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The Pastoral Perspective

“Children are the future of the church” is a truism heard across denominations, one that transcends theology, geography, and ecclesiology. Congregations, we are told, need to focus on kids and their parents if there are going to be any people in the pews in twenty years’ time. Faith communities need to be accessible, and relevant, and contemporary; otherwise, they are going to lose their young people. All of this is true, but it misses the point: children aren’t the church’s future—they’re its present.

We’re reminded of this in Mark 10, when the disciples shoo away people bringing children to Jesus. Jesus, we’re told, is “indignant.” He proceeds to tell his followers that the kingdom of God belongs to the little ones—indeed, that it is only when they are willing to receive the kingdom as little children that they’ll be able to enter in. But what does it mean to be like a little child? Specifically, what does it mean to be like a little child in church?

One possible answer can be found at the front of our sanctuary each Sunday, where during worship I am blessed to share a few moments with our kids. Sometimes there are just a couple present; other times a large crowd gathers. Regardless of how many there are, though, those boys and girls can be fidgety, distracted, and rambunctious. They can also be, and often are, very insightful.

I believe their insightfulness stems directly from an openness to the new and an unbounded curiosity about the world, states of mind with which we are all born but all too often lose as we grow older, are educated, and develop habits of thought that shape, channel, and limit our perceptions. Given the wonder of God and what God is doing in and for the world, is it really surprising that we are called to embrace our inner child? I think not! For only by doing so can we be open to the One who made himself know to us in Jesus.

Continued on next page

SUNDAY SERVICE

The **Pastoral Perspective**, *cont. from Page 1*

When you have a free moment, think about all of the conventions, all of the protocols, all the boundaries those children—and *their parents!*—ignored to approach Jesus. Something beautiful, something joyful, something holy beckoned those kids and those adults to come forward. That something—the pure, unbounded, healing, reconciling love of the One who made us—still beckons, calling you and me to approach, waiting eagerly for us to be like little children, so that we may fully experience all that our creating, redeeming, sustaining God has to offer us.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

COMMUNITY DINNER Sunday, June 23 at 5:00 pm

Team Leader Still Needed!

Please plan to participate in this vital service to our local community.

Volunteers are needed to donate ingredients and help with cooking/ prep, set-up, serving, and clean-up.

This month's dinner will also include the Bike & Build group, meaning about thirty people more than usual. *(They will help serve and clean-up, too!)*

To offer help, sign up in the Parish Hall or contact the church office.

Open Forum and Potluck Lunch

Sunday, June 16, at 11:30

Following Worship and Coffee Hour

Please join us for an informal opportunity to talk about church programs, share concerns and ideas, and enjoy each other's conversation and fellowship.

And then... Stick around for Classicopia!!
"Love Songs" with Julie Ness (see p. 9)

JUNE 23 IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Our congregation gratefully celebrates this important moment in the faith journeys of

Ethan Guyer, Emma Petersson, and Eric Petersson

Queued for Coffee Hour

June

Board of Governors

July

Church Council

August

Christian Education Committee

A Community Dinner Appeal

We still need team leaders!

We are looking for Team Leaders for our Community Dinners in June, September, and beyond. If you have questions about what this involves, or if you're interested in taking on this important role, please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact the church office.

