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The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

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The Pastoral Perspective

I recently traveled to Cleveland for a meeting of the UCC's Historical Council. We had a rich gathering, full of substantive and illuminating discussion. It was good to see my clergy colleagues from across the nation. And this also was my first opportunity to see our denomination's new office space.

However, the big takeaway was our learning and affirming that the UCC should claim *five* antecedent founding streams, not just the traditional four. We have historically traced our collective heritage to the Congregational, Christian, Evangelical, and Reformed Churches. Recent scholarship, however, shows the prevalence of a fifth stream: the Afro-Christian Connection.

The Afro-Christians, located primarily in the South, had to deal with discrimination, exclusion, and all of the bad—nay, sinful—things Black people in this country have confronted. The good news out of this story is that, facing great adversity, they stuck with the Christian faith, made it their own, founded schools and other institutions to support their work, and persevered in their faith. These people believe in Jesus and what he inspired, and they would not be shut out of the community of the faithful.

The Historical Council affirmed this scholarship and has officially called on the denomination to talk about five streams, rather than four. Our wider church leadership, beginning with our General Minister and President John Dorhauer, is enthusiastically on-board with doing this, and, given the UCC's stated commitment to engaging matters of racial justice, that's a good thing. The church should not hesitate to acknowledge its own shortcomings or its own sinfulness.

You may be wondering what the downside is. Honestly, I don't think there is one. Some will claim that there are other histories that are not being shared, and we can do a better job of telling the stories of everyone. That leads to a problem of bandwidth, which is admittedly limited, but this is essential UCC history, an important and vital piece of our denomination's history. While some of us may be focused on the story of the Congregationalists, something to which I will plead, I look forward

Continued on Page 4

SUNDAY SERVICE

All Are Welcome to Worship at FCC

Sundays at 10:00 am (Sanctuary/Zoom)

In-person worshipers are required to wear masks and observe distancing in the pews. Contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.

Greeters and Liturgists Needed!

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

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

Spend Some Time in the Corner!

The **Children's Community Corner**, that is! We'd like to involve more of our congregation's adults in engaging with FCC's great kids on Sunday mornings. **Our purpose for this interaction is mentorship, not just supervision. Please consider offering your time to our young people—thanks!**

If you're interested, contact Nan Parsons at nlp3721@yahoo.com or 603-863-8354.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

Edward "Larry" Doyle (1950-2022)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, AT 10:00 AM

2022 Lebanon CROP Walk

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, AT 12:30 PM

Begun in 1969 in Bismarck, ND, the **CROP Hunger Walk** has long been a national project run by Church World Service. CROP Walks year-round across the country raise about \$9 million annually to fight food insecurity and poverty worldwide.

FCC will offer light food and refreshments to all participants on the front lawn, renewing our long tradition of post-walk fellowship and hospitality.

YOU can help in any or all of these ways...

Walk!—Walk on your own or in a small group of family or friends.

Serve!—Donate food or help with post-walk hospitality.

Donate!—Give online at events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/lebanonnh. All giving should be done online.



www.cropwalk.org

Questions? Contact the church office or visit events.crophungerwalk.org/2022.

Neighbors in Need: Behold!—Special UCC Mission Offering This Fall

Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion across the US. Two-thirds of the collection funds the UCC's **Justice and Witness Ministries** for local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, and the fight against systemic injustice. The rest goes to the **Council for American Indian Ministry**, the voice for Native Americans in the UCC, sustaining a proud denominational tradition of assisting Native groups.

This year, NIN is focused on economic justice, amidst severe inflation and other challenges facing households nationwide.

Please contribute as you are able, either payable to FCC (memo "NIN") or online at ucc.org/nin.



