

Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

Have you seen *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* This documentary is a 94-minute homage to the late Fred Rogers, known to most people as the host of the TV show about his eponymous neighborhood and to some as a Presbyterian minister. Yes, that's right—Mr. Rogers was actually the Rev. Rogers. But we'll get to that.

The film recounts the story of Fred Rogers, his call to ministry, his interest in child development and education, his recognition of the power—and peril—of the then-still-new medium of television, and the decades-long saga of his show. The program was slow-paced, warm, and very much at odds with the modern zeitgeist that esteems an ever-faster, ever-noisier world. Most important, *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood* treated kids with respect, even as it delved into the deep and sometimes turbulent waters of topics like friendship, self-esteem, divorce, disability, race relations, and even assassination in the wake of Robert F. Kennedy's murder. In his own way, Mr. Rogers was both reassuring and subversive.

While admiring, the film is no hagiography. Fred Rogers, like every one of us, had his quirks and failings, which are not hidden from the viewer. But interviews with his family, his friends, his colleagues, filmed testimony before Congress, and footage from his long-running show make clear just what a good, decent, and kind man he was, especially in the face of mean-spirited detractors.

As we try to navigate an ornery period in our national life, one where civility is in short supply, we can draw inspiration from Mr. Rogers' example. We can ask what we can do to be good neighbors. To whom might we extend hospitality? To whom might we offer help, or a ride to DHMC, or help with chores, or simple companionship? As we consider what we might do, we should remember that answering the question "Won't you be my neighbor?" is not just a matter of good manners; it's a vocational activity, part of being a faithful Christian. I believe that this is what made Mr. Rogers' neighborhood Rev. Rogers' ministry.



Continued on Page 5

SUNDAY SERVICE

WORSHIP EXCHANGE WITH WEST LEBANON UCC

Sundays, August 12 and 19, 10:00 am
* *Congregational Breakfast at 8:30 am* *

On these two Sundays in August, we will again share worship with West Lebanon Congregational Church. We'll all gather on **August 12 at WLCC**, with our own Rev. Steve Silver preaching. The following week on **August 19 at FCC**, the Rev. Jeff Scott will preach as WLCC leads worship.

ATTENTION MEN'S FELLOWSHIP!

The WLCC men's group has once again offered to serve a congregational breakfast at 8:30 am on August 12. We would like return that hospitality here on August 19! Please contact Biff Simpson (biff.simpson@gmail.com/603-632-1083) or the church office if you're willing to cook, serve, or otherwise contribute. *Thanks!*

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

Special UCC Offering—Sunday, August 26

The UCC's Strengthen the Church program supports the expansion of ministry and growth of local congregations nationwide. By renewing older spiritual communities, building new ones, and providing fellowships for young, emerging leaders in our church, this program has become vital to the health of our denomination.

Please contribute as you are able. Thanks!

Community Dinner

Sunday, August 26, at 5:00 pm

Leaders: BOY SCOUT TROOP 279

Thanks to our resident Boy Scout Troop and its volunteer leadership for organizing this month's dinner! Please consider lending them a hand as needed, as we again provide this vital service to our neighbors. Look for sign-ups in the Parish Hall.

Would You Like to Participate in Worship?

The Diaconate and Rev. Steve Silver would like to invite greater lay participation in our worship service. Congregation members already serve as greeters, ushers, and liturgists and sing in our church choir. Additional possible roles for lay leadership may include reading the prayers of invocation or dedication, sharing stewardship messages, or even leading children's moments.

No experience or training is required for these important roles in worship!

If you're interested in this opportunity to serve, please speak with a deacon or Rev. Silver, or just contact the church office.

Coming in September *Save These Dates!*

September 2—Meet Asma Elhuni

The new Lead Organizer of the United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP) joins us to discuss a range of social justice challenges in our region.

September 9—Campaign Visioning Session

Following worship, gather for coffee and an open congregational conversation about goals and purposes for our 250th anniversary campaign.

