



# News and Events

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## The Pastoral Perspective

Flying home from Cleveland, where I had attended a meeting of the UCC Historical Council, I was engrossed in a book, ignoring all around me, not planning on conversing with anyone. The passenger next to me must have sensed this, since she was exceedingly polite when she interrupted my reading about an hour into the flight. "Excuse me, but I thought you might want to see the fireworks," she said as she gestured towards the window on the other side of the aircraft.

I looked up and over to where she was pointing and there, in the distance, off the starboard wing of the plane, a series of beautiful bursts of color filled the night sky.

The brief show over, I returned to my book. No sooner had I begun to read, however, than I found myself musing, "This is what experiencing grace is like." Often surprising, sometimes disorienting, and definitely a blessing, encounters with grace are something we cannot schedule, just like this mid-air fireworks display. The gift of grace is God's prerogative.

That said, we can prepare ourselves for grace by opening our hearts, minds, and souls to the possibility. Easier said than done, perhaps, in our busy, hyper-connected world. But with prayer, patience, and a willingness to listen and look for God's presence, we can resist the temptation to let the latest distraction, grudge, or fad claim priority in our lives, and instead be ready to welcome the unanticipated, mysterious, wonderful ways that our Creator seeks to meet us, shape us, restore us, redeem us, and love us.

With the hope and prayer that you will be surprised by grace when you least expect it,

Yours faithfully,

*Steve*

## SUNDAY SERVICE



**Tuesday, November 26, at 7:30 pm**  
**Lebanon United Methodist Church**

Please join us on School Street for this annual community worship service. Clergy and congregations from Lebanon's Baptist, Catholic, Congregational, and Methodist churches will participate.

**COMMUNITY DINNER**  
Sunday, November 24, at 5:00 pm

*Team Leaders:*  
**Marcy Chong and John Bourgon**

Please participate in this vital service to our community, especially if you haven't done so before. Volunteers old and new are welcome to donate ingredients and help with cooking/prep, set-up, serving, and clean-up.

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

### *Participate in Worship!*

**Serve as a Liturgist or a Greeter/Usher**

Ever wonder how your friends got to show their smiling faces and hand out bulletins at the Sanctuary door 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?

It's easy—we asked, and they said yes!

**No experience or training is required for any of these important roles in worship, but we need your help:**

*If you're interested in serving as a liturgist (also known as a lay reader), contact the Church Administrator. And by the way, we'll gladly help with the pronunciation of even the most daunting Old Testament names!*

*If you're interested in greeting/ushering, contact Carolyn Crocker (603-448-9410/[carolyn.crocker@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.crocker@gmail.com)).*

**Your congregation will thank you!**

### **A Community Dinner APPEAL**

#### ***Seasons Greetings!***

We need volunteers to lead our monthly dinners for the Christmas holiday and into the New Year (2014!). If you're interested in this important role, or if you just have questions, please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact the church office.

### *Queued for Coffee Hour*

**November—Women's Fellowship**

**December—Board of Governors**

**January—Stewardship Committee**

### ***Stewardship Sunday is November 17***

As we prepare to dedicate our pledges, you are invited to prayerfully consider your commitment to the church's mission and ministry for the coming year. *See page 5 for more information.*