OCTOBER 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| 25 10a Worship/CCC 3p W. Ögmundson Concert | 26 4-8p UVMC Suzuki Program | 27 4:15p FCC Choir | 28 7:30-9:30a Gr St United Way 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers | 29 7p NA Group | 30 6-9p Leb Rec Quilters Retreat | 1 9a-5p Leb Rec Quilters Retreat |
| 2 10a Worship/CCC (Communion) | 3 4-8p UVMC Suzuki Program 7p Diaconate | 4 4:15p FCC Choir | 5 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers | 6 7p NA Group | 7 7:30p Anon Coffeehouse | 8 2p UVMC Recitals |
| 9 10a Worship/CCC CROP WALK | 10 <i>Indigenous Peoples' Day</i> (No Suzuki Program) | 11 10a Camerata NE rehearsal 4:15p FCC Choir 7p Church Council | 12 8a-4p NH-WIC 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers | 13 7p NA Group | 14 7:30p Anon Coffeehouse | 15 10a Celebration: Larry Doyle (1950-2022) 4p Casey-McLane Concert |
| 16 10a Worship/CCC | 17 4-8p UVMC Suzuki Program | 18 4:15p FCC Choir | 19 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers | 20 7p NA Group | 21 | 22 7p Camerata New England: Piano Trios |
| 23 10a Worship/CCC 2p Classicopia: Lyrical Ladies | 24 4-8p UVMC Suzuki Program | 25 4:15p FCC Choir | 26 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers | 27 11a-6p NH-WIC 7p NA Group | 28 7:30p Anon Coffeehouse | 29 2p Suzuki Pie Day 5:30p Rachel Clemente, Harp |
| 30 10a Worship/CCC | 31 <i>Halloween</i> (No Suzuki Program) | 1 <i>All Saints' Day</i> 4:15p FCC Choir | 2 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers | 3 7p NA Group | 4 6-9p Leb Rec Quilters Retreat | 5 9a-5p Leb Rec Quilters Retreat 2:30p UVMC Recitals |

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

NEWS AND NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

Deb Scott opened Council's September meeting with a mediation and mission moment, describing her experience volunteering on a women-only COVER project. Her reading clearly articulated what we try to do as a church, working to help all God's people. The project involved insulating the underside of a mobile home, the owners of which helped with the work themselves. John Gilliatt added a word of how his company had a relationship with COVER, attesting to the lack of required skills and the high abilities of the site managers. Jon Scott also affirmed his support for COVER, noting that its store offers appliances and the like to the community.

Jon invited people to share reports from their summer and hopes for the year. Responses ranged from the joy of seeing children and families in worship for Kickoff Sunday, continuing concerns about COVID, and persistent hope that issues with the Ellisons may be resolved. John Gilliatt also celebrated the marriage of his daughter on September 24.

Given ongoing concerns about the threat of COVID to our congregation,

Council members present were in agreement that our safety protocols should remain in place for worship. While some questioned whether we should make the use of masks voluntary, there did not seem to be sufficient support for that.

The Diaconate has discussed the practice of communion, debating whether to continue using pre-packaged elements, return to our former process, or offer alternative distribution options. The consensus was to continue as we have.

Treasurer Dawn Troutman shared her report, noting a couple of large maintenance expenditures but no other concerns. Trustees chair Valerie Nevel added her perspective about our trust distributions and investment outlook. We've already withdrawn as much this year as we did all of 2021, and we will need to prepare for the effects of a down market. We should be prepared to dip into endowment principal and continue to monitor Dole transactions. Valerie would like to start working on the budget in October.

For the Board of Governors, John Gilliatt reported that two major projects, the front walk replacement

and parsonage insulation upgrade, would not be happening this year as scheduled. He hopes to find a new contractor for the former job in the spring. John also reported his extensive research into air exchange systems for the downstairs space; various proposals are all more expensive than is warranted by the perceived need, whether the issue is COVID safety or general ventilation. Several wondered whether more modest solutions of air purifiers would be advisable, and it was also suggested that families who use the space be consulted.

Jon Scott invited the Mission and Social Action Committee to share a fuller report at Council's next meeting. Chair Valerie Nevel noted that the committee would like to have mission groups report during worship.

Committee Meetings

The following regular meetings will happen remotely via Zoom:

Diaconate 10/3 and 11/14, 7:00
Council 10/11 and 11/8, 7:00
MSA 10/24 and 11/28, 7:00

For information on other groups' plans to meet, contact the church office.

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

to knowing more about the witness borne to Jesus by all our brothers and sisters in faith. A book on the subject of this fifth stream is in progress, and I look forward to its publication in the next couple of years.

As we as a nation reckon with issues of racial justice, we need to look at our own history. Only then can we be honest and faithful about the many fascinating and exciting ways in which God has moved among all people.

