



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

By the time you read this newsletter, Ordinary Time will have returned to church. What does this mean for us as Christians? What does it mean for our faith? And why should we care?

From late November/early December, when Advent commences, to sometime in May, when we celebrate Pentecost, we seem to be in the midst of a stream of blockbuster holidays. But for the rest of the year, the summer and fall, there seems to be... nothing. This long expanse is what the church calls Ordinary Time (though, it should be noted, the weeks after Epiphany leading up to Lent are also technically considered Ordinary Time).

A question: are we to infer that if we are now in Ordinary Time, the other part of the year is Extraordinary Time? As you can surmise, in many ways, we are using a less-than-perfect moniker to describe the part of the liturgical calendar that we now inhabit. The truth is, this time of year is just as blessed as any other, even if we have to look a bit harder to see how.

Over the coming months we will explore the ministry of Jesus; the miracles he performed; the people he healed; the lessons he taught; the disciples and others he loved; the ordinary, yet remarkable, life he led. Were we to use the colors of the liturgical calendar to denote the chapters of his life, the vast majority would be green, which is the color of the paraments you will see for the next few months.

Ordinary Time, in other words, is anything but. It is made by God and is therefore holy. Each moment is sacred, filled with the possibility of knowing God, following Jesus Christ, and being filled with the Holy Spirit. This is a season when we can see what the Gospel has to teach us; this year, we'll spend time with Mark and John, who speak in different voices and have different theological emphases to share with us. Pay attention! There's a lot going on between Mark's fast-paced witness and John's high Christology, each unique yet still intent on telling the one story of the life, death, resurrection, and meaning of Jesus Christ.

Continued on Page 7

SUNDAY SERVICE

FATHER'S DAY IS SHELTER SUNDAY

Every Father's Day (June 17 this year), FCC makes a commitment to support the work of Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity, the local affiliate of an international, ecumenical ministry. Since 1976, Habitat for Humanity has provided decent, affordable housing and home ownership for deserving families who could not otherwise afford to buy a home. Families work alongside volunteers to build their own home, which they are then able to purchase at cost with a zero-interest mortgage.

If you would like to honor or remember the father(s) in your life with a contribution to Shelter Sunday, please complete and return the bulletin insert on June 3 or 10, or contact the church office directly with your contribution and dedication information. Any amount is welcome—thank you!

Children's Sunday is June 10

Children Lead Worship with Readings and Music
Presentations to Children and Volunteers
Special Coffee Hour / Exhibits from Church School

Please join us for this celebration of our Church School! The children will share what they have learned, shared, and made throughout the year.

* * *

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

If you're interested or have questions, please contact Marcia Corkins (603-448-2664) or the church office.

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 from the lectern? Or walk gracefully from pew to pew collecting the offering?

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.

Ecumenical Worship This Summer

PRAISE IN THE PARK

Sunday, July 29, 10:00 am

We once again join our ecumenical partners for worship outdoors in Colburn Park.

**WEST LEBANON CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH WORSHIP EXCHANGE**

Sundays, August 12 and 19, 10:00 am

Our congregations will worship together at WLCC on August 12, with Steve Silver preaching. Jeff Scott will preach here at FCC the following Sunday.

Community Dinner

Sunday, June 24, at 5:00 pm

Leaders: TO BE DETERMINED

We are still in need of team leaders for our Community Dinners in June and July. Please consider taking this on! Menu resources are available, and costs may be reimbursed.

If you're interested in leading, contact the office.

Regardless of leadership, all are invited to help out as we provide this vital service to our neighbors. Look for sign-ups in the Parish Hall later this month.