September 16—Kick-off Sunday

The Blessing of the Backpacks, the start of a new Church School year, and great fun for all!

SEPTEMBER 23—ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY!

Guest Preacher Margaret Bendroth (Executive Director, Congregational Library) leads worship, followed by the fellowship of a potluck lunch.

Queued for Coffee Hour

August—Christian Education

September—Diaconate

October—Mission and Social Action

AUGUST 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10a Praise in the Park! (<i>Colburn Pk</i>)	30 6p Diaconate (<i>July/Aug mtg</i>) 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	31 2:30p (IF RAIN) WCBH Summer Group 7p Boy Scouts/Cubs (Webelos)	1 2:30p WCBH Summer Group 5:30p Cub Scout Pack Committee 6p UVPRN	2 12:30p Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn (CoCM) Ulman Fund 4K Run for Cancer (<i>group overnight</i>)	3 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears)	4 No Men's Breakfast
5 10a Worship (Communion) No MSA	6 5:30p Cub Scouts (Wolves) 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	7 2:30p (IF RAIN) WCBH Summer Group 6p No Pipeline Group 7p Boy Scouts/Cubs (Webelos)	8 8a-4p NH-WIC 2:30p WCBH Summer Group 6p UVPRN No Christian Ed	9 No Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn (<i>moved to 8/2</i>) 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	10	11
12 <i>Worship Exchange Part 1—@ WLCC</i> 8:30a Breakfast 10a Worship (<i>No worship service at FCC today.</i>) 1p Classicopia: Great American Songbook	13 No Diaconate (<i>moved to 7/30</i>) 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	14 2:30p (IF RAIN) WCBH Summer Group 7p Boy Scouts	15 2:30p WCBH Summer Group 6p UVPRN	16 1p Community Nursing Meeting 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	17 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears) Stone/Scott Rehearsal (<i>Time TBD</i>)	18 2p Stone/Scott Wedding (<i>Reception off-site</i>)
19 <i>Worship Exchange Part 2—@ FCC</i> 8:30a Breakfast 10a Worship 1p Classicopia: Opus One	20 1-4p Musical Drama Camp! 5:30p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	21 1-4p Musical Drama Camp! 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/Cubs (Webelos)/Troop Committee	22 1-4p Musical Drama Camp! 2:30p WCBH Summer Group 6p UVPRN	23 1-4p Musical Drama Camp! 10a-6p NH-WIC	24 1-4p Musical Drama Camp! 5p Performance	25
26 10a Worship 11:15a Bd of Govs 5p Community Dinner	27	28 7p Boy Scouts/Cubs (Webelos)	29 6p UVPRN 7-9p SURJ Community Mtg	30 6-9p Bel Canto Auditions	31	1 Labor Day Wknd 8a Men's Breakfast

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors has been tending to various projects during the summer. A new lighting sconce has been installed in the **balcony stairwell**, making those stairs much safer for evening events. Brandon Mason has been working with an insulation contractor to provide an estimate for **insulating the church building** in multiple phases. We are expecting funding from Liberty Utilities for an energy audit in the fall; an audit cannot be conducted until colder weather, in any case.

The Board has also discussed the challenges of sealing the cracks in the **front walkway**, debating the merits of caulk-style and liquid fillers, patches, and even concrete. John Gilliatt has followed up with a blacktop company. We are also engaging High Meadow Builders to repair the crack in the ceiling plaster in the Parish Hall.

