



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

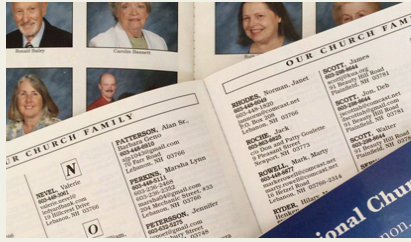
OCTOBER 2015

Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

When Jesus shared his meal with the disciples (Mark 14:22-25, Matthew 26:26-29, Luke 22:15-20), it is fair to say that nobody present envisioned a time when the faithful would come forward to a table to dip a piece of bread in some juice nor did anyone there imagine people having bread and cups brought to them as they sat on long benches. Instead, those gathered followers listened as their teacher instructed them to remember, through the eating of food and the drinking of wine, just what it was he had come to do for the people of God: to bring forgiveness of sins and, through that saving action, new life.

When, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the time came for the disciples to do as they had been taught, they and those drawn to the way of Jesus gathered in homes to share meals and fellowship. There were no elaborate rituals, no complicated theologies, just women and men from all walks of life coming together to share a meal and be the body of Christ.

Today, two thousand years later, we are still called to share the Lord's Supper. This invitation, this summons, is one of the two sacraments recognized by all Christians, whether Protestant, Catholic, or Orthodox. Given all of the disagreements that have emerged in the church over the centuries, the universal embrace of the Eucharist tells us something about its power.

With this embrace come attachment and investment. As noted earlier, there are different ways of sharing communion. None is technically "right," especially when we compare modern practice with ancient tradition. Instead, church communities choose forms that work for them, occasionally adopting new ways or making changes to their liturgies. This is appropriate, especially as the etymology of "liturgy," drawn from ancient Greek, can be loosely translated as "the work of the people." This seems especially apt in churches that are rooted, as ours is, in the Congregational tradition.

Continued on Page 6

SUNDAY SERVICE

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, October 25, 5:00 pm

Leaders: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Please participate in this vital service to our local community! Thanks to the Christian Education Committee for leading this month's effort—let's help out by donating ingredients, serving, and cleaning up. **Sign up on the Missions board in the Parish Hall.**

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



A CONVERSATION ABOUT COMMUNION

Sunday, November 1
Following Worship

As Steve Silver considers in his **Pastoral Perspective** this month, communion is a universally recognized sacrament throughout Christianity. The way in which we celebrate it, however, is up to us as a congregation—at FCC and at many other churches worldwide.

In that spirit, on Communion Sunday in November, **the Diaconate invites everyone to share in an open conversation** about our communion practice. What does this sacrament mean to you? How have you experienced it, here and elsewhere? How does our communion process at FCC inflect your participation?

***Please join us on November 1 during coffee hour
for this informal congregational discussion.***

Sunday, November 8

American Indian Sunday at FCC

Plan to join us for this special worship service incorporating music and messages drawn from American Indian traditions.

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

Ever wonder how your friends ended up handing out bulletins on Sunday morning? Or delivering the call to worship and reading scripture from the lectern? Or lighting the altar candles? Or walking 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 in worship!

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

Your congregation will thank you!

New Members Welcome!

Have you worshiped with us a few times? Have you returned because you've found a welcoming, spiritually nourishing church home here? If so, we warmly invite you to join our community of faith as a
COVENANT MEMBER.

If you would like to learn more about this invitation, please speak with Rev. Steve Silver or contact the church office.