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

Queued for Coffee Hour

June—Board of Governors

July—Church Council

August—Christian Education

JUNE 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Bd of Govs 5p Community Dinner	28 MEMORIAL DAY	29 7p Boy Scouts	30 6p UVPRN 7p Valley Improv	31 7p Choir (<i>last until September</i>) 7p Harmony Night Rehearsal	1 7p Cantabile Rehearsal	2 8a Men's Breakfast 9a-1p Spring Clean-Up! 9:30a UVIP Mtg 7p Harmony Night A Cappella Showcase
3 10a Worship (Communion) and Church School 12:30p Outing Club: Boston Lot 4p Cantabile: Drama Queens	4 11a Doris Dubie Memorial (<i>in Hartland, VT</i>) 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Wolves) 7p Wysocki String Ensemble	5 7p Boy Scouts	6 5:30p Cub Scout Pack Committee 6p UVPRN	7	8	9
10 CHILDREN'S SUNDAY 10a Worship and Church School	11 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears/Wolves) 7p Diaconate	12 7p Boy Scouts	13 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN 7:15p Christian Ed Committee	14 12:30-4p G-O-S Assn CoCM	15 Bike & Build (<i>afternoon arrival, evening dinner and improv show</i>)	16 Bike & Build (<i>build day; dinner plans TBD</i>)
17 FATHER'S DAY/ SHELTER SUNDAY Bike & Build (<i>early AM departure</i>) 10a Worship 2p Classicopia: Violin Romance	18 7p Wysocki String Ensemble 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	19 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/ Troop Committee	20 6p UVPRN	21 12p/7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	22	23 7:30p Classicopia: Tremendous Trios
24 10a Worship 11:15a Bd of Govs 3p Open Sing VI: The Mikado 5p Community Dinner	25 7p Wysocki String Ensemble 7p (IF RAIN) Leb Rec Concert	26 7p Boy Scouts	27 6p UVPRN 7p SURJ Community Meeting	28 10a-6p NH-WIC	29	30

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

Following is a synthesis of notes from meetings in both April and May.

CHURCH COUNCIL

John Gilliatt reported that the **Board of Governors** completed a cleanup and reorganization of the cellar anteroom, along with the custodial closet off the Parish Hall. Discussion followed about a cache of historical materials in a fireproof cabinet in the basement, which should be catalogued and moved to a more suitable location. Laurel Stavis has submitted a proposal for archiving and summarizing these important materials.

Reporting for **Memorial Gardens**, Pete Mason noted that Alyson Danyew-Ellison was working on spring planting and garden care. An interment service for Ginger Smith will happen June 30; Wendell Smith has offered a granite bench to be installed by the memorial garden for the comfort of visiting family. If the church determines the bench isn't suitable for the site, Wendell has a spot in mind for it at the Woodlands. All agreed to accept this generous gesture.

For **Stewardship**, Jon Scott noted that the implementation of online giving, which stalled due to FCC's lack of an official IRS recognition of its tax-exempt status, should be revisited and move forward. There is broad congregational support for this method of giving.

Jon opened the April meeting with a draft memo listing some **ideas for a capital campaign**, and those present briefly reviewed it. Ensuing discussion focused on the potential makeup of a campaign committee.

Jon asked for help in invigorating campaign planning in the short term. He plans to be involved, but his personal schedule is quite busy. Some have volunteered previously, and Amy Driscoll offered to help build initial momentum and lay out a campaign vision.

Steve Silver added that plans for our 250th anniversary also include a visit in the spring of 2019 by British composer Paul Ayres, who will write a piece to mark the occasion.

Henry Danaher spoke to Council in detail about a recent **analysis of the Sanctuary organ** and proposals for its renovation. He identified numerous components that no longer work, aren't up to code, or otherwise cannot be used. He has learned to avoid these features (as many as half of the organ stops, for example). Henry reported on three proposals put together by organ contractor and consultant Bob Waters: a low-end option to fix many of these issues but nothing more; a middle option (approx. \$150,000) more comprehensively replacing and rebuilding all of the dysfunctional components; and a high-end option (approx. \$250,000) of installing an entirely new organ. It is uncertain what the life of the middle "rebuild" option is, but Jon Scott and others recalled a similar renovation about 15-20 years ago. A new organ would promise high quality and longevity, but it would bring the added value of making FCC a regional destination for organists and organ repertoire. This would support our concert schedule and connect with other Lebanon cultural initiatives.

June Meetings

Mission/Social Action	6/3, 11:15
Diaconate	6/11, 7:00
Christian Education	(no mtg)
Church Council	6/19, 7:00
Board of Governors	6/24, 11:15

July Meetings

Mission/Social Action	7/1, 11:15
Diaconate	(TBD)
Christian Education	(no mtg)
Church Council	(TBD)
Board of Governors	7/22, 11:15

For **Mission and Social Action**, Kathy Beckett reviewed a meeting with Mike and Susie Jenkins of Epilogos, who explained that the recent gift from the Lenten Lunch Bag collection would support one student in SJV for three years. MSA has considered the possibility of doing another trip to El Salvador, and Steve recounted the history of our work with Epilogos and the trip we made in October 2014. Another option would be simply to donate the funds to build one new house in SJV. Kathy pointed out that education support is just as crucial, perhaps more so.

Surveys of **Community Dinner** guests (both here and at Listen) have conveyed a preference for milder foods, considering both tastes and health issues. In addition to caution against spicier foods, Council considered the gradual decline in dinner attendance over several months, suggesting that more publicity may be needed.