# NOVEMBER 2013 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> <b>10a</b> Worship/ Church School <b>11:15a</b> <b>Forum and Potluck!</b> <b>5p</b> Community Dinner	<b>28</b> <b>5:30p</b> Wolf Cubs <b>6p</b> Tiger Cubs <b>7p</b> Board of Governors	<b>29</b> <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN <b>7p</b> Bel Canto <b>7:30p</b> Faith in Three Objects (3)	<b>31</b> <b>HALLOWEEN</b> <b>4:30p</b> Trick or Treat! <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>1</b> <b>6-9p</b> Leb Rec Dept Quilters Retreat <b>6p</b> Bear Cubs <b>7p</b> Cub Scouts Committee	<b>2</b> <b>8a</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9a</b> Bible Study <b>10a-5p</b> Leb Rec Quilters <b>7:30p</b> <b>UVMC Acoustic Extravaganza</b>
<b>3</b> <b>10a</b> Worship (Communion)/ Church School	<b>4</b> <b>3p</b> WCBH After-school <b>5:30p</b> Wolf Cubs <b>6p</b> Tiger Cubs	<b>5</b> <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>6</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN <b>7p</b> Bel Canto	<b>7</b> <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>8</b> <b>6p</b> Bear Cubs <b>7:30p</b> Zazzle! A Cappella Quartet	<b>9</b> <b>9a</b> Bible Study
<b>10</b> <b>10a</b> Worship/ Church School	<b>11</b> <b>VETERANS'</b> <b>DAY</b> <b>5:30p</b> Wolf Cubs <b>7p</b> Diaconate	<b>12</b> <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN <b>7p</b> Bel Canto	<b>14</b> <b>9:30a-4p</b> Grafton- Orange Assn <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>15</b> <b>6p</b> Bear Cubs	<b>16</b> <b>9a</b> Bible Study
<b>17</b> <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> <b>10a</b> Worship/ Church School <b>11:15a</b> Mission & Social Action <b>1p</b> Classicopia	<b>18</b> <b>3p</b> WCBH After-school <b>5:30p</b> Wolf Cubs	<b>19</b> <b>7p</b> Church Council <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN <b>7p</b> Christian Ed Committee <b>7p</b> Bel Canto	<b>21</b> <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>22</b> <b>DECEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE</b> <b>6p</b> Bear Cubs	<b>23</b> <b>9a</b> Bible Study <b>7:30p</b> <b>Sunflower Wind Quartet</b>
<b>24</b> <b>10a</b> Worship/ Church School <b>11:15a</b> <b>Forum and Potluck!</b> <b>5p</b> Community Dinner	<b>25</b> <b>5:30p</b> Wolf Cubs <b>6p</b> Tiger Cubs <b>7p</b> Board of Governors	<b>26</b> <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts <b>7:30p</b> <b>Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service</b> (Leb United Meth. Church)	<b>27</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN <b>7p</b> Bel Canto	<b>28</b> <b>THANKSGIVING</b> <b>No</b> Choir	<b>29</b> <b>6p</b> Bear Cubs	<b>30</b> <b>9a</b> Bible Study

If your event is missing or incorrect, please notify us at [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org) or 603-448-4281.

## COMMITTEE NOTES

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thanks to all for your generous donations for our Trick or Treat event on Halloween on the front lawn of the church. This is a fun way to serve our neighborhood every year.

Our Church School theme for the first few months of the year is "Life in Biblical Times." So far we have learned about animals and transportation, and we're currently exploring types of homes and home life. On November 10 the children will learn about types of instruments used in the ancient world, with several examples available for them to see. The following week they will make their own.

After completing their work on this theme, the children will share what they've learned with all of you in the congregation!

### CHURCH COUNCIL

From the **Board of Governors**, Trish Heatherton reported that Nate and Ben Cole will be hired to shovel snow again; also, the access ramp has been painted with skid-resistant paint. Jill Gravel has been hired to clean the church bathrooms weekly. The Board is working with the Administrator to create a list of routine, ongoing maintenance tasks and procedures.

Jon Scott reported that the **Stewardship Committee** is

preparing for Stewardship Sunday on November 17. The committee is also seeking to replace Linda Jacobs, who felt obliged to resign due to other commitments.

Brian Clancy noted that the **Music Committee** had already received several responses to its congregational survey. He also asked for advice on increasing audience size at Music at the Meetinghouse events; one idea that he's pursuing is a banner for the front lawn, which would have to be versatile enough to handle a number of different concerts.

**Steve Silver** discussed his adult education series, "A History of Our Faith in Three Objects," and noted that he will be traveling to Cleveland for the annual meeting of the UCC Historical Council. He also reported that the ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be on Tuesday this year, to better accommodate family holiday and travel plans. He congratulated Ethan Guyer, whose confirmation was formally celebrated in worship on October 13. Finally, Steve also celebrated Mark Rowell's progress toward ordination, announcing that Mark had been asked to serve as interim pastor at Croydon Congregational Church.