Queued for Coffee Hour

October—Mission & Social Action

November—Women of the Church

December—Board of Governors

January—Stewardship Committee

OCTOBER 2015 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Horton Retreat <i>(afternoon return)</i> 10a Worship and Church School 5p Community Dinner	28 3p WCBH After-School Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Bears)	29 7p Boy Scouts	30 6p UVPRN	1 6p Handbells 7p Choir	2 7p Concert: Danaher-Davis-Turbes Trio	3 8a Men's Breakfast 10:15a Juneberry Music
4 10a Worship (Communion) and Church School 11:15a MSA	5 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Bears)	6 7p Boy Scouts	7 6p UVPRN	8 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn 6p Handbells 7p Choir	9 7p Vocal Master Class w/Richard Lissemore	10 10:15a Juneberry Music 7p Vocal Master Class w/Richard Lissemore
11 10a Worship and Church School	12 7p Diaconate	13 7p Boy Scouts	14 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN 7p Christian Ed Committee	15 4:30-8:30p Second Growth Suicide Prevent Training 6p Handbells 7p Choir	16	17 10:15a Juneberry Music 4p Benefit Concert for UV Waldorf School
18 10a Worship and Church School 12:30p CROP Walk <i>(Lunch at FCC following)</i>	19 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Bears)	20 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts	21 6p UVPRN OCTOBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	22 10a-7p NH-WIC 6p Handbells 7p Choir	23	24 9a-4:30p NHC-UCC Annual Conference 10:15a Juneberry Music
25 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Board of Governors 5p Community Dinner	26 3p WCBH After-School Group 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Bears)	27 7p Boy Scouts	28 2-9p Directory Photo Session 1 <i>(also Sat 11/14)</i> 6p UVPRN	29 6p Handbells 7p Choir	30 7p Classicopia: Spooky Serenade!	31 HALLOWEEN 9a-12p FCC Fall Clean-Up 10:15a Juneberry Music
1 10a Worship (Communion) and Church School 11:15a Communion Conversation	2 5:30p Cub Scouts (Tigers) 6:15p Cub Scouts (Bears)	3 7p Boy Scouts	4 6p UVPRN	5 6p Handbells 7p Choir	6 6-9p Leb Rec Dept Quilters	7 8a Men's Breakfast 10a-5p Leb Rec Dept Quilters 10:15a Juneberry Music

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

At September's Council meeting, Marcia Corkins extended her great thanks on behalf of **Christian Education** for everyone's help with Kick-off Sunday. All agreed that it was a great day for both children and adults.

Marcia also asked that the **carpet in the basement** be cleaned, as that has not been done in several years. It was suggested that Elite Cleaners be approached to do the work, and Corrine Erskine added that we should also consider cleaning the Parlor carpet. Don Rowell said the Board of Governors will follow up.

For Mission and Social Action, Corrine reported that preparations for the **CROP Walk** on October 18 are well advanced. She also was grateful that Women of the Church ended up delivering fifteen complete **welcome packets** for residents of WISE's safe house.

The open topic of **Safety Monitors** was broached as well. We remain shorthanded in covering this area of responsibility, and Monitors have tried to be flexible in their approach. In discussion, Council members suggested various ways of thinking about safety issues and how they may be defined.

Steve Silver offered an update on the transition to a **new process for collecting offering and pledges after Sunday worship**. Jon Scott, reporting for the Diaconate, said that while Deacons were willing to

deliver the offering from the Sanctuary to the church office, they did not want to assume responsibility for counting and processing it, especially as they would prefer to be present after worship to provide hospitality.

Details of the process still need to be worked out, and Jon offered to work with the Administrator and other relevant parties on the new system's logistics. Barry Schuster and Warren Belding stressed the importance of protecting those involved by ensuring proper counting and accounting. The goal is to implement the new system the first Sunday of October. Council unanimously approved the new process; the Assistant Treasurer position will be reviewed at a future date.

Jon Scott explained that **Stewardship Sunday** planning was underway, with a goal of developing improved materials and maintaining a high level of transparency.

Jon further reported that the **Diaconate** will work with the Nominating Committee to identify a twelfth deacon, for which he invited recommendations. Also, the Deacons would like to cover one Community Dinner this fall and another in the spring. The Deacons are also discussing our **Communion practice** and will soon invite the congregation to participate in a conversation about our model of using intinction in the Sanctuary and individual

*From Church Council and the
Nominating Committee*

Are You Being Served?

Have you found an ideal service opportunity for yourself at FCC?

Have you considered working on a new program or committee?

Do you have creative ideas or suggestions for particular aspects of our congregational life or governance? We want to know!

If you're interested in serving or learning more about an FCC program or committee, please contact the church office or **Amy Driscoll (603-448-0976 or amykdriscoll@gmail.com)**.