We continue discussions around **immigration**, and we hope to bring

COMMITTEE NOTES

local immigration attorney Kate Semple-Barta here to speak in the fall. Steve Silver re-affirmed our intention to hang a banner on the front of the church welcoming immigrants and refugees, with a relevant scriptural passage. Council also voted to support a faith-based letter of endorsement from the Diaconate for a new **anti-hate resolution** being considered in Lebanon City Council.

Other MSA topics include a possible joint mission trip to Texas, which Steve Silver has discussed with West Lebanon UCC, and the launch of the New Poor People's Campaign, which addresses systemic issues of race and poverty.

In his **pastor's report**, Steve noted a slight drop in attendance at the Easter sunrise service, but also an increase at this year's 10:00 service. He's also planning summer worship events and his vacation schedule.

Noting that an audience member at the Valley Improv benefit show apparently was carrying a handgun, Steve observed that while we've adopted a **policy prohibiting guns** on church property, we don't yet have signage to that effect. All agreed that the policy must be clearly posted but communicated in an appropriate way, with the right language. We need signage prohibiting smoking as well.

Steve also explained that the UCC church in Plymouth had contacted him about a Ugandan woman who had been living there with her children but was soon moving to West Lebanon. Plymouth's pastor wanted to ensure that she would find a supportive community here,

get connected to social services, and possibly receive financial help. All supported a collaboration with West Lebanon UCC to help this family get settled in the community, and WISE was offered as another resource. Returning to the topic of campaign planning, some suggested that support for immigrants and refugees be included among the campaign's purposes.

Steve also mentioned that **UVIP** had been searching carefully for a new lead organizer and seems to have found one among several candidates. The group is trying to balance a focus on local purposes with a more expansive effort to engage broader social issues.

DIACONATE

At their April meeting, Deacons warmly remembered **Ginger Smith**, whose memorial service in March filled the Sanctuary in a testament to how many lives she touched. Several recalled how Ginger and Wendell were especially welcoming to them when they first visited FCC.

Steve Silver also reviewed Holy Week services and events. And as he makes summer vacation plans, the Deacons will plan for lay leadership and guest preachers, including Jo Shelnett and Kevin Schwartz. Steve reported that Praise in the Park will happen on July 29, and we have agreed on August 12 and 19 as exchange dates with West Lebanon UCC.

The Diaconate voted to combine its bank account with the church's general treasury, an idea that has arisen before. Diaconate Treasurer Alyson Danyew-Ellison joined Steve

in recommending this, as most churches follow a model by which all funds reside in the same account, with line items for each committee or board. The change will be made before the end of the year, in order to reconcile accounts more easily.

Steve Silver asked for input on whether to increase lay participation in the Sunday worship liturgy, and Deacons thought that stewardship and children's moments would be good opportunities. Based on some feedback from the congregation, he also asked the Deacons to consider the level of sharing during Joys and Concerns. All reflected on how to preserve this important, positive time of community while perhaps tempering intimate details of the sharing. The Deacons unanimously voted that a statement be made asking for discretion and care in sharing prayer concerns.

The Diaconate has also discussed the possibility of recording Sunday worship services on video. We now post MP3 recordings of Steve's sermons on our website, but a video of the full service might appeal to those who wish to stay connected but are unable to attend church for medical or other reasons. There are some concerns as to the necessary equipment, the quality of the recording, and other technical issues, but the Deacons generally support this idea.

Deacons revisited the program of offering Sunday afternoon worship services at Genesis. Steve Teeter, Kathy Beckett, and Steve Silver shared their support for continuing this ministry, which honors our elders. In addition to FCC, only

COMMITTEE NOTES

A CAMPAIGN FOR FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LEBANON *Celebrating 250 Years of Our Congregation*

Church Council has voted to form a committee that will explore the potential for a campaign during our congregation's 250th anniversary year, which begins this September. The committee will look at the feasibility of a campaign, the case for support, and the needs and dreams we would like to fund.

This will be a multi-stage process, offering plenty of opportunity for the congregation to participate.

If you would like to serve as a leader and be involved in this first stage, or if you have creative ideas about campaign strategy and goals, please be in touch with Amy Driscoll (Moderator), Jon Scott (Stewardship Chair), or Steve Silver (Pastor). For those who are interested in history, a working group will also be formed!

three other area churches volunteer to lead these services. We have been asked to lead three months this year, having already done March, but the group agreed that current volunteers could only support one more month.

Discussing the recent distribution of white-supremacist flyers in the Kohl's parking lot, the Deacons agreed that we should clearly stand for embracing all people, regardless of race or background. Supporting the City Council's pending anti-hate resolution, as a matter of living out our faith, is one possible action.