The **Horton Center retreat** drew twelve people from our church's congregation, who joined members of two other churches

for a wonderful weekend in the White Mountains. Valerie Nevel noted that the **Diaconate** had planned another Spiritual Walk (at Farnum Hill) and an all-church forum and potluck.

The **Nominating Committee** is beginning to consider the process of filling positions for the spring, although it is likely that some may remain unfilled. To help with this task, Amy Driscoll is actively seeking other volunteers to serve on the committee.

Biff Simpson, after discussion with WISE, brought a proposal to Council to repeat last year's benefit dinner event with the Quicksilver Comedy Players. The probable date for this would be April 5. All present agreed that it would be good to continue supporting WISE in this way.

### DIACONATE

In this month of Thanksgiving in the nation and Stewardship emphasis in our church, the deacons hope that their projects and work will support both. There are many opportunities to serve one another and those beyond the church doors—as highlighted in October's All-church retreat at the Horton Center, the spiritual walk on Farnum Hill, and the Forum and Potluck featuring the work of church committees and boards. Whatever your interest or talent,



## COMMITTEE NOTES

you may express it in your church family.

The deacons have prayerfully considered the best uses of the monthly communion offering. These purposes include the purchase of gas cards through a generous arrangement with Ed Kerrigan at Jake's; support of Listen's food ministry; and a scholarship for the Zimbabwean pastor of a small NH church to participate in a clergy retreat.

Within our church, funding for the Horton Center retreat and the replacement or repair of church-owned items have strengthened our church family. As winter cold and hardship approach, we are able to provide fuel and heating assistance and help in emergencies, and point neighbors in need to Listen and the Haven. The many groups and organizations with whom we share this ministry in the Upper Valley are something to be truly thankful for!

### November Meetings

Diaconate	11/11, 7:00
Mission & Social	11/17, 11:15
Church Council	11/19, 7:00
Christian Ed.	11/20, 7:00
Bd. of Governors	11/25, 7:00

### December Meetings

Diaconate	12/9, 7:00
Mission & Social	12/15, 11:15
Church Council	12/17, 7:00
Christian Ed.	12/18, 7:00
Bd. of Governors	12/23, 7:00

## Blessed by God, Blessed to Give STEWARDSHIP 2013-14

As Christians we proclaim that we have been blessed by God in ways seen and unseen, but most powerfully through the gift of Jesus. Created in God's image, we are blessed to give, too, sharing our time, our skills, our money—sharing the hope and promise we have known in the church. In this spirit, you are invited to prayerfully consider your commitment to the church's mission and ministry for the coming year.

### November 10—An FCC Stewardship Musical

During worship this morning, we'll enjoy a revival of Jane Mason's dramatization of the meaning of stewardship.

### November 17—Stewardship Sunday

We will dedicate our pledges and celebrate our community with a time for thanksgiving and fellowship after worship.

*Thanks for your faithful response to God's call of service  
in and through our church!*

## From the Nominating Committee: Volunteer Opportunities Available!

As we approach the new year and a new term for our volunteer committees, Church Council and the Nominating Committee ask you to consider committee service as an opportunity to contribute your skills and interests to the church's mission and ministry. If you are interested in learning more about a particular committee or any available opportunities, **please contact Warren Belding (603-448-2630/[warren.d.belding@dartmouth.edu](mailto:warren.d.belding@dartmouth.edu)) or Amy Driscoll (603-448-0976/[amykdriscoll@gmail.com](mailto:amykdriscoll@gmail.com)).**

### ***Have You Returned Your Music Ministry Survey?***

The Music Committee invites the congregation to consider and respond thoughtfully to its survey of FCC's music ministry. How do you understand and value the role of music in the life of our church? What works well? What could be changed? Please take a few minutes to share opinions, thoughts, and suggestions; surveys are available in the Parish Hall or the church office. **Thank you!**



[www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org)

### We DID Help Stop Hunger!

FCC walkers collectively raised over \$1,400—mostly from you, our congregation!—for Church World Service in this year's CROP Walk.