John has met with consultants at LaValley's about **kitchen renovations**, determining that we could "refresh" the kitchen with repainting, new cabinets, flooring, and countertops

August Meetings	
Mission/Social Action	(no mtg)
Diaconate	(no mtg)
Christian Education	(no mtg)
Church Council	8/21, 7:00
Board of Governors	8/26, 11:15
September Meetings	
Mission/Social Action	9/2, 11:15
Diaconate	9/10, 7:00
Christian Education	9/12, 7:15
Church Council	9/18, 7:00
Board of Governors	9/23, 11:15

for about \$5,000. Should we decide on a more extensive renovation, Walter Scott has consulted with Amy Driscoll and others about equipment and features we might ideally want in a newly redesigned kitchen. Walter has also met with a contractor about the installation of an elevator, which would involve considerable expense for the unit alone, even without the shaft and entry structure required to house it.

The Board is still pursuing estimates for **refinishing the Sanctuary floor**. The major logistical complication

here is how to handle the pews during the project, as it is difficult and expensive to remove the pews entirely. There's also the question of when during the year would be best for this project, as it would make the Sanctuary unavailable for a significant period of time. Concurrently, we will need to consider the related expenses of new carpeting and pew cushions as well, which will take time.

DIACONATE

At their June meeting the Deacons tended to various **pastoral care items** and reaffirmed the value of reaching out to our congregation members with cards and calls. Children especially can learn, grow, and form an early connection with the church by receiving this support. The Church Administrator helped to update the individual member lists assigned to each deacon.

The Diaconate continues to fund the **Open Door Ministry**, despite the merger of the Deacons' Fund with the general treasury. So far in 2018, we have funded \$4,000 worth of food and gas cards.

A CAMPAIGN FOR FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LEBANON

Celebrating 250 Years of Our Congregation

Church Council is planning for a fundraising campaign during our congregation's 250th anniversary year, beginning in September. A campaign committee has begun to look at feasibility, the case for support, and the needs and dreams we wish to fund. **If you'd like to be involved in planning efforts for either the campaign or anniversary events**, please be in touch with Jon Scott (Stewardship), Amy Driscoll (Moderator), Steve Silver (Minister), or the church office.

Campaign Visioning Session – Sunday, September 9, at 11:15 am

The entire congregation is invited to join this open conversation following worship on September 9. We will share ideas, opinions, questions, and concerns about what purposes and projects our anniversary campaign should seek to fulfill. **Plan to join us for this opportunity to envision FCC's future!**

COMMITTEE NOTES

The Deacons and Steve Silver hope to encourage more **lay participation in worship**, and all are welcome. Active solicitation of volunteers is needed to support this effort. It was also noted that raised awareness about using discretion when sharing Joys and Concerns seemed to be having a positive effect. Additional prayer shawls have now been blessed in worship, too.

Questions remain about how and when we might be able to record **worship services on video**. Concerns

include technical and logistical challenges and the securing of personal permissions. Similarly, it was noted that the Sanctuary sound system, wireless microphone, and hearing-aid units require some maintenance. Biff Simpson will be investigating these issues.

As the group plans for **supporting Eliot Fay** in his discernment process for ordination, Bob Gerlach, Kathy Beckett, and Barb Jones volunteered to serve as the committee that will work with Eliot for the duration

of this process. Sue Pratt, having been a pastor's wife, offered to support Eliot's wife Jessie.

Barb Jones and Sue Pratt recently attended a seminar sponsored by **Mental Health First Aid**. They highly recommended it to others for when similar seminars may be offered in the future.

In lieu of their monthly dates, the Deacons met at the end of July for a **barbecue and potluck** at Susan Montmagny's home. (*Notes from that meeting will appear next month.*)

Call for Nominations — 7th 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 are ineligible: Ron Bailey, Pete Mason, the Teeters, and Kathy Beckett). The individual with the most votes will be our congregation's Micah Hero for 2018.

Nominations (up to three per person) must be submitted to the church office no later than MONDAY, AUGUST 27. Please contact the church office with any questions.

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

A graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Fred Rogers was about as Presbyterian as one could be. He knew what it was to be fallen—and what it was to be met by God's grace. He knew that while we all have stumbled, we are all children of the Lord. Perhaps we have failed to be good neighbors in the past. We can always do better in the future. Scripture and an old TV show tell us the same thing: we are never too broken to do God's work.