October Meetings

Mission/Social Action and Stewardship 10/4, 11:15

Diaconate 10/12, 7:00

Christian Education 10/14, 7:00

Church Council 10/20, 7:00

Board of Governors 10/25, 11:15

November Meetings

Mission/Social Action and Stewardship 11/1, 11:15

Diaconate 11/9, 7:00

Christian Education 11/11, 7:00

Church Council 11/17, 7:00

Board of Governors 11/22, 11:15

COMMITTEE NOTES

From the Board of Governors

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY



**Saturday, October 31
9:00 am to Noon**

***All are invited to
pitch in and help!!***

We'll gather at 9:00 for coffee and muffins, then get to work around the church. Please bring any equipment or supplies that might be useful—yard tools, your favorite vacuum cleaner, or your strongest rags! If you have any ideas about work that needs to be done, please contact Don Rowell (603-448-1126/don@rowell.us) or another member of the Board of Governors.

service by trays in the Parish Hall. The Deacons have also begun to consider the UCC General Synod's resolutions regarding Israel and the Palestinians.

Brian Clancy reported that members of the Choir and **Music Committee** have been invited to support Henry Danaher's organ study with Diane Belcher if they wish. Also, the Music at the Meetinghouse fall schedule will open with several concerts in October, the first featuring a trio led by Henry on October 2.

In his **pastor's report**, Steve was enthusiastic about Kick-off Sunday and the start of a new program year, with a number of concerts, services, and other events planned for the fall. He regrets that current violence in El Salvador will prevent him from returning to San Jose Villanueva for November study leave; he will instead spend time at the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, MA. He also noted that West Lebanon Congregational Church had hired a new permanent pastor and that Carla Bailey will be leaving the UCC church at

Dartmouth. Closer to FCC, Eliot Fay has just announced his intention to leave the First Baptist Church.

DIACONATE

At the Diaconate's meeting in September, Steve Silver asked for thoughts regarding this fall's **Thanksgiving** service. Given some challenges posed by last year's interfaith service, all thought that an ecumenical service might be preferable.

The Deacons also discussed plans for the **new church directory** and the Church Administrator's suggestions for how they could assist. The Deacons will encourage individual members to sign up for photo times, help register people and verify their information during the two photo shoots, and help determine what content to include in the directory's introductory pages.

To assist the new **Sunday offering collection process**, the Diaconate will collect the Sunday offering in a pouch and place it in the church office immediately following the

worship service. The Deacon of the Month would likely have this responsibility and ask another Deacon present to assist with the task. Some had reservations about counting the offering and placing it in the safe.

The Diaconate will host Community Dinner on November 22. Jon Scott will head up the team for this dinner.

As the Diaconate currently has only eleven members, it is hoped that a twelfth might be recruited this year. Barb Jones will consult Nominating chair Amy Driscoll for possible candidates, and all were urged to offer suggestions.

Steve Teeter reported on UVIP's search for a new Executive Director, and on plans for this year's **Micah Awards** ceremony, honoring Pete Mason from FCC and others from area churches and service organizations. The Diaconate will offer a limited number of tickets to those who would like to attend, but have limited resources.

All Deacons were reminded of their responsibility to obtain a

COMMITTEE NOTES

substitute when unable to serve Communion. The year's schedule was initially distributed at last February's Diaconate meeting, and an updated, working version of the schedule is posted in the kitchen. Since Deb Scott is currently working in Guam, Barb Teeter will assume her duties as Deacon of the Month in November. The Deacons also agreed that Jon Scott will typically represent the Diaconate at Council meetings; Barb Jones will attend in Jon's place when he is unable.

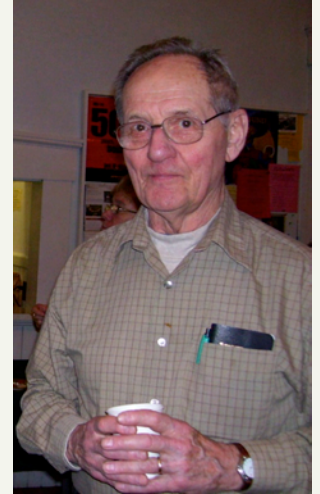
The Deacons also discussed FCC's **method of serving Communion**. They agreed that some sort of open congregational conversation around this process would be beneficial. (Though at first proposed for October 4, this conversation has now been scheduled for Communion Sunday in November.)

Congratulations to Pete Mason *...and the rest of UVIP's Micah Heroes!*

On October 25 Pete Mason will join other Micah Heroes from across the Upper Valley at a ceremony in White River Junction. The congregation is proud to have Pete represent our church, and we commend all of this year's Micah Heroes, along with many others who **"act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly"** with our God.