In April it was also reported that Elizabeth Duvall had taken the position of head of the music ministry at West Lebanon UCC. The Deacons all expressed support for Elizabeth, who looks forward to potential collaborations with Henry Danaher and FCC.

Lastly, Eliot Fay joined the Deacons in May to express his wish to be a member-in-discernment, part of his journey toward ordained ministry in the UCC. The Diaconate voted unanimously to accept Eliot as "in-care" of FCC, enthusiastically giving him support on his journey.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

At a Music Committee meeting in late April, much of the discussion focused on the Music at the Meetinghouse concert series. The series has grown successfully over several years, and the primary challenges have been to manage each event on a consistent basis within the limited capacities of the Church Administrator. Some performers arrange for their own logistics and host a reception, while other concerts require more support. The committee discussed the idea of designating a concert or event manager, who would coordinate duties for each event as needed (e.g., building access, ushers and ticketing, reception, etc.). The manager would work with the Church Administrator to identify those needs. Publicity may still need to come from the church office, but the concert manager ideally could assist with social media.

Music Director Henry Danaher raised the possibility of establishing a regular benefit component to our musical events. That may mean asking all performers to make some charitable contribution from their

concert proceeds; currently, FCC doesn't prescribe anything about ticket prices or revenue purposes. Henry suggested it could also be a more intentional series of musical events conceived solely as benefits, with local organizations designated as the beneficiary in advance. (He mentioned the Open Sings that already happen as candidates for this purpose.) This arrangement also may require some volunteer liaison to work with the various beneficiaries.

Another topic raised for further discussion in the future was the status and use of our Sanctuary organ. Henry shared some of the broader challenges facing organs and organ music at present, and suggested that FCC's anniversary campaign might provide for renovations and maintenance. The anniversary brings additional opportunities for the music ministry.

It was generally agreed that the committee's immediate need is congregational participation. The committee itself relies on volunteers, but its initiatives will require wider support from church members and the wider community.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, June 2, 9:00-1:00 (Rain Date: June 9)

Plan to help our BOARD OF GOVERNORS with this seasonal effort to clean up the church yard after the winter. We'll rake lawns, trim hedges, and generally pick up around the grounds.

FCC Outing Club—Boston Lot and Indian Ridge Overlook

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 12:30 PM (RAIN DATE JUNE 10)

Plan to join this next adventure of FCC's "Outing Club," led as always by our in-house park ranger, Ron Bailey! We'll hike up to the pond on Boston Lot to enjoy a picnic lunch. From there, an optional mile hike to an overlook on Indian Ridge offers excellent views toward Dartmouth and Vermont.

Meet at 12:30 at the parking area at Boston Lot on Route 10. Please bring a picnic lunch, water, bug spray, and sunscreen.

*All church members and friends are invited to share this experience of God's creation.
Grow deeper by walking farther!*

Con-GRAD-ulations!

We joyfully celebrate the May graduation of CASSANDRA NEVEL from American University.



MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION. Church School kids present their Lenten contribution to Epilogos; FCC members join an anti-hate vigil on Colburn Park; and a new banner welcomes all, regardless of origin.



The Pastoral Perspective, continued from Page 1

Summer is supposed to be a slower time, one when we may rest and reflect as we sit on the porch or go away on vacation. In many ways it's, well, ordinary. But think of your life and the joys you have experienced during these months, of the memories you have formed in days gone by. I suspect you will find them to be anything but ordinary. So, too, this time of year. There's more going on than there appears. Some of it might be life-changing, especially if you make some room for God.

May you have an extraordinary Ordinary Time!

Yours faithfully,

Steve

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



A MUSICAL COMMUNITY DINNER. FCC's choir prepared and served a Mexican dinner in April—with live jazz by Henry Danaher and friends.



SERVING OUR SENIORS. A happy group enjoyed lively conversation, a delicious luncheon, and the voices of the LHS Superlatives on May 23. Many thanks to chefs Corrine Erskine and Barb Laro, along with dishwasher Deb Scott!

Bike & Build Returns to FCC!

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, JUNE 15-17



On June 15-17, First Congregational Church of Lebanon will host 30 cyclists from **Bike & Build**, a program that advocates and raises funds for affordable-housing reform nationwide. Riders on eight cross-country routes work with Habitat for Humanity and local organizations on a variety of home repair and construction projects. These spirited, enterprising twenty-somethings also meet with community members and local officials to discuss housing-related issues. To participate, each biker-builder raises at least \$4000 toward costs and support for the program's grant-making foundation.

