



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

June 25 marks the 67th anniversary of the establishment of the United Church of Christ, in Cleveland, Ohio. This is kind of interesting.

Please bear with me.

I was recently in Boston doing some research for the UCC Historical Council about the founding of the church, as it pertained to churches in Puerto Rico. I read through many interesting materials, including documents about the founding of the wider denomination. One thing I read was a brochure about the UCC, which declared itself to be both “Congregational Christian” and “Evangelical and Reformed.” Inside was a listing of the various ministries of the new denomination and a statement about going “Together Into All the World.”

We are told in this publication that the “union has been effected in response to Christ’s call to mission and unity, and with the intent of enabling the churches composing it to express more fully their oneness in Christ, to make more effective their common witness in Him, and to serve his Kingdom in the world.”

That seems like a laudable goal, a worthy aim for a church.

Of course, the matter of “missionaries” needs to be addressed. In the present day, *missionary* is a dirty word in some quarters, suggesting unwanted images of gun-toting white men imposing their beliefs on unsuspecting indigenous peoples. The problem with this view is that not all missionaries were conquerors, nor were they unwelcome visitors. And we are called to be evangelical—not just in our 1957 charter, but in the Gospel.

Okay, so we’re called to do something with which we might be uncomfortable. And we might be upset by a misunderstood term from history. But missionary work is important, indeed vital. Because if we don’t spread the message of God’s love made known in Jesus as we understand it, somebody will share a different message, one that is truly unappealing, even appalling or downright awful.

So, some strong words.

Continued on Page 5

SUNDAY SERVICE



Upper Valley
**Habitat
for Humanity®**

SHELTER SUNDAY FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 16

Every Father's Day 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 has provided decent, affordable housing and home ownership for deserving families who could not otherwise afford to buy a home. Achieving home ownership is one of the most valuable steps a family can take to establish a firm footing, in order to thrive on their own. Families work alongside staff and volunteers, benefiting from discounted materials and services, to renovate or build their own home, which they are then able to purchase at cost with a zero-interest mortgage.

If you'd like to honor or remember the father(s) in your life with a contribution to Shelter Sunday, please contact the church office with your dedication information no later than noon on Thursday, June 13 (contributions gratefully accepted after that date). Any amount is welcome—thanks!

Many Thanks for Mothers and Blankets!

We are grateful to report that **Blanket Sunday** this year brought in \$815 from our congregation and friends. Thank you all for so generously honoring your mothers and mother-figures, past and present!

For more about the CWS Blankets program, visit cwsblankets.org.



Strengthen the Church Special UCC Summer Offering

This offering supports the growth of local ministry and congregations all over the country, establishing new churches and invigorating existing ones. By funding fellowships for young, emerging church leaders, the program is vital to our denomination's health.

Please contribute as you are able. Thanks!



All Are Welcome to Worship at FCC Sundays at 10:00 AM (Sanctuary/Zoom)

Coffee Hour Served Weekly!

New volunteers welcome to provide food and serve for our weekly post-worship fellowship time.

Zoom Greeters and Liturgists Needed!

Congregation members sing in the choir, serve as ushers and Zoom greeters, and read as liturgists. Additional options include reading prayers, sharing stewardship messages, or even leading children's moments. **All are invited to serve in these essential roles, and no prior experience is needed.**

If you're interested in these opportunities to serve, please contact the church office.

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Help fight poverty and food insecurity by leaving contributions in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall. We're currently collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of:

LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit listencs.org/food-pantry#Itemsweneedthemost.

Please consider a donation, and thank you!

Get the NHC-UCC Weekly Newsletter

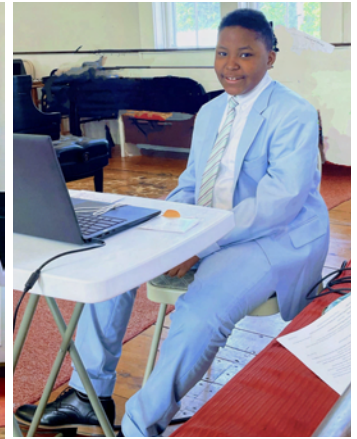
If you'd like to receive weekly news and information from the NH Conference of the UCC, please contact communications@nhcucc.org.