Won't You Be My Neighbor is out of theaters, but will be available on DVD and to stream in September. Maybe we'll watch it at church. In the meantime, let's think about and ask with conviction, "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" And know that to be able to do so is one of the greatest blessings we will ever know.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

Musical Drama Camp Returns This Month!

Monday-Friday, August 20-24, 1:00-4:00 pm Daily
(Performance Friday at 5:00)

We are excited to bring back FCC's Musical Drama Camp, led once again by the Rev. Jo Shelnutt, Marcia Corkins, and Henry Danaher. Campers will spend the week enjoying fun activities and working together on a production of *A Not So Terrible Parable*, a reimagined version of the Good Samaritan story as a thrilling whodunit. On Friday afternoon the group will present an open performance for family, friends, and anyone else from our congregation, followed by a cookout.

All children ages 6-12 are invited to participate. Campers need not be members or have a prior connection to our congregation—they just have to be ready to have a great time! There is no cost, although free-will donations to support our Christian Education ministry are gratefully welcome. Please contact the office with questions.

Get the most out of your summer—Join us for camp!



THANK YOU, JO SHELNUTT! Worship leadership in July came from Jo Shelnutt, filling in for Steve Silver during his vacation. Offering Children's Moments for all ages, Jo clearly enjoyed being back in the FCC pulpit! She returns this month to direct Musical Drama Camp.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



PRAISE IN THE PARK We were blessed with a gorgeous summer morning for our annual ecumenical service with the Lebanon and White River Junction Methodist churches. After the Rev. Becca Girrell assured children that God is “in their corner,” the Rev. Steve Silver preached on the miracle of loaves and fishes.



A Letter from El Salvador

Earlier this summer we received our first letter from **Mónica Daniela Martínez Sánchez**, the young student in San Jose Villanueva whom our Church School is now supporting through Epilogos Charities, with scholarship funds generated by our Lenten Lunch Bag Offering. Mónica is clearly and genuinely grateful for the support, and we certainly wish her the best as she progresses in her studies. *(Translation by the editor.)*

San Jose Villanueva, June 2018

Dear children of the Congregational Church, I send cordial greetings, hoping that your lives are full of blessings and your days are full of success.

I send this card to you for the purpose of expressing my most grateful thanks for the great blessing of having received your support for the opportunity to pursue my baccalaureate studies. I thank you all hugely—it means so much to receive this tremendous help from you all. I feel quite joyful that, thanks to your support, I will be able to fulfill my dream of graduating and, God willing, to be able to help my family, whose living conditions are not very favorable.

While I have faith in God that he will help me, I'm happy to know that you also will be among those who will help me fulfill my dreams. I thank you so much—it means so much to receive this great support.

I'll leave you with the desire that "God pours out many blessings on your lives and those of your loved ones."



Lunes 16 de abril de 2018				Complejo Educativo Católico San José Villanueva			
Nombre: Martínez Sánchez, Mónica Daniela		Período: 1		NIE: 1350603		Turno: MAÑANA	
GRADO: PRIMERO GENERAL		Opción: GENERAL		Año: 2018		Sección: A	
Nombre de Materias		35% Act	35% Het	30% Obj.	Promedio	Resul.	Nombre Profesor
Lenguaje y Literatura	6.60	10.00	4.00	7.01	Apro.	María Dolores Recinos	
Matemáticas	5.00	6.26	3.70	5.05	Repro	Jesús Daniel Vivas	
Ciencias Naturales	7.00	8.00	7.50	7.50	Apro.	Lizania Verónica Santos	
Estudios Sociales	8.50	6.00	9.40	7.90	Apro.	María Elena Bernal	
Inglés	9.46	7.97	3.00	7.00	Apro.	Luis Ernesto Cienfuegos	
Informática	10.00	9.00	10.00	9.65	Apro.	Saul Renteros	
Orientación / la Vida	9.00	9.00	6.00	8.10	Apro.	Roxana Díaz	
Seminario I	6.00	9.00	6.00	7.05	Apro.	Victor Estrada	
Educ. Fé	7.00	7.00	2.00	5.50	Repro	Pbro. Gonzalo Ortega	
Habilitación Laboral I	6.57	5.71	4.70	5.71	Repro	Luis Ernesto Cienfuegos	
Lab. De Creatividad	9.00	8.00	9.00	8.65	Apro.	Celina Díaz	
Educación Física	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	Apro.	Antonio Chicas	
Conducta	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	Apro.	Jesús Daniel Vivas	
Promedios Generales:				Su Promedio		7.32	
Asistencia		Inasistencia		CUM) es:			
F. REGISTRO DE NOTAS				F. DIRECCION			

