

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

OCTOBER 2017

Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

What's Inside

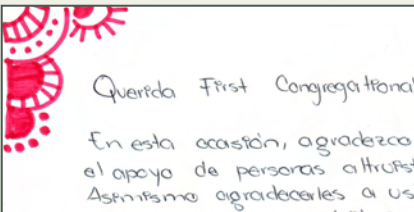
Kick-off Sunday!7



Horton Center.....9



A Letter from El Salvador10



Sunday Service2

CROP Walk 10/8.....2

October Calendar3

Committee Notes.....4-5

NHC-UCC Annual Meeting.....5

Nearly New Christmas Sale.....6

Farnum Hill Outing 10/226

Music at the Meetinghouse8

FCC's Micah Hero!9

The "Pastoral" Perspective

At the end of this month, on the 31st, we'll celebrate a date that I know you've all been eagerly anticipating: no, not Halloween, our nation's tribute to the overconsumption of bite-sized Snickers bars, but the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Supposedly, it was on this day that Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, unintentionally setting off a revolution that is still unfolding today. We don't know that Luther actually posted his argument on the front door. We do know that he didn't plan a schism with the Roman Catholic Church. What he sought and what he got, though, were two different things.

By critiquing the practice of indulgences in the Church, Luther not only took on the corruption he saw around him. He also wound up calling into question the sacraments, the nature of authority, and how the Christian life was to be led. But in doing this, he did not plan to form a new religion. Luther believed he was a Catholic.

Many of us grew up believing that the medieval Roman Catholic Church was a rotting edifice, simply awaiting a push before it was toppled. In recent years, scholarship has painted a more complicated picture, of a vital church with different views on how things might be done. Luther, and many others, expressed their opinions, through preaching, teaching, and the living of their vocations.

I think of this when I consider the state of the Christian Church today. Estimates are that there are more than two billion Christians in the world, and it seems that there are almost as many opinions as to how the faith should be practiced. Within our own congregation here in Lebanon there are different beliefs, though we are united, I hope, in trusting that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church.

I cannot tell you what theology to espouse, what Scripture to hold dear. That is one of the legacies of the Reformation. I can expound on the Bible, I can encourage you to love the Lord, to follow the path of Jesus

Continued on Page 6

SUNDAY SERVICE

2017 Lebanon CROP Walk

Sunday, October 8
Registration 12:30 / Walk 1:00
Lunch Following at FCC

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

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

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

Donate!—Sponsor a walker, or donate online at www.cropwalk.org.



www.cropwalk.org

Participant materials and volunteer sign-ups are in the Parish Hall. Questions? Contact the church office or visit www.cropwalk.org.

Steve Silver's Sabbatical Special!

Sunday, October 15, Following Coffee Hour

All are invited to this illustrated presentation surveying Steve's sabbatical. We'll hear about his experiences in Atlanta and Oxford, the courses he took, the places he worshiped, the people he met. And we'll enjoy English-themed snacks!

THANKS, JO!

The congregation joins in thanking Rev. Jo Shelnett for her service this summer as Sabbatical Minister. We're grateful for her leadership, and we wish her the very best in her next endeavors, as they evolve!

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

If you'd like to serve in either of these important roles in worship, contact the church office.

Your congregation will thank you!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Neighbors in Need

UCC Special Mission Offering

Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of this offering funds local initiatives, advocacy, and direct service. The rest funds the UCC Council for American Indian Ministries, continuing a tradition of support for Native American populations. This year's program focuses on our essential need for clean water for a healthy and just society.

Please contribute as generously as you can, either on October 22 or at ucc.org/nin.

Reformation Sunday

A Special Service on October 29

Join us for a special worship service this month to mark 500 years since the origins of the **Protestant Reformation**, a seminal event in the history of the Church. We'll share special music and prayers, and Steve will consider this important anniversary in his sermon.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, October 22, 5:00 pm

Leaders: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thanks to **Christian Education** for organizing this month's dinner! Please lend a hand as you're able, to provide this vital service to our neighbors.

Never helped out at Community Dinner before? Make THIS your month!