JUNE 2013 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10a Worship & Church School 1p Classicopia: The French Connection 5p Community Dinner	27 MEMORIAL DAY No Board of Governors	28 7p Student Vocal Recital: Alleigh Whiteside	29 6p UVPRN	30 7p Choir	31	1 8a Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9a Bible Study 11a Piano Recital: Lisa Amundsen
2 10a Worship & Church School (Communion)	3 5:30p Cub Scouts	4 7p Stewarship Committee 7p Boy Scouts	5 6p UVPRN 7p Student Recital: Jennifer Hansen Vocal Studio	6 7p Choir	7 7p Cub Scouts Committee	8 9a Bible Study 11a Upper Valley Music Center Children's Concert
9 CHILDREN'S SUNDAY! 10a Worship 11:15a Games and Lunch on the Front Lawn	10 5:30p Cub Scouts 7p Diaconate	11 7p Boy Scouts	12 6p UVPRN	13 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange Association 7p Choir	14	15 9a Bible Study
16 10a Worship & Church School 11:15a Mission & Social Action 11:30a Forum and Potluck 1p Classicopia: "Love Songs"	17	18 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts	19 6p UVPRN No Christian Ed Committee this month	20 7p Choir	21 JULY NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	22 9a Bible Study 8:30a-1:30p Nancy Brown Workshop Bike & Build (PM arrival)
23 Bike & Build 10a Worship & Church School Confirmation Sunday 5p Community Dinner <hr/> 30 10a Worship & Church School	24 Bike & Build (AM depart) 7p Board of Governors	25 7p Boy Scouts	26 6p UVPRN	27 7p Choir	28	29 9a Bible Study 1p Memorial Service for Charlie Sargent

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Supported by our Lenten “Lunch Bag” collection, we were able to offer assistance to three students in El Salvador and purchase some much needed supplies for David’s House in Lebanon. Thank you again to all those who helped our children make a difference in the lives of other people!

We will be delivering the supplies to David’s House after church on Sunday, June 2. We’ll present a check for the scholarships to Terry Phillips of Epilogos on Children’s Sunday, June 9.

The Christian Ed Committee will not meet in June or July.

June Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	6/10, 7:00
<i>Mission & Social</i>	6/16, 11:15
<i>Church Council</i>	6/18, 7:00
<i>Christian Ed</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Bd of Governors</i>	6/24, 7:00

July Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i>	7/8, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	7/16, 7:00
<i>Christian Ed</i>	(no mtg)
<i>Mission & Social</i>	7/21, 11:15
<i>Bd of Governors</i>	7/22, 7:00

What to Do Right When Things Go Wrong

A Workshop with Nancy Brown

Saturday, June 22, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
FCC Parish Hall

The entire FCC community is encouraged to participate in this first phase of our work with facilitator Nancy Brown. This workshop will be foundational for future growth and everyone is invited to join the discussion, particularly our lay leadership. With Nancy’s guidance, we will explore:

- ♦ The nature of organizational conflict and how it can lead to growth and change
- ♦ The nature of human systems and why change can be so stressful and difficult
- ♦ The role of leadership, mission, and vision during challenging times
- ♦ Caring communication for difficult conversations
- ♦ A restorative circle model and the characteristics of a healthy congregation

A trained mediator, Nancy Brown holds a master’s degree in social work and has worked as an executive for various non-profit organizations. She has additional training in conflict transformation and the “Healthy Congregations” approach to faith communities, and she has provided consultation and training for nearly twenty years. She’s a longtime member of South Congregational Church (UCC) in Concord, where she has served in many leadership roles.

RSVP BY JUNE 20. We’ll start our day with coffee before opening the session promptly at 9:00. There will be a break for lunch; **please plan to bring your own bag lunch.**

*Please join us for this important step
in the life of our congregation!*



JUNE 9 IS...

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY!!



featuring

Presentations to ALL Children and Volunteers during Worship
Presentation of Epilogos scholarships funded by Church School's Lenten Collection
Games on the Lawn—Bean Bags, Bubbles, Hula Hoops, Croquet, Badminton, and whatever else we can think of!
Lunch—Hot Dogs, Mac-n-Cheese, Salad, Chips, and... Ice Cream!

* * *

DO YOU HAVE children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews who sing or play an instrument? Please encourage them to participate in worship on Children's Sunday!

The Music and Christian Education Committees would like our wonderful children and youth to lead worship on June 9 with their gifts of music. If you're interested or have questions, please contact Brian Clancy (603-448-0976/bclancy.nh@gmail.com).