Estimados Jóvenes de Congregational Church reciban un Cordial saludo, deseando que sus vidas esten llenas de bendiciones y que sus días esten llenos de éxito. Luego de este corto saludo paso a lo siguiente.

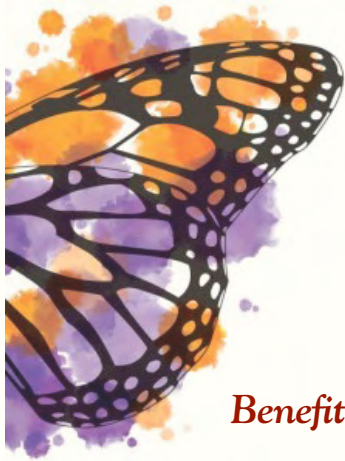
Por medio de la presente Carta me dirijo a Ustedes con el fin de expresar mi más grato agradecimiento es de gran bendición poder recibir de su ayuda ya que con su apoyo tengo la oportunidad de seguir mis estudios de bachillerato les agradezco en gran manera, para mi significa mucho recibir esta gran ayuda de parte de ustedes. Me siento muy alegre de que gracias a su apoyo podré cumplir mi sueño de poder graduarme y primero Dios seguir y poder ayudar a mi familia ya que las condiciones de vida no son muy favorables.

Pero tengo la fe en Dios que el me ayudara, me alegria Saber que ustedes sean parte de las personas que ayuden a cumplir mis sueños, les agradezco mucho Significa mucho para mi recibir de su gran apoyo.

Con esto me despido deseando que "Dios dename muchas bendiciones en sus vidas y en la de sus seres queridos."



OUR LOCAL AND NATIONAL MISSION



Wings of Hope

**9th Annual
Butterfly Release
Benefiting VNH Hospice**

**Saturday, September 8, 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.**

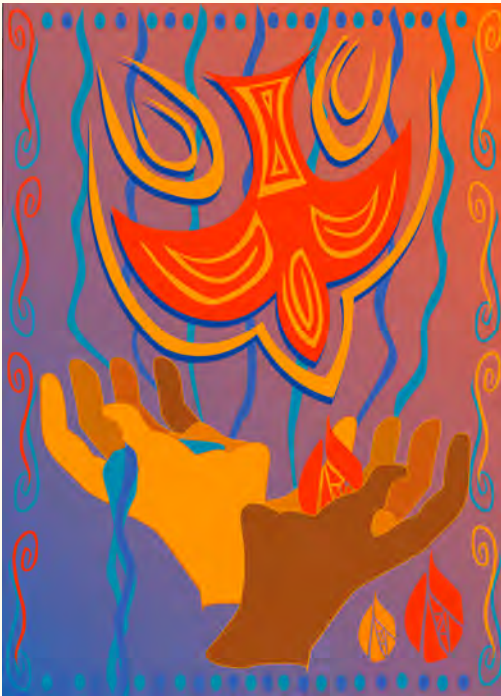
Thank you from the Ulman 4K for Cancer!