Queued for Coffee Hour

October—Mission and Social Action

November—Women of the Church

December—Board of Governors

January—Stewardship

OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10a Worship <i>(Communion)</i> and Church School 11:15a MSA	2 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears)	3 7p Boy Scouts	4 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	5 7p Choir	6 7:30p Classicopia: Jewish Jazz II	7 8a Men's Breakfast 11a Eagle Scout Ceremony (Justin Rogers)
8 10a Worship and Church School 12:30p CROP Hunger Walk <i>(Lunch Following at FCC)</i>	9 7p Diaconate	10 7p Boy Scouts	11 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers 7:15p Christian Ed Committee	12 12:30-4p G-O-S Assn CoCM 7p Choir	13	14 9a-12p CPR Training Session
15 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Steve Silver Sabbatical Special	16 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears)	17 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts/ Troop Committee	18 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	19 7p Choir	20	21 7p Passages Through Time, Memory, and Imagination
22 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Bd of Govs 12:30p Outing Club: Farnum Hill 5p Community Dinner	23 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	24 7p Boy Scouts	25 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	26 10a-6p NH-WIC 7p Choir	27	28 10a-2p FCC's "Nearly New" Christmas Sale
29 10a Worship and Church School 3p UVMC Faculty Trio Concert	30 5:30p Cub Scouts (Bears)	31 HALLOWEEN 7p Boy Scouts	1 6p UVPRN 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	2 7p Choir	3 6-9p Leb Rec Quilters' Retreat	4 8a Men's Breakfast 10a-5p Leb Rec Quilters' Retreat

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 expressed thanks on behalf of **Christian Education** for everyone's help with Kickoff Sunday. We had a great response, and about 12 children enjoyed the morning, sharing lunch and a fun time in the bounce house.

Pete Mason reported for **Memorial Gardens** that Alyson Danyew-Ellison has been doing a great job taking care of plantings, including the urns on the front portico. He noted that Brandon Mason has agreed to eventually assume chair responsibilities for the committee.

John Gilliatt reported for the **Board of Governors** on the completion of several light projects at church and the parsonage. Looking toward the fall, the group hopes to continue or start some new projects, such as some insulation prior to winter, but these will depend on available time and funding. John also hopes that a few larger projects (e.g. carpeting, floors, and pew cushions in the Sanctuary) can be included in budget planning for 2018. Lastly, he noted with regret that Wayne Braley will be leaving the committee after his term ends in February. He thanked Wayne for contributing his service and skills to many projects over several years.

As Council reviewed **CROP Walk** planning, Amy Driscoll confirmed that she has arranged for bread from King Arthur Flour. Steve Silver has spoken with both Jim Oronte and the Lebanon Diner about soup. Other items will be covered by the Mission and Social Action Committee and the congregation at large.

Amy noted that the **Nominating Committee** would get an early start this fall, in the hope that service opportunities can be presented to the congregation at Sunday worship. An emphasis on financial positions was reiterated.

Brian Clancy reported on a packed fall schedule for the **Music at the Meetinghouse** series. The highlight is two concerts arranged, promoted, and ticketed by the Lebanon Opera House. This "LOH on Location" series offers exciting opportunities going forward.

Speaking as Church Administrator, Brian pointed out that very few people were participating in the Horton Center retreat this year. Similarly, walker participation in the CROP Walk has declined in the past few years. Thinking more broadly, he cautioned against doing events and programs simply because we've always done them. Others present agreed that we need to be aware of whether the energy we're putting into events corresponds to what we're getting from them—simply put, we should consider what works best for us as a congregation at present, rather than relying only on programs we've traditionally done.

Linda Jacobs noted for the Women of the Church that the "**Nearly New**" Christmas Sale has been set for Saturday, October 28. A planning meeting will be held on Monday, September 25, and set-up for the sale will happen in the day or two prior to the sale itself.

John Gilliatt asked whether further progress had been made to arrange for a **church credit card**. Brian

reported that Terry Ellison had inquired with at least two banks and determined that any lender is likely to require a longer history of audits than we currently can provide. John also asked about the **sound system in the Sanctuary**, recalling that Susan Montmagny's son had intended to look at it. Brian was not aware that he or anyone else had examined the system yet.