Although final numbers aren't yet available, the Lebanon Walk generated around \$13,000 overall, surpassing last year's total by more than \$2,000.

Our church produced almost 11% that total, and we are so grateful!

And thanks again to all those who contributed in some way to our festive, delicious post-walk lunch at church. We can certainly be proud of our vital role in this important community event!



### Knitters Kneeded!

Who doesn't like a warm, handmade shawl, scarf, or hat when the weather turns colder?

If you like to knit, please consider making prayer shawls, chemo caps, scarves, or other items for donation to the Haven or an area hospital. Linda Jacobs has devoted herself to coordinating such donations, and she would be happy to teach basic technique and designs to anyone willing to learn.

To find out more or donate, please contact Linda Jacobs ([mrandsmrs.j@comcast.net](mailto:mrandsmrs.j@comcast.net) or 802-296-8251).



Called to Care offers great opportunities for stewardship within our congregation. If you would like to learn more or join the group, please contact Linda Jacobs.

**Above:** On October 4, Tom Gilligan and a team of volunteers (Ken Nguyen, Michelle Holt, and Michael Bell) from the Lebanon office of TomTom spent the day cleaning and repainting the access ramp and railing on the side of the building, using a skid-resistant paint mixture. Tom returned the next day to apply a second coat with his wife Jodi, who works with the Cub Scout Pack that meets at FCC.

**Thanks to these volunteers for helping us maintain our church building!**

## STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION

### Free Clothing for the Upper Valley! **Fall/Winter Community Clothing Swap**



Donations of good, pre-worn clothing (please no stains or rips, no shoes or accessories) accepted:

**November 9-15**—Upper Valley Food Co-op, 193 N. Main Street, White River Junction

**Saturday, November 16, 10 to 2**—Bugbee Senior Center, 262 N. Main Street, WRJ

Volunteers will sort and organize all donations, and then...

**Sunday, November 17, 10 to 2**—FREE clothing available at Bugbee Senior Center, WRJ

Clothing for the whole family! Donations not required! All are welcome!

Now in its third year, the Upper Valley Community Clothing Swap is an all-volunteer, semi-annual event. No money is ever exchanged, although contributions to cover advertising costs are welcome.

For more information, email [uvclothingswap@gmail.com](mailto:uvclothingswap@gmail.com) or visit us on Facebook.



### *Christmas Gifts to Our Community*

This year FCC will again sponsor families for Christmas through Listen Community Services, with a Giving Tree collection of clothing and grocery vouchers. (Gifts of toys will be collected elsewhere, through the Toys for Tots program.)

Look for collection information in the Parish Hall in mid-November, or contact Barb Teeter (603-448-4529 or [barbara.j.teeter@hitchcock.org](mailto:barbara.j.teeter@hitchcock.org)).

### *The 2013 CHRISTMAS MARKET with a Difference...*

**Thursday and Friday, November 7-8, 10a-6p / Saturday, November 9, 10a-1p**

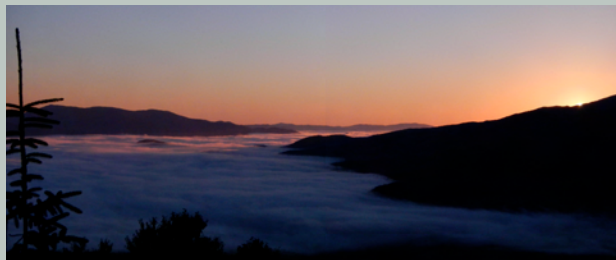
**Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, 40 College Street, Hanover**

Each November the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College hosts the *Christmas Market with a Difference*, a venue for artisans from around the world sponsored by non-profit, self-help groups. This alternative gift source offers crafts, jewelry, ornaments, creches, clothing, toys, and other items. The market is NOT a fundraiser—all proceeds return to the artisans who create the items.

For more information, please call 603-643-3150 or visit [ccducc.org/cmwad](http://ccducc.org/cmwad).



## THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



## FALL RETREAT AT THE HORTON CENTER

On September 27-29, twelve members of the FCC community joined about forty others from the Meriden and Hooksett Congregational Churches for a wonderful, richly rewarding retreat in the White Mountains. We enjoyed meals together in the dining hall; gathered around a campfire at night; hiked to Pinkham Ledge; and worshiped on top of Chapel Rock.

If you missed this opportunity, don't worry. We are certain to return to the Horton Center next year—and we'd love to have you come along!

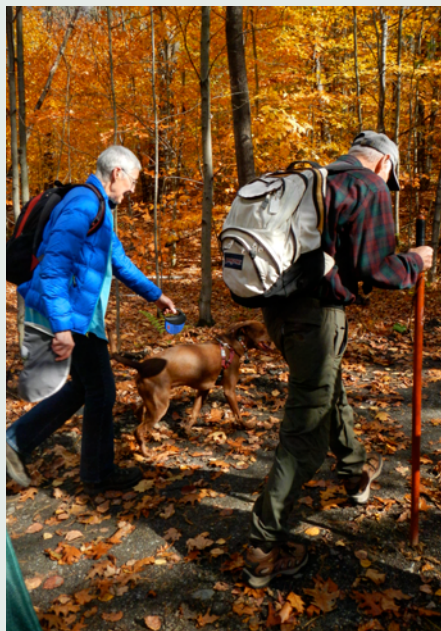




## A Spiritual Walk with the FCC Outing Club

On Sunday, October 20, Ron Bailey led our second Spiritual Walk of 2013, sponsored by the Diaconate. Fifteen members of the church family—accompanied by three dogs!—enjoyed a beautiful fall afternoon hiking on Farnum Hill. The group paused to picnic in a clearing near the top, taking in the foliage and the view of Mt. Ascutney. Everyone felt especially privileged to be hiking the **Bailey Trail** with its beloved namesake and creator.

**All agree that the tradition of walking spiritually should continue!**





## Mark Rowell: *A Journey Toward Ordination*

Later this month, Mark Rowell, who is preparing for ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ, will meet with the Committee on Church and Ministry of the Grafton-Orange Association to discuss his ordination paper. This meeting is one of the final steps on a journey that Mark began a number of years ago.

Since first discerning a call to ministry, which was recognized by the diaconate of First Congregational Church and endorsed by the Grafton-Orange Association, Mark has received his Masters of Divinity degree from Dubuque Seminary, done a field education placement in Lyme, and completed clinical pastoral education at DHMC (all while holding down a day job!). He has also written a twenty-page paper, exploring his understanding of Christian theology, ordained ministry, and the life and history of our denomination.

Earlier this fall, Mark presented his paper to our church's deacons, who unanimously voted to approve his moving forward in the ordination process to the meeting with the Committee on Church and Ministry. Once the Committee reviews Mark's paper and gives its consent, an Ecclesiastical Council, open to lay and ordained members of our Association's congregations, will be held. Assuming a successful outcome, Mark will then be eligible for ordination pending a call.

Ordained ministry in the UCC presumes five participants: the individual sensing a call, a congregation that recognizes that call, an association that will take the individual into care, and a church that will provide affirmation

by extending a call. Finally, of course, there is God, calling the individual to this kind of service. All of this is to say that responding to, and preparing for, a call is a group endeavor, and FCC Lebanon's participation and support have been integral to Mark's journey toward ordained ministry.

We're pleased to report that Mark's journey has brought him an offer to serve as interim pastor at First Congregational Church in Croydon, NH.

The congregation of FCC is proud of Mark for all that he has accomplished. We join together in our hopes and prayers that Mark and Marty find the greatest blessings and success in the future. **Congratulations!!**



*The new interim pastor of First Congregational Church of Croydon enjoys the hike on Farnum Hill with Marty and another supportive friend.*

## News from the Blackfeet Reservation *The Latest from Elizabeth Montmagny*

Alas, it has been wonderfully busy in Big Sky Country! I was fortunate to visit NH in May to “surprise” my brother Ben for his graduation, bringing my boyfriend Jim with me. My mom received the ultimate Mother’s Day present when Jim proposed in my dad’s apartment. It was a fantastic trip, and I’m glad my family got to meet the man I will spend the rest of my life with. Our wedding will be on the beach in Eastman on October 18, 2014.

