



**First Congregational Church
of Lebanon**
United Church of Christ

MAY 2017

Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

Later this month I'll be heading off on my sabbatical. During this time I'll rest, read, study, and travel. I have a full yet manageable schedule planned out. But enough about me. What about you? What do you plan to achieve over the coming months? What things have you been meaning to try out but have not yet attempted? What do you feel God is calling you to do in the days and weeks ahead?

Some of you will have answers, others will be considering these questions for the first time. It's alright either way. This sabbatical is about you as much as it is me. You, too, are being given a chance to refresh and renew yourselves. Some of you will be excited by this while others may feel a bit of apprehension. Again, there is no right answer, no appropriate position. But I do encourage you to live into the moment!

In the months ahead, worship will be led by Kevin Schwartz, Heidi Hoskin, and Jo Shelnutt. I know that you'll take the opportunity to embrace these preachers. You'll give them a warm welcome. You'll welcome them into your lives. You'll hear different voices, different perspectives. Enjoy!

You'll also have a chance to experiment. What might you like to experience during worship that you haven't so far? What do you especially value and want more of? These are questions that I hope you'll consider, that you'll reflect on and discuss.

Also, over the coming months, you'll have the chance to hear from your fellow members: four deacons will write the Pastoral Perspective. I hope you enjoy what they have to write, appreciate the insights they have to offer, and find yourself called to contribute to the life of this church in your own way.

I'll be back in September. I'm looking forward to sharing with you the things I have learned and experienced—and I'm looking forward to hearing from you about what you have learned and experienced!

Yours faithfully,

Steve

SUNDAY SERVICE

Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday

On Sunday, May 14, we are pleased to participate once again in the **CWS Blankets Program**, a special mission project by which Church World Service provides blankets and other essential relief supplies to people in crisis around the world (for details, please visit cwsblankets.org). Please consider making a contribution of any amount, in honor or memory of the mother(s) in your life.

Dedications will appear in the bulletin on May 14.

To contribute, please complete and return the bulletin insert or contact the church office directly with your contribution and dedication information (no later than Thursday, May 11).

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, May 14
2:00 pm



Join us on the front lawn with your animals of all shapes, sizes, and species! Photos, mementos, and stuffed friends are also welcome at this brief service in the spirit of St. Francis. Invite your friends!

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! If you'd like to serve as either a liturgist or a greeter/usher, contact the church office.

Your congregation will thank you!

Queued for Coffee Hour

May—Women of the Church

June—Board of Governors

July—Church Council

FORUM ON PRAYER

Sunday, May 14, 11:30 am

What is a prayer? A seemingly simple question with a surprisingly complex answer! After worship on May 14, the Diaconate and Pastor invite everyone to discuss prayer, how it works, how it can be formed, and how it can play an exciting, vital role in our congregation's pastoral care ministries.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, May 28, 5:00 pm

Leader: WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Thanks to **Women of the Church** for leading this month's dinner! Please consider lending a hand to provide this vital service to our neighbors. **Sign-ups in the Parish Hall.**

Welcome Guest Preachers!

As Rev. Steve Silver begins his sabbatical, we are grateful to welcome these guest preachers:

May 21, 28; June 11—Kevin Schwartz

June 4—Heidi Hoskin

The Rev. Jo Shelnutt will serve as Sabbatical Minister from June 18 until Steve returns.

Save the Date!

Children's Sunday is June 18

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10a Worship and Church School 11:30a UVIP Aging w/Dignity <i>(Potluck Following)</i>	1 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	2 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts 7p Cantabile Rehearsal	3 6p UVPRN 7p Diaconate <i>(Note: New regular meeting time.)</i>	4 7p Choir	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast 9a-12p CPR Training Session 10a Juneberry Music Class
7 10a Worship (Communion) and Church School 12:30p Outing Club: Tipping Rock 2-6p Juneberry Class/Community Chorus	8 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	9 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	10 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN 6:30p Christian Ed Committee	11 12:30-4p G-O-S Assn CoCM 7p Choir	12	13 9a-1p FCC Spring Clean-Up 10a Juneberry Music Class 5p Movie Night
14 MOTHER'S DAY 10a Worship and Church School (Blanket Sunday) 11:30a Forum on Prayer 2p Blessing of the Animals	15 Steve Silver's Sabbatical Begins <i>(through 9/10/17)</i>	16 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/Troop Committee	17 6p UVPRN	18 7p Choir	19	20 10a Juneberry Music Class 2p Lindsay's Puppet Pals! 7:30p Classicopia: Violin Voyage
21 10a Worship and Church School	22 3p WCBH After-school Group 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	23 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	24 6p UVPRN	25 JUNE NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE 10a-6p NH-WIC 7p Choir	26	27 10a Juneberry Music Class <i>(last until Sept)</i>
28 10a Worship and Church School 5p Community Dinner	29 MEMORIAL DAY <i>(FCC office closed)</i> 5:45p Cub Scouts (Wolves)	30 5:45p Cub Scouts (Webelos) 7p Boy Scouts	31 6p UVPRN	1 7p Choir	2 7p Cantabile Rehearsal	3 8a Men's Breakfast 9a-12p CPR Training Session 4p Cantabile Women's Chorus

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 made plans for the **Parish Hall floor** to be refinished in mid-July. While the floor is curing, no events will be held in the space. There are no plans to resolve any of the creaky spots in the floor.