Over the past fifteen summers, over 3,500 biker-builders have generated more than \$6.4 million, contributed about 236,000 hours of construction, and pedaled roughly 11 million miles, biking from one site to the next and raising awareness of our national housing crisis along the way.

Starting in Portsmouth and finishing in early September in Bellingham, WA, Bike & Build's Northern Route stops in Lebanon each year for one of its build sites. The Lebanon United Methodist Church hosted them starting in 2005, and they've stayed at FCC since 2008. They'll sleep and eat at our church, and they'll work on Saturday, June 16, with Upper Valley Habitat and Cover Home Repair.

How can you help? By helping to provide food and healthy snacks for their stay, and by assisting us in serving two dinners (Friday and Saturday) and a breakfast (Saturday @ 7:00 am). **If you would like to help with these meals or have other questions, please contact the church office. For more about this incredible program and the riders on the Northern US Route, please visit bikeandbuild.org.**

Don't miss this opportunity to support and learn about an inspiring tradition of service!



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE. The Bel Canto Chamber Singers, directed by Jane Woods, offer their spring concert in late April; "Ken Burns' pianist" Jacqueline Schwab performs on Mother's Day; and harpist Judi Byron is the latest guest musician to enrich our worship.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



NEW MEMBERS, NEW DEACONS, AND NEW MUSIC! On April 22 we welcomed Gloria and Phil Hammond and Jen, Brendan (*in absentia*), Mac, and Jack Callahan as covenant members. A month later on Pentecost, we commissioned new Deacons Phil Hammond, Denise Moriearty, and Bob Gerlach, while children learned about the flame of the Holy Spirit. The same day we also enjoyed the music of Gwyneth Walker (*center*), including the premiere of an arrangement of four spirituals for contralto (Linda Radtke) and string trio.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Upcoming Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

Harmony Night A Cappella Showcase—Saturday, June 2, at 7:00 pm

This popular community *a cappella* ensemble returns for its annual spring concert. *Free-will donation.*

Cantabile Women's Chorus: Ladies on Stage!—Sunday, June 3, at 4:00 pm

Led by Director Kathy Sherlock-Green, Cantabile presents "Drama Queens," a celebration of female choruses from opera, Broadway, and cinema, featuring Gilbert & Sullivan, Bernstein, Berlin, Bizet, Monteverdi, Sondheim, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Verdi, and more. *Adults \$15, seniors \$10, students \$5, 12 and under free; tickets in advance at www.CantabileWomen.org, or by cash/check at the door.*

Classicopia: Violin Romance—Sunday, June 17, at 2:00 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser welcomes violinist and Hanover native Roseminna Watson for a Father's Day program of passionate music by Johannes Brahms, Fritz Kreisler, and Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata.

Admission \$20, FCC members \$10; more at www.classicopia.org.

Classicopia: Tremendous Trios—Saturday, June 23, at 7:30 pm

Dan Weiser welcomes back two superb musicians, violinist/violist Omar Chen Guey and clarinetist Steve Loew, for music of Mozart, Bruch, Milhaud, and Shickele, plus a fun "Klezmer Wedding Trio" by Canadian composer Srul Irving Glick. *Admission \$20, FCC members \$10; more at www.classicopia.org.*

Open Sing VI: The Mikado—Sunday, June 24, at 3:00 pm

Henry Danaher and Hal Sheeler offer another opportunity for community choral singing, this time with a Gilbert & Sullivan favorite. Scores provided; all are welcome! *Free-will donation.*

Counterpoint: Flowers of the Field—Saturday, July 21, at 7:30 pm

Directed by Nathaniel Lew, the region's premier professional choral ensemble returns to FCC for a rare Upper Valley performance. The program features Vaughan Williams, Janacek, and a new work by VT composer Matthew LaRocca, accompanied by pianist Paul Orgel and violist Elizabeth Reid. *Adults \$20, seniors \$15, students and limited-means \$5; more at www.counterpointchorus.org/upcoming/.*

Musical Drama Camp Returns!

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

Christian Education is excited to bring back FCC's Musical Drama Camp, led once again by Rev. Jo Shelnut, Marcia Corkins, and Henry Danaher. Full details are still to come, but campers will produce a fun musical for an open performance on Friday afternoon—followed by a family cookout! **All children ages 6-12 are invited to participate, whether or not they have a connection to FCC.**

Plan to join us in late August!

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

Bike & Build Returns to FCC!

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, JUNE 15-17

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Premier choral ensemble sings Vaughan Williams, Janacek, and new music by Matthew LaRocca, with pianist Paul Orgel and violist Elizabeth Reid. Adults \$20, seniors \$15, students \$5; more at www.counterpointchorus.org/upcoming/.