Following is the citation FCC submitted on Pete's behalf:

First Congregational Church of Lebanon is proud to recognize Pete Mason as our Micah Hero for this year. A member of our congregation throughout his life, Pete is a beloved leader within our church family, setting an inspirational standard of service to others. Over the years he has served FCC as a Deacon, a member of our Board of Governors and Church Council, a mentor to confirmands, and a guiding presence at church breakfasts, dinners, and other events. He also inspired the creation and maintenance of the church's Memorial Garden, affording comfort for the loss of beloved members of our church family. Perhaps most powerfully, Pete is ever ready and willing to help those in any kind of need, and he helped to organize our Called to Care program almost twenty years ago. Beyond the church Pete has enjoyed a life-long affiliation with the Boy Scouts, served the Lebanon Rotary Club for almost 40 years, worked with and for the United Way, and devoted more than five decades of training and leadership to the Appalachian Mountain Club. In all that he does, Pete brings to life the Biblical ideal of a servant-leader whose faith is expressed through the care of others.



The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

In this light, your deacons and pastor would like to talk with you about the Lord's Supper, to hear what is important to you about this sacrament, to learn what resonates with you. And so, we invite you to a conversation **after worship on Sunday, November 1**. We will gather in the spirit of Christian community, bringing our love, our faith, and our knowledge that the table does not belong to any one of us, but to the One who has come to us in grace, love, and new life.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

Stand Up, Be Counted, and... Get Photographed!

FCC to Produce NEW Church Directory

The most recent edition of our church directory, with photos and contact information for our entire congregation, was produced in 2010. In the nearly six years since, our community has changed quite a bit—we lament the passing of several beloved members in that time, of course, but we can also celebrate new active members who have joined the congregation since 2010. For a number of reasons, all agree that it's time for a new directory!

Lifetouch Inc. will produce our new directory at **no cost to the church**, and everyone will receive a **printed copy free of charge**. Lifetouch (which in 2011 acquired Olan Mills, publisher of our 2010 directory) is a nationally respected professional portrait studio with extensive experience in producing church directories. The new directory will follow the same format as the current one, with introductory pages highlighting our congregational life and programs, pages of individual and family photos, and an alphabetical list of contact information (home address, phone numbers, and emails).



DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSIONS

Wednesday, October 28, 2:00–9:00 pm OR
Saturday, November 14, 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Arrange your photo appointment in one of two ways:

1) **Sign up online:** <https://www.securedatatrans14.com/ap/firstcongregationalchurch13/index.php?page=10>

2) **Sign up on Sundays during coffee hour or by contacting the church office.**

Photo sessions are typically finished within a half hour.

WE NEED ALL OF YOU PHOTOGRAPHED.

So sign up today!

SOME IMPORTANT DETAILS:

Everyone in the FCC community—full church members, regular visitors, or otherwise self-identified participants in our congregational life—may be included in our directory!

All families (or couples, individuals, etc.) will receive **one complimentary 8x10 print**. You may purchase additional prints in a variety of packages and sizes.

You may arrange for **several different photos**, including variations that aren't necessarily for the directory (e.g., just children)—that is, photos may be taken for any purpose.

Photos will be **available in time for use as Christmas cards** and gifts. For non-directory photos, you may also include favorite objects, hobbies, or even pets.

Photo order discounts! Anyone who signs up for a photo session online will get \$10 off photo orders. Seniors, military, and first-responders also receive a 20% discount. Lifetouch also offers its "Feed the Need" discount of \$5 as thanks for a food donation (more information on this discount still to come).

To make this project a success, we need EVERYONE to schedule a photo session, show up, and update contact information. Get photographed! Be counted!

HELP! I can't make either photo date! What do I do? Contact the church office as soon as possible.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

Sept. 23, 2015

To my church family,

I want to thank all of you for your support, prayers, phone calls, cards, food, and visits during this difficult time. I love and miss all of you very much. I do so miss going to church and hope to be well enough to get back there soon.

In the meantime, I would love to have visits so that I feel connected to you and the church.