The group is also working on repairs to the decking on the front porch of the church, as well as a prototype for a railing on the altar steps.

Spring Clean-Up will be May 13. Biff Simpson will ask the Scouts for their help. In addition to outdoor work, it is hoped that interior storage areas can be reorganized as well.

Wendell Smith has investigated replacing the set of numbers used to list hymns on the front walls of the Sanctuary.

CHURCH COUNCIL

At Council in April Corrine Erskine reported for **Mission and Social Action** that the group is working on UVIP projects such as their Aging with Dignity initiative. The group is also planning for Bike & Build's visit in June.

Corrine also revisited the issue of **childcare coverage**, which Council is now charged with providing. Linda Oronte reported that while Ashley has asked some friends, they are generally not interested because of the weekend time commitment and the relatively low pay (\$10/hr). It was noted that other options haven't worked out either, and it was suggested that perhaps an older person might be a possibility. Steve Silver and Brian Clancy will draft

an advertisement for distribution on local listservs and perhaps the *Valley News*.

Brian Clancy noted for **Music at the Meetinghouse** that several concerts were coming in May and June, including the fine women's choral ensemble Cantabile, which has never performed at FCC. He also reported that he has talked with Jon Scott and Henry Danaher about a possible arrangement with Lebanon Opera House (on whose board Jon serves) for promoting the series and accommodating smaller LOH-sponsored events. Such an arrangement would complement our partnership with the Upper Valley Music Center, which is in process of moving next door.

New **Treasurer** Terry Ellison will meet soon with Barry Schuster and Brian Clancy to discuss the position's responsibilities and procedures. It is hoped that Terry will also serve as Diaconate Treasurer, in order to facilitate the consolidation of all church accounts.

Valerie Nevel reported that the **Trustees and Finance** Committee have met with representatives of United Church Funds to discuss endowment management. Valerie suggested that we may seek bids from other firms in the future for our investment management.

Steve Silver reported on Jon Scott's behalf that Jon has thoroughly investigated **possibilities for online giving for Stewardship**. Jon has considered both recurring pledge payments and one-time gifts or

Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, May 13, 9:00-1:00 (Rain Date: May 20)

Please help out the 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. We will also work on some necessary reorganization of interior storage space.

Bring a rake, gloves, and any other tools that might be useful. Please join us for this important work!

Steve Silver's Sabbatical Begins May 15

As a reminder, the Rev. Steve Silver will be taking a well-earned sabbatical this summer. He looks forward to undertaking considerable study, writing, and related travel.

Steve will lead worship as always on Sunday, May 14, but he then will be officially away from FCC until Monday, September 11.

Kevin Schwartz and Heidi Hoskin will preach Sundays through June 11, after which we are fortunate that the Rev. Jo Shelnutt will serve as Sabbatical Minister through the remainder of the summer.

COMMITTEE NOTES

A Special Event from Christian Education

Lindsay's Puppet Pals!

Saturday, May 20, at 2:00 pm



All are invited to enjoy this special treat!



Puppeteer Lindsay Aucella has delighted the young and young-at-heart throughout New England with her menagerie of colorful, hand-crafted characters, comedic timing, and highly interactive performances.

For more, visit www.lindsayspuppetpals.com.

special offerings. There are many possible vendors, all of which charge some kind of annual fee and/or transactional fee. Jon recommends Network for Good, which seems to have a straightforward approach suited to our needs. Jon will make a formal proposal to Council next month, and he has generously offered to pay the first year's annual fee while we evaluate the program. Those present at the meeting were very grateful to Jon for his offer and all his work on this, and all wished to review some more information prior to the June meeting.

In his **Pastor's Report**, Steve outlined pastoral coverage plans for his sabbatical. He also mentioned dates for the Blessing of the Animals (5/14) and Children's Sunday (6/18). He concluded with news from the Diaconate on the **Community Nursing Program**, many years in the

making, which is now going ahead under the auspices of the Senior Center and new grant funding. The Deacons recommended that FCC serve as the non-profit sponsor for the program, which entails some board participation and no financial commitment. Council unanimously approved the proposal.