*The FCC Community
joins in congratulating*

Elizabeth Montmagny
and
James Duvall

Engaged on May 12, 2013

*Their wedding will take place in Grantham
on October 18, 2014.*

Best wishes and prayers for your future!

Elizabeth Montmagny and Jim Duvall
415 2nd Street, Cut Bank, MT 59427



Con-GRAD-ulations!

We joyfully celebrate the graduations of

Joel Anderson (Hanover HS)

Sarah Heatherton (Lebanon HS)

Eric Petersson (Mascoma Valley Regional HS)

Mackenzie Anderson (Culinary Inst of America)

Brian Moses (University of Montana)

Eric Weber (University of Vermont)

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION

VOLUNTEERING = STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship can be thought of as a portion of the abundant blessings we receive from God that we choose to return and share faithfully, with joy and gratitude. Financial offerings are important, but so are our contributions of time and talent. Without those, our church would be a lot different.

Did you know that congregation members volunteered more than 200 hours of their time this past month in support of worship, ministry, Christian education, music, hospitality, mission, and caring for fellow members? Chances are, you were a part of that incredible effort. And every hour counts as an act of stewardship for our church.

Your stewardship committee recognizes the wealth of special talents and interests that exists within our congregation. We wonder, though, if you have talents and interests that have yet to be matched up with opportunities in our church. Maybe you have a special skill to share, but have no idea how it might be put to use to serve the glory of God.

We'd like to know more about what you have to offer, and we'd like you to know more about the church's many opportunities for service. We'd also like to know more about your interests and volunteer activities outside of church. Recognizing our collective talents and interests would allow us to get to know each other better, draw us closer as a church family, and enable us to accomplish even more together than we already are.

Starting this summer and continuing through the fall, our committee will initiate a survey and conversation process, in coordination with the Diaconate and other church boards and committees. Together we'll build a more complete picture of our potential. Then we can more effectively match the opportunities we offer with the things you are best able and most eager to provide.

Please start thinking about the possibilities: more prayers by congregation members for each other and for others in need; more visits and conversations among church members; more volunteers ready to help people with odd jobs, errands, or rides to appointments or worship; more available advice on car repairs, gardening, or other issues; more cards and letters for people who would love to hear from us; more meals for the hungry; or more and deeper support for mission partners like Second Growth, WISE, and Epilogos.

You don't need to wait for a survey or conversation. Your stewardship committee—Jon Scott, Barry Schuster, Linda Jacobs, Wendell Smith, and Alden Hall—would love to hear your ideas at any time.

Are You Ready for a Mission to El Salvador?

So are we!! The Mission and Social Action Committee has offered presentations on construction and education projects in El Salvador organized by Epilogos. Now we're getting serious about planning a trip there, either on our own or with another Epilogos group—and we need to know who would be interested in coming! If you would consider making a commitment to this trip, or if you have questions first, please contact Wendell Smith at 603-632-1117 or polestar3056@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION

Bike & Build Returns to the Upper Valley

Saturday, June 22 through Monday, June 24

Now in its eleventh summer, the Bike & Build program has expanded to ten cross-country biking trips to raise money and awareness for affordable housing. Stopping along their route to participate in construction efforts, the 18- to 25-year-old riders experience first-hand the considerable need for affordable housing across the country. These cyclist-builders also meet with local officials and community members to discuss affordable housing issues. Each rider raises at least \$4,000 to help fund the trip's costs and housing efforts nationwide.

Once again, FCC will be hosting 30+ cyclists on Bike & Build's northern route. On their ten-week journey from Portsmouth, NH, to Vancouver, BC, the group will join projects at ten sites; in the Upper Valley, they will work with Habitat for Humanity, Cover Home Repair, and Twin Pines Housing Trust.

Our cool basement should offer a welcome respite after the trip's challenging first leg from Portsmouth. We'll also provide meals—including this month's Community Dinner!—and arrange a short presentation in which the bikers will share their experiences and aspirations.