Yours faithfully,


DIACONATE

The Deacons celebrated the reemergence of our congregation on Kick-off Sunday—particularly young families and children. All recognized Nan Parsons for her vital role in keeping children and families engaged.

The group discussed preparations for Carolin Bassett’s memorial service on September 24. It will be accessible on Zoom, and a reception will follow. Another memorial service is planned for October 15 for Larry Doyle, and provision of refreshments by the Diaconate would remind the congregation of

Larry’s hospitality. In other news, Deb Scott celebrated the birth of another grandson, Oliver, to her son James; Rev. Steve Silver will preside over the baptism of Walter and Deserai Scott’s sons at home in Plainfield on September 25.

In his pastor’s report, Steve noted the upcoming book group study of Esau McCaulley’s *Reading While Black*. He also invited the Deacons’ comment on communion service, namely whether we should continue using pre-packaged elements for COVID safety. The consensus was to offer a variety of options so that all can participate, from touchless

distribution to the individually packaged option. Generally, the Deacons support maintaining our COVID protocols in worship.

The Diaconate also considered a circulated proposal for improving air circulation in the Children’s Community Corner space downstairs. The group tabled the proposals until the need for an enhanced system and its cost can be clarified. It was suggested that parents be surveyed for their views.

To avoid conflict with Indigenous Peoples’ Day, the next meeting of the Diaconate will be October 3.

Support the UCC Hurricane Fund

Following two weeks of staggering destruction in Puerto Rico, Florida, and elsewhere, the United Church of Christ has appealed for support to address the immediate needs of families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. The UCC Hurricane Fund serves both urgent relief and long-term recovery.

Donating online is the fastest and most effective way to contribute:

support.ucc.org/donate-hurricanes2022

You may also mail a check, payable to:

**United Church of Christ
(memo “Hurricanes 2022 Fund”)
PO Box 71957
Cleveland, OH 44194**

Focus on Stewardship

Whether dropped in the plate on a Sunday or mailed into the office, your offering contributions continue to be vital to our ministry, pandemic or not. We realize not everyone can give to the same degree, especially as economic conditions remain challenging. But FCC is grateful to receive contributions of **any amount** to these purposes:

Regular Offering—Collected anytime as unrestricted support for the church’s general operations, ministries, and programs. This includes all pledges and payments in our annual stewardship effort.

Communion/Open Door Offering—Collected on first (communion) Sundays, directly funding our Open Door Ministry for community assistance (gas/food cards, rent, utilities, lodging, etc.). Any donation in a communion envelope goes to this fund, but you may contribute to the Open Door Ministry at any other time, too.

Special Offerings (e.g., the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering, Blanket and Shelter Sundays, and UCC offerings such as Neighbors in Need or One Great Hour of Sharing)—Collected once a year, in conjunction with an event or national campaign for a mission or service cause.

THANKS TO ALL for so generously supporting these diverse purposes, at FCC, in the Upper Valley, and beyond!

All contributions may be made payable to FCC, with any specific purpose (as applicable) written in the memo line, and either dropped in the collection plate or mailed to PO Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766.

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



Carolin Bassett

1933-2022

The congregation gratefully celebrates Carolin's life—and the part of it she so generously shared with all of us.



Fall Foliage with the FCC Outing Club: Pine Park, Hanover



Sunday, October 16, at 12:30—Meet at Main Entrance, Rope Ferry Rd

All welcome—regardless of ability!—to enjoy this low-impact hike with FCC's Outing Club, led as always by ranger-extraordinaire **Ron Bailey**. We'll follow wooded trails along Girl Brook to Bailey Point (yup, named for him), then along the Connecticut River, all on mostly-level ground with two short, easy grades. Recent upgrades make Pine Park quite a lovely spot—come find out for yourself!



Meet at the main entrance and parking lot at the end of Rope Ferry Road in Hanover, just by Dartmouth's Outing Club and the former golf club; bring water, lunch or snacks, bug/tick repellent, and appropriate clothing. More at pinepark.org.

All church members, friends, and/or dogs are invited to share this experience of God's creation!

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

KICK-OFF SUNDAY!

Another great year of the Children's Community Corner started up in festive fashion with the Blessing of the Backpacks, pizza lunch, and outdoor games.