DIACONATE

At their April meeting the Deacons discussed **individual member lists**. All were asked to look closely at their lists and be prepared to ask questions regarding those individuals and families assigned to them during successive meetings.

Steve Silver confirmed **sabbatical coverage** as follows: Kevin Schwartz (5/21, 5/28, 6/11), Heidi Hoskin (6/4), and Jo Shelnutt (6/18-9/10). Jo's first Sunday will be Children's

Sunday, and later in the summer she will direct the Musical Drama Camp. As she has requested not to preach on August 27, Deacons were invited to take that opportunity to preach. (Biff Simpson has since volunteered to do so.)

The Diaconate also heard about the Lebanon **Community Nursing Program**, which would be available to our community churches as well as to the community at-large. The leadership of the project has asked FCC to serve as the non-profit sponsor, by which FCC would assume no financial responsibility. We would be asked to designate one or two people, preferably with a healthcare background, to serve on the board and to participate in hiring the Community Nurse. The Deacons unanimously approved the proposal and will ask Council to affirm this decision.

FCC Outing Club—Tipping Rock!

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 12:15 PM (RAIN DATE MAY 21)

Plan to join this adventure of FCC's "Outing Club," led as always by our in-house park ranger, Ron Bailey! Hopefully beating black-fly season, we'll head to Tipping Rock, a geologic and historic site that lies in the Dartmouth tract stretching between DHMC and Mascoma Street Extension. Stopping along the way for a picnic lunch, we will enjoy views of Burnt Mountain, see a variety of spring wildflowers, and try to "rock the rock"—making Tipping Rock a giant nutcracker.

Meet at 12:15 at FCC to carpool to the site. Bring a picnic lunch, water, a blanket or chair, bug spray, and sunscreen.

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

Save the Date!

BIKE & BUILD RETURNS TO FCC



MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19-21

More details still to come, but please consider helping out with meals (two dinners and a breakfast). And plan to meet this amazing group of young advocates for affordable housing!

Steve Silver continues to work with a UVIP group on developing an alternative to car-title lending. Jon Scott is researching funding sources for the program, which will promote regenerative vs. extractive financial practices. A forum on UVIP activities, including advanced care planning is set for April 30 after worship, with a potluck to follow.

The **Prayer Forum** originally planned for Palm Sunday will take place on May 14. The goal of the forum is to encourage members of the congregation to be more actively involved in prayer. Special projects, such as providing a topic for prayer each month, will be considered. It is hoped that our lay pastoral care "umbrella of caring" will evolve from prayer circles. Further discussion is needed regarding what the program will involve and who will lead it.

The Deacons discussed funding for the **Open Door Ministry** and affirmed this vital program. Steve discussed with his ecumenical colleagues that the collection from the Easter Breakfast could be allocated to community mission. FCC's portion will be used for the Open Door Ministry.

Concerns were expressed regarding the continuity of the Open Door Ministry while Steve is on sabbatical, but Deacons were assured that Brian Clancy can be depended on to administer it. Deacons may become involved if questions arise.

Steve Silver asked for volunteers to write the "Pastoral Perspective" while he is away. Jon Scott and Kathy Beckett offered to write a column for the June and July newsletters, respectively.

May Meetings

<i>Diaconate</i> ¹	5/3, 7:00
<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	5/7, 11:15
<i>Christian Education</i>	5/10, 6:30
<i>Church Council</i>	5/16, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i> ²	5/21, 11:15

June Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	6/4, 11:15
<i>Diaconate</i> ¹	6/7, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i> ³	6/13, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	6/14, 6:30
<i>Board of Governors</i>	6/25, 11:15

¹The Diaconate has moved its regular meeting time to the **first Wednesday** of each month.

²The Board of Governors will meet on 5/21 to avoid Memorial Day.

³Church Council will meet on 6/13 to avoid the Bike & Build visit.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



FROM HOLY WEEK TO SENIOR LUNCH. On Palm Sunday, Katie Clancy demonstrates how to weave a palm cross, and Caleb Allen Mason is baptized; abundant flowers and an indestructible chocolate bunny enliven Easter worship; the LHS Superlatives entertain seniors before a delicious luncheon, wonderfully prepared by Trish Heatherton.



OUR LOCAL MISSION

Thank You From Our Children!

This year's **LENTEN LUNCH BAG OFFERING** raised just under \$700, which will be split between supplies for David's House and support for the schoolchildren of San Jose Villanueva. *Many thanks to all those who participated!*



Volunteer at David's House

David's House is the dream of a little boy named David Cyr, who passed away in 1984 after struggling with acute leukemia. During his treatments at the children's hospital in Hanover, David and

his father Dick met families who were determined not to leave their sick children but had nowhere to stay locally and couldn't afford a hotel. Soon after David's passing, his parents and friends began raising funds to establish David's House, which in 29 years has welcomed and served over 12,500 families from around the world, while their children get the specialized treatment they need at DHMC next door.