Reporting for the **Trustees and the Finance Committee**, Steve Silver noted that Terry Ellison continued to familiarize himself with our complex financial structure. Valerie Nevel will try to call a meeting of the Finance Committee sometime in October. And our annual pledge drive will come later that month.

In his **pastoral report**, Steve noted that he's happy to be back from his sabbatical. He has reconnected with several people, attended to pastoral care, and returned to his customary responsibilities within the church and clergy community. He remains

October Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	10/1, 11:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	10/9, 7:00
<i>Christian Education</i>	10/11, 7:15
<i>Church Council</i>	10/17, 7:00
NHC-UCC Annual Mtg	10/21
<i>Board of Governors</i>	10/22, 11:15

November Meetings

<i>Mission/Social Action</i>	11/5, 11:15
<i>Christian Education</i>	11/8, 7:15
<i>Diaconate</i>	11/13, 7:00
<i>Church Council</i>	11/21, 7:00
<i>Board of Governors</i>	11/26, 11:15

COMMITTEE NOTES

very grateful to FCC for supporting his sabbatical so generously, and he was proud to represent us during a wonderful study experience at Oxford in early August.

Steve also noted that after some investigations, the collaborative effort toward an **alternative loan program** through UVIP has been tabled for now. It seems quite a complex issue, on which several organizations are already working.

Steve has kept in touch with Henry Danaher about our music ministry, and he's very excited about how that's progressing. He is planning a commemorative service for **Reformation Sunday** in October, with special music for the occasion. This year marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's inauguration of the Reformation, and next year will mark the 250th anniversary of our own congregation's founding. Steve looks forward to marking both milestones with FCC.

DIACONATE

At their September meeting, the Deacons discussed the **Open Door Ministry**, as there is more demand than ever for grocery and gas cards. The Dole Fund's mission money will be considered as resources, and it has been suggested that loose offering from the first Sunday of the month be assigned to the Open Door. A few fundraising suggestions were made, including an improv comedy night and a fashion show (as was recently held in Newport).

Treasurer Terry Ellison also stated that he needs a comprehensive view of church finances to function in his position as treasurer. Church Council will discuss the overall financial situation.

In considering our **Ministry of Caring**, some expressed concern regarding unmet needs of the FCC community due to the infrequency of requests. Further conversation is needed regarding how to engage those who would benefit from this

ministry. Sue Pratt has completed one shawl for the prayer shawl ministry, and several others are in process. Several shawls are needed for a blessing ceremony.

Barb Jones stated that she would like offer a presentation of **UVIP's Aging with Dignity** curriculum at FCC, but she is concerned that Sue Pratt, our only other trained facilitator, will be away in the near future. Barb and Sue may follow the lead of facilitators in Grantham with an information session for prospective attendees.

Returning from his sabbatical, **Steve Silver** expressed gratitude to FCC, and deacons who contributed their services during the sabbatical were recognized for their efforts. Steve is considering how he can bring his experience to a discussion of what we are as a church, and what it means to be Congregationalists. He is also working on a special service for Reformation Sunday in late October.



NHC-UCC ANNUAL MEETING 2017

In Search of Sanctuary: Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Saturday, October 21, 8:00 am–4:30 pm

Registration Now Open!

Be a part of the experience! All are welcome—delegates, lay and ordained church leaders, congregation members, friends, visitors, everyone!—to attend the Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the UCC. The theme this year draws from the parable of the Good Samaritan, and the keynote speaker will be Bishop Dwayne Royster, founding pastor of Living Water UCC in Philadelphia. Conference participants will worship together, share communion and fellowship, and fulfill the business of the NH Conference.

For further details and registration information, please visit the meeting page on the NH Conference website (www.nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/conference-annual-meetings).

FCC Outing Club Fall Frolic on Farnum Hill

Sunday, October 22, Meet at Trailhead at 12:30 pm

Lebanon's Park Ranger—Ron Bailey!—leads an expedition on Farnum Hill, featuring glacial boulders, beautiful stone walls, and gorgeous stands of hardwood trees. The hike covers relatively easy terrain and offers good views north and south; there is a short loop option in addition to the longer, two-mile loop.