CHRISTMAS COMES TO ALL The Listen Holiday Basket Program



For years FCC has participated in the **Holiday Basket Program** organized by **LISTEN Community Services**. The economic challenges of the COVID pandemic have increased demand for this program, as families struggle to provide warm clothing for their children and food for holiday meals. **There is already a wait list.**

LISTEN is returning to the familiar process of inviting donations of new items and gift cards, which means we will again offer a "giving tree" to support this vital project. Stay tuned for collection information next month.

Thanks to all of you for giving to our neighbors in the true spirit of Christmas!

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music at the Meetinghouse

FALL CONCERTS!

All in the Sanctuary. Masks, distanced seating, and vaccination required.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Oct. 7, 14, 28; Nov. 11, 25; and Dec. 2; all at 7:30 pm

Come enjoy our popular community venue for live local music! Conceived as an informal “listening room” for emerging musicians, each show features several acoustic acts. Patrons come and go as they please; baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks available. *Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org/.*

Alicia Casey, Violin, and Annemieke McLane, Piano—Saturday, October 15, at 4:00 pm

These excellent musicians, both on the UVMC faculty, offer personal favorites by Edward Elgar, Johannes Brahms, Frédéric Chopin, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Scott Joplin, and Florence Price. Sponsored by Vermont Violins. *Adults \$20 suggested; visit uvmusic.org/event/faculty-concert-alicia-casey-violin-and-annemieke-mclane-piano.*

Camerata New England: Piano Trios—Saturday, October 22, at 7:00 pm

Violinist Omar Chen Güey, cellist Linda Galvan, and pianist Hannah Shields—performing for the first time since the pandemic shutdown—will share music of Johannes Brahms, W. A. Mozart, and Pablo de Sarasate. The program will also feature some of the young students from the Camerata Strings Program.

Adults \$28, 18-and-under free; for more details, visit www.cameratanewengland.org/upcoming-concerts.

Classicopia: Lyrical Ladies—Sunday, October 23, at 2:00 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser and acclaimed German violist Anna Pelczer offer a selection of powerful, lyrical music by women composers. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; for more, visit classicopia.org/concert/lyrical-ladies/.*

Rachel Clemente, Harp—Saturday, October 29, at 5:30 pm

UVMC presents Rachel Clemente, who has established herself in the regional folk scene as a virtuoso in traditional Scottish repertoire. *Admission \$25; visit uvmusic.org/event/harp-concert-with-rachel-clemente.*

Leslie Stroud, Flute, and Matthew Odell, Piano—Sunday, November 6, at 3:00 pm

Our flautist friend Leslie Stroud joins her frequent collaborator, the superb pianist Matthew Odell, for a program of music by George Enescu, Robert Schumann, and Aaron Copland. *Admission cost TBD.*

The Balourdet Quartet—Saturday, November 12, at 4:00 pm

After presenting an online performance in 2020, UVMC brings back this superb Boston-based ensemble for a live master class and concert. *Admission cost TBD; visit uvmusic.org/event/balourdet-quartet-performance.*

Classicopia: Latin Cello—Sunday, November 13, at 2:00 pm

Cellist Diego Carneiro—who has been named a Minister of Tourism for his native Ecuador—joins pianist Dan Weiser for a thrilling program by an unusual variety of Latin-American composers. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; for more, visit classicopia.org/concert/latin-cello/.*

AND COMING IN DECEMBER... UVMC's Holiday Music Festival, Classicopia's Four-Hand Holiday, the Bel Canto Chamber Singers, and our annual Messiah Sing!

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sundays, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12
10 South Park Street, P.O. Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766 • 603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org
Rev. Stephen R. Silver: silver@fccleb.org • Music: music@fccleb.org • Newsletter Submissions: church@fccleb.org



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

10 South Park Street
PO Box 230
Lebanon, NH 03766

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2022 Lebanon CROP Walk

Sunday, October 9, 12:30 pm

Walk! Serve! Donate!

events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/lebanonnh

Outing Club: Pine Park

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, AT 12:30 PM

Meet at Trailhead on Rope Ferry Rd



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

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First Congregational Church of Lebanon

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist and Choir Director • Nancy Parsons, Children's Community Corner

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

Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

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