David's House is generously supported by a variety of sources—including our own Church School kids!—**but volunteers are essential to its operations.** If you are interested in volunteering at David's House, please contact Katie Nolen (603-643-2298 or katie.nolen@davidshouse.org).

Lebanon's RSVP Volunteer Center

Volunteers getting things done locally in Grafton and Sullivan Counties

RSVP is a Lebanon-based program connecting volunteers with older adults in need of basic assistance with daily life and responsibilities. Its free services include three "signature programs":

Chore Corps—Helps people remain in their homes, safely and with dignity, by assisting with simple repairs and household tasks, from fixing windows to grocery shopping.

Good Morning—Keeps older adults connected by arranging volunteers to make daily phone calls to check in, chat, and offer friendly support and reassurance.

Bone Builders—Offers no-impact weight training and exercise classes by trained volunteers, to improve physical health and provide social opportunities.

If you'd like more information about RSVP and its programs, or if you're interested in volunteering or receiving support, please contact RSVP at 877-711-7787 or rsvp@gcsc.org, or visit www.rsvptoday.org.

Support FCC Members in the Prouty!

Cancer, of course, has greatly affected our church family over the years. This July brings the 36th Annual Prouty, the Upper Valley's biggest fundraising event for research and treatment at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center. Some in our congregation are participating, and you're invited to consider supporting them.

The event itself is not until July, but **the time to give is before May 15**, when the extraordinary generosity of the Byrne Family will match all support dollar-for-dollar, whatever the amount—doubling your gift.

For details see Barb Jones in person or contact her at basketmaker@mac.com or 603-863-9664.

For more on the Prouty, please visit theprouthy.org.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music at the Meetinghouse

Spring Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

Classicopia: Violin Voyages—Saturday, May 20, at 7:30 pm

Dan Weiser brings back the excellent violinist Omar Chen Guey for a program featuring W. A. Mozart, Camille Saint-Saëns, and Richard Strauss. *Suggested admission \$20, church members \$10, children free.*

Cantabile: Music for Women's Voices—Saturday, June 3, at 4:00 pm

Now in its 17th year, this excellent women's choral ensemble sings at FCC for the first time. (Program TBA.)

A Cappella Showcase with Harmony Night—Saturday, June 10, at 7:00 pm

Dan Signor brings his community *a cappella* group Harmony Night back for this popular concert.

Open Sing III!—Sunday, June 11, at 3:00 pm

Hal Sheeler and Henry Danaher present another opportunity for community choral music, this time featuring Franz Schubert's *Mass in G* and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*, with soloists Chiho Kaneko, Laurel Stavits, Brian Clancy, and Mark Boutwell. All are welcome to join the chorus or just listen!

William Ögmundson, Piano—Saturday, June 17, at 7:00 pm

Former FCC music director Will Ögmundson returns with an early-summer program of marches, ragtime, polkas, and other music from the time of Teddy Roosevelt.

Benjamin Kulp, Cello, and Victoria Nooe, Piano—Saturday, June 24, at 7:00 pm

We are delighted to host this concert as part of Upper Valley Music Center's Hanover Street Chamber Music Festival, which concludes that weekend. And we celebrate UVMC's relocation as our new neighbor!

Student Recitals

Violin Students of Kathy Andrew—Sunday, May 14, at 4:00 pm

UVMC Piano Students—Sunday, June 4, at 2:00 pm

Senior Voice Recital: Julia Mason, Sarah Sentman, and Jillian Mitchell—Sunday, June 11, at 6:00 pm

Voice Students of Jennifer Hansen—Sunday, June 18, at 4:00 pm

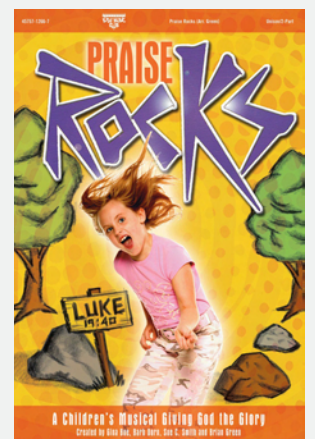
Musical Drama Camp Returns!

Monday-Friday, 1-4 pm, August 21-25

Performance and Cookout, Friday at 5:00

Christian Education is excited to bring back FCC's Musical Drama Camp, led by Jo Shelnut, Marcia Corkins, and Henry Danaher. Full details are still to come, but campers will produce a musical entitled *Praise Rocks!* They'll perform it 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 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



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Meetinghouse

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