God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Love,

Nancy Laren



**KICK-OFF
SUNDAY!**

September 13



THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

FCC Outing Club



**Balch Hill
and Pine Park**
Sunday, September 20



HORTON CENTER RETREAT September 25-27



OUR LOCAL MISSION



treatment, recovery and prevention services



Training Professionals & Communities in
Suicide Prevention & Response

CONNECT Suicide Prevention Training

Thursday, October 15, 4:30-8:30 pm, Parish Hall

Potluck Dinner (*Bring a Dish to Share*)

Registration Required at www.secondgrowth.org.

Connect suicide prevention training, offered by NH's chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI), is widely recognized as a best practice for increasing community members' competence and confidence in responding to suicide incidents across the lifespan. This community-based training focuses on prevention strategies, early warning signs, and appropriate referral steps for concerned community members. For more details, visit www.theconnectprogram.org. Training is free, but registration is required at www.secondgrowth.org.

Volunteer with WISE!

Fall Volunteer Training Oct. 13–Nov. 24

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00–8:30 pm

Saturday, November 14, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

The WISE 24-hour crisis line is available to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence thanks to a group of dedicated, empathetic Volunteer Advocates, who dedicate over 6,000 hours each year to this vital service. Advocates respond to crisis-line calls after hours, offering empowerment-based support, connections to resources, guidance to local police and hospitals, and facilitation of emergency shelter. Equipped with a pager and the support of WISE staff, volunteers respond to calls safely from home.

To learn more about volunteering for WISE, please visit www.wiseuv.org/volunteer.html or contact Chelsea Williams (603-448-5922 x120 or chelsea.williams@wiseoftheuppervalley.org).

end violence
wise
share hope ♦ change lives



www.cropwalk.org



The 2015 Lebanon CROP Walk

Sunday, October 18 — Registration 12:30 / Walk 1:00

Organized by Church World Service, this nationwide event annually raises substantial funds to combat hunger locally and globally

You can help in one or more of these ways...

Walk!—Participate in the walk itself and get pledges and donations.

Serve!—FCC will once again host a post-walk meal. We need help!

Donate!—Sponsor a walker, or make a gift at www.cropwalk.org.

Participant materials and volunteer sign-ups are available in the Parish Hall.

Questions? Contact the church office or visit www.cropwalk.org.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music at the Meetinghouse

FALL CONCERTS

All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

Friday-Saturday, October 9-10, 7:00 pm—Vocal Master Class with Richard Lissemore
Baritone and performance coach Richard Lissemore offers a master class for voice students of soprano Julie Ness, who has trained with him for many years. The public is welcome to attend and listen in!

Saturday, October 17, 4:00 pm—Benefit Concert for Upper Valley Waldorf School
Violinists Sophia Pellegrino and Kaylee Stark-Meredith, cellist Erin Lord, flutist Leslie Stroud, and pianist Stephanie Emberley play chamber works by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Bach, and others.
Families welcome! Minimum donation \$5 requested; any amount is appreciated.

Friday, October 30, 7:00 pm—Classicopia: Spooky Serenade!
Pianist Daniel Weiser welcomes bassoonist Janet Polk for a fun and mildly frightening evening with Bach, Chopin, Grieg, Gounod, and more. Maybe a few tricks, but mostly a musical treat!
Suggested donation \$20, FCC members \$10, under 12 free; please visit www.classicopia.org.

Saturday, November 14, 7:00 pm—An Evening with Aged to Perfection and Friends
Come enjoy this sensational women's quartet, special guests Fast Track, and other great *a cappella* groups. The evening's entertaining program will offer tight, rhythmic harmonies in a variety of musical genres, including gospel, doo-wop, jazz standards, and barbershop. *Free-will donation.*

Sunday, November 15, 3:00 pm—Letitia Quante, Violin, with Claire Black, Piano
Acclaimed violinist Letitia Quante, playing a J. B. Vuillaume instrument loaned by a Lebanon-area family, offers a delightful program for a broad audience. Works by Bach, Bartok, Ravel, and Faure. *Free.*

Friday, November 20, 7:00 pm—Classicopia: Four-Hand Piano
Dan Weiser again joins friend and fellow pianist Philip Liston-Kraft, a duo that never fails to entertain.
Program TBA. *Suggested donation \$20, FCC members \$10, under 12 free; please visit www.classicopia.org.*



The Danaher-Davis-Turbes Trio amazed and enchanted a large audience on October 2. They'll be back!

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sundays, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12
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Rev. Stephen R. Silver — silver@fccleb.org • Newsletter Submissions — church@fccleb.org