This summer I worked as arts and crafts coordinator for the Carol White Summer Program, within my school district. It was refreshing to work with younger students and play with Elmer’s glue all day! I represented the Carol White Program at Blackfeet Youth Days and painted faces for children. I helped set up their booth for Indian Days, the big powwow of the summer in the area. In August my boss asked if I would take over the program next summer. I certainly have some tough decisions to make, as I’ve also been looking into the Master of Arts in Liberal Sciences program at Dartmouth.

Every year in late July, Cut Bank hosts Lewis and Clark Days. The weekend was full of fun—delicious food, excitement, entertainment and music. Jim and I also visited the Montana State

Fair in Great Falls. And we adopted a male beagle from the animal shelter—Shunka, the newest member of our family, is extremely playful and full of energy.

The new school year has had its obstacles, but nothing I can’t overcome. I started with no budget, but fortunately they have found money to buy music. Most of the BHS choral library pre-dates the 1980’s, so I have a hard time using it. I’m working with DonorsChoose.org to raise funds for the program. My first goal is to purchase a storage cabinet for our music folders, and if that goes well, I will continue to build my supplies with Donors Choose. (If you are interested in donating, please visit <http://www.donorschoose.org/elizabeth.montmagny>.)

I am doing a musical that I wrote, entitled *A Series of Unfortunate Sneezes: The Truth Behind the Big Bad Wolf*. Based on Little Red Riding Hood and the Three Little Pigs, it’s a contemporary story with modern pop and rock music, and it



**Above:** Shunka, whose name is Sioux for “dog.”



**Left:** A very proud Montmagny clan celebrates after Ben’s graduation.

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opens November 23. I've also started singing with the Great Falls Symphonic Choir. It's nice to be performing, but I miss the opportunities I had in the Upper Valley.

I've been feeling homesick lately, especially as fall reaches its peak in New England. Montana is beautiful in its own way and I love it, but it's true that you don't realize what you've got until it's gone. I'm glad to have Jim and his family, and I'm grateful for supportive coworkers at school. We are all struggling with the major shifts in the education system. I've been vocal with my opinions, and veteran teachers support me. I took this job to make changes, and if I

have to stir up a little trouble, so be it. I have a lot of ideas for helping this community, and I hope they are willing to listen and accept change. Thank you for your continued support. I think about my New England family often.



*Elizabeth and Jim in Glacier National Park.*



## Music *at the* Meetinghouse

# November Concerts

All in the Sanctuary  
First Congregational Church of Lebanon

### **Zazzle Quartet**—Friday, November 8, at 7:30 pm

This renowned female quartet brought its rich, *a cappella* sound to worship at FCC in June. They return for a full concert of jazz standards, gospel, and other genres—from barbershop to country, Irving Berlin to Frank Sinatra, *O Holy Night* to the Beach Boys. The men's quartet Fast Track will also perform as special guests. **For more, visit both Zazzle and Fast Track on Facebook.**

### **Classicopia: Violin Voyage**—Sunday, November 17, at 1:00 pm

For over ten years, pianist Daniel Weiser and Classicopia have offered an engaging combination of brilliant musicianship and informative discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. This month Dan welcomes back the superb violinist Omar Chen Guey for a program of virtuoso works by Paganini, Sarasate, Kreisler, and more. **For more, call 603-643-3337 or visit [www.classicopia.org](http://www.classicopia.org).**

### **Sunflower Wind Quartet**—Saturday, November 23, at 7:30 pm

Consisting of Ann Givens (flute), Steve Jordan (oboe), Tom Norton (clarinet), and Earl North (bassoon), this intriguing and richly talented ensemble will perform the music of Bach, Rossini, Mozart, Joplin, and Gershwin.

### **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 St., P.O. Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766 • 603-448-4281 • [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org) • [www.fccleb.org](http://www.fccleb.org)  
Rev. Stephen R. Silver — [silver@fccleb.org](mailto:silver@fccleb.org) • Newsletter Submissions — [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org)