Stay tuned for more details, and thanks in advance for your support of this inspiring project.

020 CALLED TO CARE

Called to Care, a program sponsored by the Diaconate, started in March 1996 with thirteen caregivers who attended training sessions with pastoral counselor Charles Lindner. Laura Place was the first coordinator, and I have recently become coordinator for the second time.

This very worthwhile program offers special assistance and support to those who need it, for whatever reason—illness, loss of a loved one, divorce, aging issues, depression, and loneliness, to name a few. We offer care in the form of cards, telephone calls, personal visits, meals, and transportation. Our numbers have dwindled to just eight caregivers, so we really would like more of you to serve with Called to Care. It is a very rewarding group!

If the Spirit moves you to join us, please contact me or Steve Silver.

Peace,

Linda Jacobs

(mrands.mrs.j@comcast.net / 802-296-8251)

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Spin-A-Thon to Benefit Second Growth

Saturday, June 8, 7:00 am to 1:00 pm, Upper Valley Aquatic Center

What is a spin-a-thon? Six 50-minute spin classes, 20 bikes, professional instructors, motivating music, lots of prizes, food, and the opportunity to support non-profits in our community.

Spin instructors will coach you along the way, setting you up for success whether this is your first class or you are a spinning regular.

We need riders... to ride for 50-minute increments beginning at 7:00. Participants can sign up for any slot and can ride for as long as they wish. Minimum donation per hour of riding is \$50. Feel the energy in a fast-paced, fun environment for a good cause. Raffle prizes given out each hour!

To reserve your time slot... visit www.secondgrowth.org and use the online registration link. Team and individual participants accepted. Each team commits to fill one bike for six hours. Credit cards accepted; enter the rider's name in the dedication line on the "Just Give" page.

Want to donate without riding? Visit www.secondgrowth.org, select "Just Give" at the bottom of the page, and make your secure donation, with "Spin-A-Thon" in the dedication line.

Second Growth provides services in support of safe and successful young lives. It offers resources to the highest-risk adolescents in our community, many at no charge.

Participation in this fundraiser directly supports these adolescents.

For more information visit www.secondgrowth.org or call (802) 295-9800.

Quicksilver Comedy Players and FCC Laugh Up Funds for WISE



Serving the Upper Valley, WISE provides advocacy, crisis services, and community education to combat domestic and sexual violence.

On May 4 in the Parish Hall, the Quicksilver Players entertained a generous audience, following a dinner prepared and served by a crew of FCC volunteers. **Joining together, we raised \$707, all in support of WISE's mission.**

Thanks to all who made this event possible and contributed to its success!

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



MAY 7,
2013



Senior Luncheon
A beloved annual event, the Senior Lunch again brought together our youthfully spirited elders for fellowship, conversation, and delicious food –along with a performance by the Superlatives of Lebanon High School (featuring our own Sarah and James Heatherton!)



Music at the Meetinghouse

SPRING CONCERTS

All concerts in the Sanctuary,
First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Classicopia!

For over ten years, Classicopia has offered an engaging combination of brilliant musicianship and informative discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. *Don't miss these wonderful concerts!*



Sunday, June 16, 1:00 pm
"Love Songs"

Pianist Daniel Weiser and soprano Julie Ness collaborate on Broadway tunes by great American songwriters, including George Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Harold Arlen, and Cole Porter.

Friday, July 12, 7:30 pm (*new date/time*)
"Czech Please"

Dan Weiser, joined by violinist Omar Chen Guey and cellist Patrick Owen, offer piano trios by Antonin Dvorák and Bedrich Smetana.



Student Recital: Jennifer Hansen Vocal Studio

Wednesday, June 5, 7:00 pm

Upper Valley Music Center Children's Concert

Saturday, June 8, 11:00 am

The First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sunday, 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