and informative discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. This month Dan welcomes back violinist Ralph Allen, violist Marcia Cassidy, and cellist Iris Jortner for lush quartets by Joaquín Turina, Johannes Brahms, and Gustav Mahler. *Suggested admission \$20, FCC members \$10.*

Open Sing IV!—Sunday, September 17, at 3:00 pm, FCC Sanctuary

Hal Sheeler and Henry Danaher offer another opportunity for community choral music, featuring Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* and Vaughan Williams' *Toward the Unknown Region*. Join the chorus or just listen!

REQUIEM Maurice Duruflé

Sunday, August 27, at 2:00 pm
MARY KEANE CHAPEL, ENFIELD

All are invited to a special musical afternoon in late August! Continuing their advocacy of choral singing in the Upper Valley, Hal Sheeler and FCC music director Henry Danaher have organized an informal group to perform Maurice Duruflé's beloved, poignant *Requiem* (1947). Accompanying the chorus will be the magnificent Casavant organ in the **Mary Keane Chapel** at the Enfield Shaker Museum.

Free-will donations will support the maintenance of this wonderful Upper Valley treasure.

Musical Drama Camp Returns!

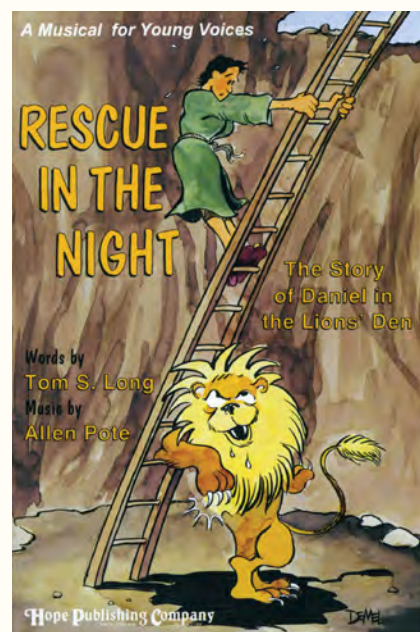
Monday-Friday, 1-4 pm, August 21-25
Performance and Cookout, Friday at 5:00 pm

Christian Education is delighted to bring back our wildly successful summer musical camp! This year we'll have fun exploring the exciting story of **Daniel in the Lion's Den**. Campers will learn about this curious Biblical personality, enjoy games and activities, and prepare the musical

RESCUE IN THE NIGHT (T. Long/A. Pote)—for a performance Friday afternoon, followed by a family cookout! This wonderful program will be led by the Rev. Jo Shelnett, Marcia Corkins, and Henry Danaher.

All children ages 6-12 are invited to participate. 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 Christian Education ministry are gratefully welcome.

Get the most out of your summer—plan to join us for musical drama camp this month!



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 • www.fccleb.org
Rev. Stephen R. Silver — silver@fccleb.org • Newsletter Submissions — church@fccleb.org



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

10 South Park Street
PO Box 230
Lebanon, NH 03766

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Music
at the
Meetinghouse**

August Concerts

Classicopia: The Power of Four

Saturday, August 19, 7:30 pm, FCC Sanctuary
Quartets by Brahms, Mahler, and Turina.

Maurice Duruflé: REQUIEM

Sunday, August 27, 2:00 pm, Mary Keane Chapel,
ENFIELD (To Benefit the Organ Preservation Fund)

Worship Exchange *with West Lebanon UCC*

Sunday, August 6—at FCC (*Communion*)

Sunday, August 13—at WLCC

** Congregational Breakfast at 8:30 am **
Joint Worship Services at 10:00 am

Musical Drama Camp!

Monday-Friday, 1:00-4:00 pm, August 21-25
Performance and Cookout, Friday at 5:00 pm

Featuring *Rescue in the Night: The Story of Daniel in the Lion's Den*. 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 our ministry are welcome.

For registration and questions, please contact the church office (603-448-4281/church@fccleb.org) or the Rev. Jo Shelnutt (jo.shelnutt54@gmail.com).