Please bring a lunch, water bottle, and appropriate clothing.

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



The “Nearly New” Christmas Sale!

Saturday, October 28, 10 am—2 pm

*Presented by Women of the Church
Proceeds to Support FCC Mission Projects*

Too many Christmas decorations and trying to downsize? Looking for those elusive items to complete your holiday decorating extravaganza? Solve both problems this month at the NEARLY NEW SALE!

Invite family and friends, enjoy coffee and treats, and find some Christmas decoration bargains—all to benefit FCC mission programs. Let's make this a fun, successful day for our congregation and community!

Questions? Contact Corrine Erskine at 603-448-3919/cerskine2@yahoo.com.

WE NEED HELP! Please consider volunteering some time to set up for the sale that Thursday and Friday (10/26-27) and to manage it on Saturday. Contact Corrine or the church office if you're willing to help!

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

Christ, to listen to what others have to say with open hearts and minds, to disagree with charity, to live faithfully. But you need to make a choice, one that is informed and guided by the Holy Spirit. My prayer is that you will find in our church a place where you can come to know God, and be comfortable with your faith, even as you struggle with the great questions of life.

So, although we won't wear costumes or give out candy, I wish you a happy Reformation Day!

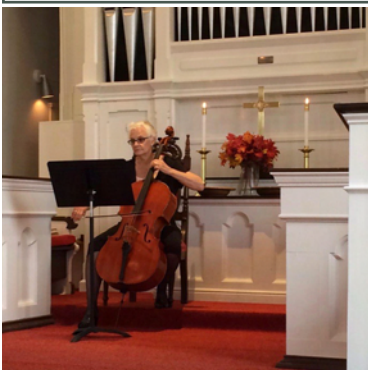
Yours faithfully,

Steve

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



KICK-OFF SUNDAY!



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

October Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

Classicopia: Jewish Jazz II—Friday, October 6, at 7:30 pm

Clarinetist Steve Loew and Dan Weiser offer a reprise of last fall's wildly popular concert celebrating the exchange among Jewish culture, classical music, and jazz in the early 20th century.

Passages Through Time, Memory, and Imagination—Saturday, October 21, at 7:00 pm

A collection of duos and trios from the Baroque era to the present, performed by flautists Linda Alexander and Leslie Stroud, harpsichordist Heywood Alexander, and pianists Ernie Drown and Henry Danaher.

Trois Trios with UVMC Faculty—Sunday, October 29, at 3:00 pm

Pianist Victoria Nooe, cellist Benjamin Kulp, and our own in-house clarinetist Meghan Davis offer a fall concert showcasing the talented faculty of Upper Valley Music Center, now FCC's next-door neighbor.

COMING LATER THIS FALL

Classicopia: Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano—Sunday, November 5, at 2:00 pm

Elizabeth Borowsky, Piano, and Roseminna Watson, Violin—Saturday, November 11, at 7:00 pm

Bel Canto Chamber Singers—Saturday, December 9, 7:30 pm/Sunday, December 10, 4:00 pm

Classicopia: Violin and Piano—Friday, December 15, at 7:30 pm

UVMC Messiah Sing!—Saturday, December 16, at 6:30 pm

And introducing...

LOH ON LOCATION

Two special events at FCC presented by the Lebanon Opera House!

Johnny Gandelsman, Violin—Friday, November 17, at 7:00 pm

lebanonoperahouse.org/event/details/johnny-gandelsman-violin/

The Eric Mintel Jazz Quartet—Sunday, December 3, at 4:00 pm

lebanonoperahouse.org/event/details/eric-mintel-quartet/



FOUR HANDS, UP CLOSE. Classicopia's Dan Weiser and Philip Liston-Kraft offer another highly animated performance, enhanced for an enthusiastic audience by video of their deft handiwork across the keys.

OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION

FCC's Micah Hero for 2017 is Kathy Beckett

We join in congratulating Kathy Beckett, who was selected by vote of the congregation to be our church's UVIP Micah Hero for this year.

Congratulations, Kathy!

We can be proud of the many individuals among our congregation to whom this honor might just as easily have been given—in fact, eleven others received votes this year. Our church offers ample witness to Micah's exhortation to “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly” with our God.



Tickets for Micah Awards Ceremony—Sunday, November 12, 2:00 pm, Claremont, NH

Kathy will join UVIP's other honorees at a ceremony on November 12 at the Claremont Senior Center (5 Acer Heights Road, Claremont). This annual “Local Heroes, Local Foods” event offers UVIP member groups and supportive businesses and non-profits a chance to connect and build support for community engagement. FCC has a limited number of tickets available for anyone who would like to attend—\$30 in advance, \$35 at the door (\$10 in either case for children 13 and under). *Please contact the church office.*

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

— of interest to our congregation —

Welcoming Refugees in Germany: A Discussion with Christoph Böhmer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 4:00 PM

Church of Christ at Dartmouth, Hanover

Tuck alum shares his experience with refugees abroad.

The Spiritual Roots of Social Action: A Series of Interfaith Dialogues

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2:00 PM

Hanover Friends Meetinghouse, Hanover

Robert Aziz and John Gregory-Davis (first in a series).

Breakfast Discussion at WISE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 8:15 AM

WISE of the Upper Valley, Lebanon

Overview of resources, services, and volunteer training.

RSVP 603-448-5922 x118/lisa.macdonald@wiseuv.org.

Three Community Health Forums Sponsored by Lake Sunapee Region VNA

Claremont—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Lebanon—TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Wilmot—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

All Dates 4:30-5:30 pm (RSVP 603-526-4077)

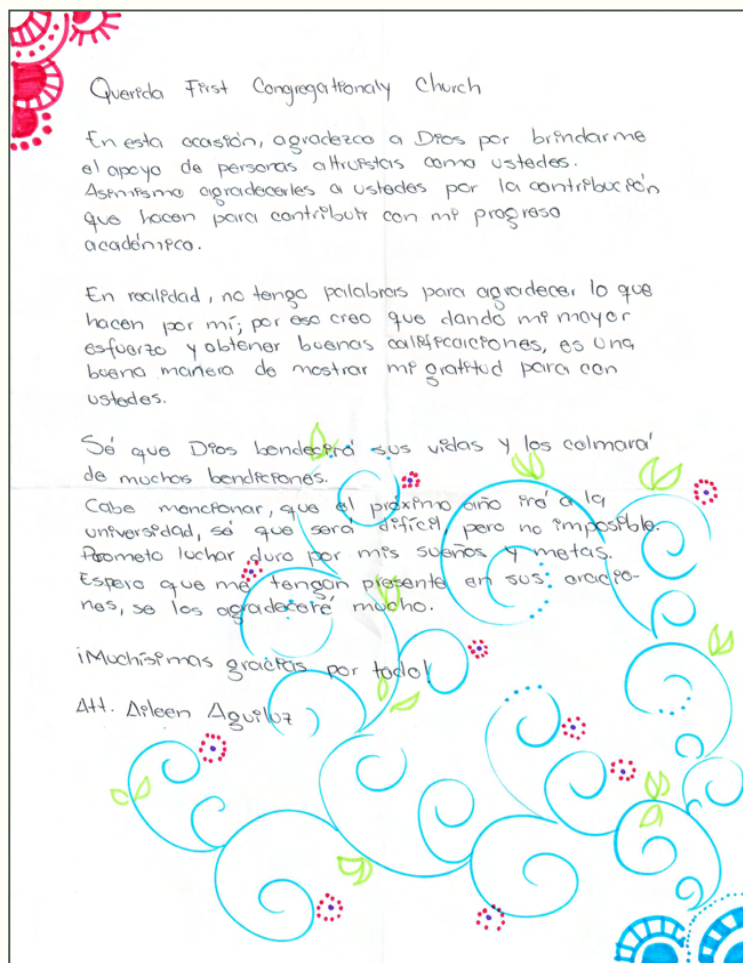
For more, email jnewbern@lakesunapeevna.org.