Dear First Congregational Church of Lebanon,

Thank you so much for hosting us last night and providing us with a super delicious dinner. We really appreciate how welcoming your community was to us, and what we do everyday would not be possible without you. Thank you for helping us make a difference.

Team Boston ♥



NHC-UCC ANNUAL MEETING 2018

This Is the Day of the Poured-Out Spirit

**Saturday, October 20, 8:00 am–4:30 pm
Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH
Registration Opens August 27**

Be a part of the experience! All are welcome—lay and ordained church leaders, congregation members, friends, visitors, everyone!—to attend the 217th Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the UCC. The theme this year draws from Joel 2:28: “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.” The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray, Jr., president of Chicago Theological Seminary and an authority on systematic theology, African-American religion, and the intersection of religion, human rights, and politics. Conference participants will worship together, share communion and fellowship, and address 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/conference-ministries/2018-annual-meeting).

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Late Summer Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

Classicopia: The Great American Songbook—Sunday, August 12, at 1:00 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser and mezzo-soprano Erma Mellinger present a wonderful selection of favorite songs by George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers, Harold Arlen, Cole Porter, and more. Admission \$20, FCC members \$15; more at www.classicopia.org.

Classicopia: Opus One—Sunday, August 19, at 1:00 pm

Dan Weiser welcomes back violinist Ralph Allen, cellist Iris Jortner, and violist Marcia Cassidy for piano quartets by Felix Mendelssohn and Josef Suk—in each case the composer's first published work—along with a partial quartet by Antonin Dvorák. Admission \$20, FCC members \$15; more at www.classicopia.org.

The Samara Piano Quartet—Friday, September 7, at 7:30 pm

Keene-based pianist Nicholas Burns and his wife, violinist Louisa Stonehill, formed this excellent chamber ensemble last year with violist Marcia Cassidy and cellist Paul Cohen. They've performed at Marlboro College, Dartmouth, and elsewhere in the region. For their concert here, they'll play music of W. A. Mozart, Joaquín Turina, and Johannes Brahms. Admission \$20; for more, please visit samarapianoquartet.org.

The Faiella Folk Duo—Sunday, September 9, at 2:30 pm

Siblings Liz and Dan Faiella have for much of their young lives played traditional Irish, Celtic, and New England folk music for enthusiastic audiences at festivals, contradances, and other venues throughout the region. Program details TBD; for more on the Faiella Duo, please visit lizanddanmusic.com.

The Upper Valley Singers

Sunday, August 26, at 2:00 pm
MARY KEANE CHAPEL, ENFIELD



All are invited to enjoy this special musical afternoon in Enfield in late August! Continuing their advocacy of choral singing in the Upper Valley, Hal Sheeler and FCC's Music Director and Organist Henry Danaher have organized an informal ensemble to perform a gorgeous program of seldom-heard repertoire for chorus and organ. The program will feature music of Johannes Brahms, Stephen Paulus, Karl Jenkins, Josef Rheinberger, and Franz Biebl, along with the powerful *Messe Solennelle* (1899) of French organist Louis Vierne. Featured throughout the program, Henry will be playing the magnificent 1930s Casavant organ in the Mary Keane Chapel at the Enfield Shaker Museum, an Upper Valley treasure.

Free-will donations (\$15-20 suggested) will support maintenance of the Mary Keane Chapel organ.

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 • Music: music@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

**WORSHIP EXCHANGE
WITH WEST LEBANON UCC**

Sunday, August 12—at WLCC

Sunday, August 19—at FCC

Joint Worship Services at 10:00 am

** Congregational Breakfast at 8:30 am **

Musical Drama Camp Returns!

A Not So Terrible Parable

Monday-Friday, August 20-24

1:00-4:00 pm Daily

Performance and Cookout, Friday at 5:00

All Children Ages 6-12 Welcome!



**Music
at the
Meetinghouse**

Late Summer Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

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