JUNE 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10a Worship/CCC	27 <i>Memorial Day</i>	28 1p Cameo Baroque 4:30p FCC Choir 7p Cantabile	29 3-6:15p UVMC <i>(make-up week)</i>	30 7p NA Group	31	1 4p Cantabile: Early Voices
2 CHILDREN'S SUNDAY! 10a Worship/CCC (Communion)	3	4 1p Cameo Baroque 4:30p FCC Choir	5 3-6:15p UVMC <i>(make-up week)</i>	6 7p NA Group	7	8
9 10a Worship/CCC 5p Piano Recital (Students of Sarah Slater)	10 No Diaconate <i>(moved to 6/17)</i>	11 1p Cameo Baroque 4:30p FCC Choir <i>(last until fall)</i> No Council <i>(moved to 6/24)</i>	12 8a-3:30p WIC	13 7p NA Group	14	15
16 10a Worship/CCC 2p Classicopia: Rhapsodie Française	17 2p Rehearsals (Students of Julie Ness) 7p Diaconate <i>(moved from 6/10)</i>	18 1p Cameo Baroque 5p Voice Recital (Students of Julie Ness)	19 <i>Juneteenth</i>	20 7p NA Group	21	22 5p UV-AA Open Mic Night
23 10a Worship/CCC	24 7p Council <i>(moved from 6/11)</i>	25 1p Cameo Baroque	26	27 11a-6p WIC 7p NA Group	28	29 12p F. Douglass Reading <i>(RAIN LOCATION)</i> 7p Carolan Festival Concert
30 10a Worship/CCC 2p Classicopia: The Folk Cello	1 (7p Leb Rec Concert Series: RAIN LOCATION)	2 1p Cameo Baroque	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i> (7p Leb Rec Concert Series: RAIN LOCATION) 7p NA Group	5	6 Oak Hill Music Festival (arrival)

If you have questions or corrections regarding any event, please notify us at church@fccleb.org or 603-448-4281.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



Children's Sunday June 2, 2024

Photos: Stacey Steele (Many Thanks!)



THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

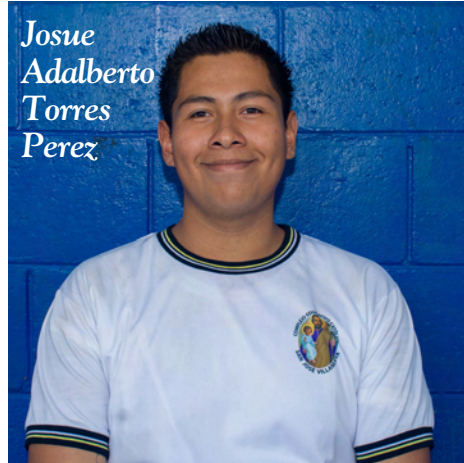


OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION

Meet Our Epilogos Students! Each year half of our **Lenten Lunch Bag** offering collection funds scholarships through **EPILOGOS CHARITIES, INC.**, serving the town and school of **San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador**. (The other half of the Lenten offering supports **WISE** of the Upper Valley.) FCC's 2023 donation has supported these three students, all in their second year of high school. **In 2024 Epilogos scholarships will support more students in SJV than ever!**



Rafael
Alejandro
Orellana
Mejia



Josue
Adalberto
Torres
Perez



Gisela
Tatiana
Escobar
Reyes

Thank you for so generously supporting this important relationship with San Jose Villanueva each year! For more information about Epilogos Charities, please visit www.epilogos.org.

Frederick Douglass Reading

Saturday, June 29, 12:00 Noon
Colburn Park, Lebanon

All are welcome to attend this annual reading, in coordination with readings in fifteen other towns across the state, coordinated by the **BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL OF NH**.