FCC AT THE HORTON CENTER. A small group from FCC joined members of the Hooksett and Meriden churches for another gorgeous weekend in the Whites. Debbie and Brian Jillette—who recently moved to nearby Gorham—visited Sunday for worship, where Viggo Slayton helped serve communion.

A Letter from El Salvador

We've received another letter from Aileen Aguiluz (aileenmartir@yahoo.com), the young student whom our Church School has supported with scholarship funds from the Lenten Lunch Bag offering. Aileen once again enclosed a copy of her school transcript with her letter, and she expresses abundant gratitude and faith that her education—and our support of it—comes from God's grace. *(Translation by the editor.)*



**San Jose Villanueva
August 2017**

Dear First Congregational Church,

On this occasion, I thank God for offering me the support of generous people such as you all. Just the same I thank all of you for the contribution that you have made in order to further my academic progress.

In fact, I don't have the words to thank you for all you've done for me; thus, I believe that to give my greatest effort and attain the best grades is the best way to express my gratitude to you.

I know that God will bless your lives and bring you many blessings. It's fitting to mention that next year I will be going to the university—I know that it will be difficult,

but not impossible. I promise to work hard for my dreams and goals. I hope that you might hold me in your prayers, for which I would be very grateful.

Many thanks for everything!

Aileen Aguiluz

Jueves 03 de abril 2017

Complejo Educativo Católico San José Villanueva

Aguiluz Martir, Aileen Aracely

Período: 2

NIE: 363190

Turno: MAÑANA

TERCER AÑO

Opción: TECNICO

Año: 2017

Sección: A

Nombre de Materias	30% Act.	30% Het.	40% Obj.	Promedio	Resul.	Nombre Profesor
Tecnología III	10,00	9,70	9,30	9,63	Apro.	Victor Estrada
Practica III	10,00	10,00	9,00	9,60	Apro.	Victor Estrada
Practica Profesional	10,00	10,00	9,50	9,80	Apro.	Roxana de Galicia
Trabajo de Graduacion	10,00	9,00	9,00	9,30	Apro.	Victor Estrada
Informatica	10,00	10,00	9,00	9,60	Apro.	Samuel Aguiluz
Educ. en la Fé.	9,00	9,00	8,00	8,60	Apro.	Pbro. Gonzalo Ortega
Educ. Fisica.	10,00	8,00	10,00	9,40	Apro.	Antonio Chicas
Lab. De Creatividad.	10,00	10,00	9,00	9,60	Apro.	Roxana de Galicia
Conducta	9,00	9,00	9,00	9,00	Apro.	Roxana Diaz
Observaciones Generales.						Su Promedio (CUM) es:
Asistencia						9,32
Inasistencia						

Gloria Colina Diaz Mancía

F. REGISTRO DE NOTAS

Roxana Navea Escudalupo Aguilar Rodríguez

F. DIRECCION

Gloria Colina Diaz Mancilla
F. REGISTRO DE NOTAS



Rodolfo Antonio Vasquez Aguiluz Rodriguez
F. DIRECCION

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

“Nearly New” Christmas Sale!

Saturday, October 28, 10 am—2 pm

Proceeds to Support FCC Mission Projects

2017 CROP Walk

Sunday, October 8

Registration 12:30 / Walk 1:00

Lunch Following at FCC

Walk! Serve! Donate!

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



www.cropwalk.org



Music at the Meetinghouse

Upcoming Concerts

All in the Sanctuary, FCC

Classicopia: Jewish Jazz II—Friday, October 6, at 7:30 pm

Passages Through Time, Memory, and Imagination—Saturday, October 21, at 7:00 pm

Trois Trios with UVMC Faculty—Sunday, October 29, at 3:00 pm

Classicopia: Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano—Sunday, November 5, at 2:00 pm

Elizabeth Borowsky, Piano, and Roseminna Watson, Violin—Saturday, November 11, at 7:00 pm

Johnny Gandelsman, Violin—Friday, November 17, at 7:00 pm