*Volunteer readers needed! If you'd like to read a paragraph or two, please contact **Brian Clancy** (in the church office) or **Carol Rougvie** at cbrougvie@gmail.com.*



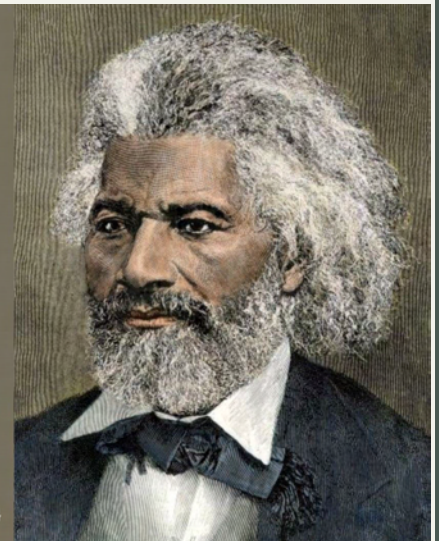
**COMMUNITY
READING**

**FREDERICK
DOUGLASS**

*"WHAT, TO THE
SLAVE, IS YOUR
FOURTH OF JULY"*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2024
12:00, NOON**

WWW.BLACKHERITAGETRAILNH.ORG



The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

But I'm not interested in fundamentalists owning the Christian "brand." Nor am I interested in our being swept away by Islam. Or Buddhism. Or any other faith tradition or belief system. We need to bring the light of Christ into the world, with faith and confidence. Sure, our forebears did some bad things, but does that define us? Or are we grateful for God's grace, for God's forgiveness, for the chance to repent and do better?

Yours faithfully, *Steve*

Committee Meetings

The following meetings will happen remotely via Zoom:

Diaconate 6/17, 7:00

Council 6/24, 7:00

MSA TBD

For more information, please contact the church office.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Summer Concerts

All in the Sanctuary. Masks welcome but optional.

Cantabile Women's Chorus: Early Voices—Saturday, June 1, at 4:00 pm

This outstanding ensemble returns with a captivating program of music from the Baroque and earlier. They'll sing pieces by G. F. Handel, Thomas Tallis, Claudio Monteverdi, and Antonio Vivaldi, the last accompanied by string quartet. *Admission by donation (\$15 suggested, or pay-as-you-can); more details at cantabilewomen.org.*

Classicopia: Rhapsodie Française—Sunday, June 16, at 2:00 pm

Dan Weiser welcomes a new performer to the Classicopia family, violinist Joshua Peckins, for a wonderful program of French music by Camille Saint-Saëns, Claude Debussy, Lili Boulanger, Maurice Ravel, and more. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/rhapsodie-francaise/.*

15th Annual Carolan Festival—Saturday, June 29, at 7:00 pm (Following Afternoon Workshops)

UVMC hosts an all-day gathering for those who play, listen, sing, or dance to the music of Irish harper and composer Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738). After a full afternoon of workshops at several locations, the evening concert at FCC will feature harpers Dominique Dodge and Rachel Clemente. *Adults \$25 (suggested), under-18 free; full workshop schedule, registration details, and more at carolanfestvt.com/.*

Classicopia: The Folk Cello—Sunday, June 30, at 2:00 pm

South African cellist Jacques-Pierre Malan joins Dan Weiser for an exploration of folk influences in music for cello and piano. The duo will play Edvard Grieg, Astor Piazzolla, and a suite based on Georgian folk tunes by Sulkhan Tsintsadze. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/the-folk-cello/.*

Oak Hill Music Festival: Season Three!—Wednesday, July 10, and Friday, July 12, both at 7:00 pm

Having successfully launched this innovative festival in 2022, Hanover-born bassoonist Leah Kohn and her violinist husband Niv Ashkenazi return with several other superb musicians for a week in residence. They'll play two concerts here—"Folk Music" and "The Romantic Virtuoso"—and a third in Norwich ("Landscapes") on Saturday, July 13. *Complete details, musician information, and ticket options at www.oakhillmusicfestival.com.*

Classicopia: Czech, Please!—Sunday, July 14, at 2:00 pm

Dan Weiser welcomes violinist Andréa Picard Boecker and cellist Alicia Ward for a lyrical program of music that dances and moves the spirit, in piano trios by Bedrich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/czech-please/.*

Classicopia Summer Music Camp at FCC/UVMC—August 5-10, 9a-3p Daily

This immersive but seriously fun program offers instrumental and vocal instruction to students aged 8-18, with outstanding faculty and guest artists. *Details and registration at classicopia.org/summer-camp/.*

Faculty Concert—Friday, August 9, at 7:30 pm / Student Concert—Saturday, August 10, at 10:00 am

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



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at the
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First Congregational Church of Lebanon

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist and Choir Director • Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • Barbara Jones, Moderator

603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org