



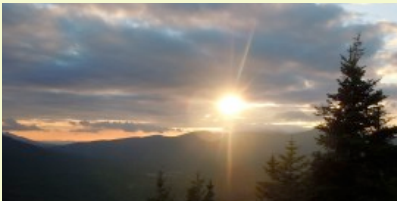
The First Congregational Church
of Lebanon
United Church of Christ

SEPTEMBER 2013

News and Events

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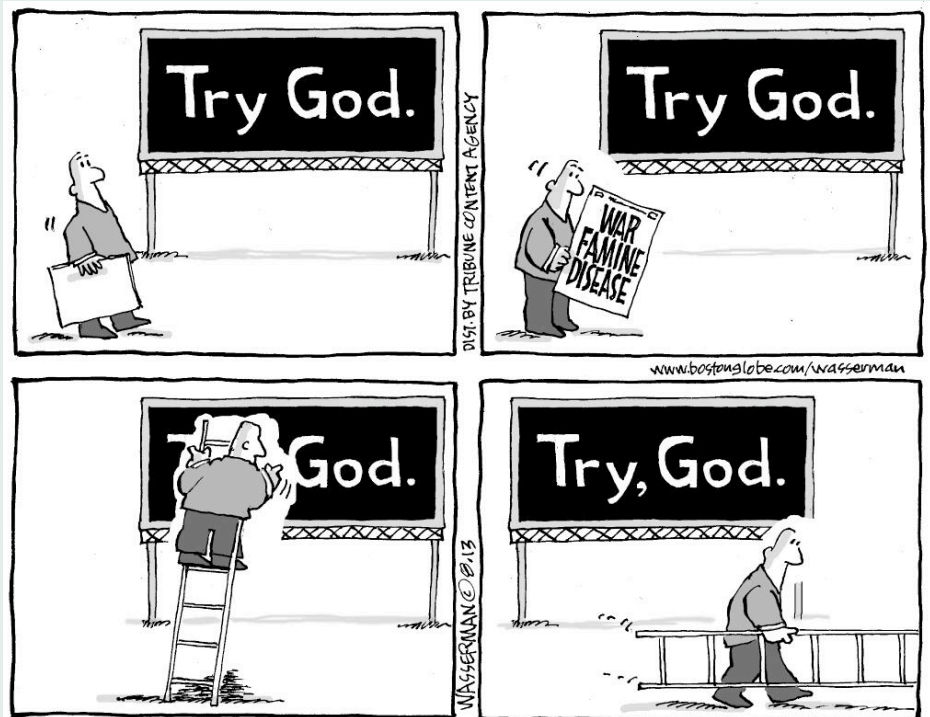
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The Pastoral Perspective

It's not often that I find myself engaging in theological reflection thanks to an editorial cartoon, but that's exactly what happened after I saw this contribution by Dan Wasserman to the August 16 edition of the *Boston Globe*. My first impression was that Mr. Wasserman seemed to be taking a lazy swipe at God, blaming him for the existence of war, famine, and disease. But after some time contemplating the cartoon I found myself seeing things differently.



Dan Wasserman, *Boston Globe*, 8/16/13;

image <https://twitter.com/GlobeWasserman/status/368054977257684992/photo/1>

I know nothing about Mr. Wasserman's faith life, indeed whether he even has one. I don't know where he's been in his relationship with God or where he might be going. Ultimately, that's irrelevant; a far more helpful response to this cartoon isn't to wonder about the cartoonist's religious life but to consider how we understand God and his working in the world.

Continued on next page

SUNDAY SERVICE

The Pastoral Perspective, *cont. from Page 1*

The Christian tradition has always recognized that while Creation is good, it is not perfect. Central to our faith is an awareness that things have gone awry and are in need of restoration. Gracefully, God, in the person of Jesus, comes to bring us that healing, that renewal that we and the world so desperately need. Yet if this affirmation is true, why do we still face war, famine, disease? If, as the Gospel proclaims, a new creation is indeed unfolding around us, why are we haunted by poverty, racism, failed dreams, and unfulfilled possibilities? In short: Why, God?

The answer, I believe, is to be found in the Incarnation. Yes, God can still pull out the Genesis 1 playbook and begin making pronouncements that change everything, bringing order from chaos, creating worlds where none before existed. But if he did that today, what role would there be for the humanity created in his image? Instead of solving the world's ills for us, he invites us to solve them with him. And in coming to us in the person of Jesus, God makes clear that he will be with us each step of the way, as we do the work to which we have been called.

Still, we might hesitate; the challenges confronting us seem so large, so beyond our competence. Before we surrender, though, just consider the scope of our scientific knowledge, the size of our national and global economy, the creative potential to be found in each and every one of us. Can any person of faith—whether more comfortable on the political left or right or somewhere in between—honestly say we're doing enough to address the problems before us? As we ponder this question, we know that God could be angry with us, that he could give up on us; fortunately, he prods us instead, encourages us, calls us, and believes in us.

Sure, we can say, "Try, God." Doing so places us firmly in a tradition stretching back to biblical times. But if we do so, we should acknowledge that we're claiming to be part of a relationship—and in doing so, we're telling God that we're open to him saying to us, "Try, People."

Yours faithfully, *Steve*

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, August 25 at 5:00 pm

Team Leader: Erin Slayton

Please participate in this vital service to our local community, especially if you haven't done so before.

Volunteers old and new are always 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!***

A Community Dinner APPEAL

Seasons Greetings!

We are looking for volunteers to lead our monthly dinners for the November and December holidays. If you're interested in taking on this important role, or if you have questions about what's involved, please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact the church office.

Queued for **Coffee Hour**

September—Diaconate
October—Mission & Social Action
November—Women's Fellowship
December—Board of Governors

SEPTEMBER 2013 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10a Worship (Communion)	2 LABOR DAY <i>(FCC office closed)</i>	3 7p Stewardship Committee 7p Boy Scouts	4 6p UVPRN	5 7p Choir resumes	6 7p Cub Scouts Committee	7 FALL KICK-OFF WEEKEND 8a Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9a Bible Study
8 KICK-OFF SUNDAY! 10a Worship/ Church School 11a Games, lunch, etc.	9 5:30-6:30p Wolf Cubs 7p Diaconate	10 7p Boy Scouts	11 6p UVPRN	12 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange Assn 7p Choir	13 6-7p Bear Cubs	14 9a Bible Study 7:30p Peter Griggs: Latin Café
15 10a Worship/ Church School 11:15a Mission & Social Action	16 5:30-6:30p Wolf Cubs	17 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts	18 6p UVPRN 7p Christian Ed Committee	19 7p Choir	20 6-7p Bear Cubs	21 9a Bible Study
22 10a Worship/ Church School 11:15a Music Committee 5p Community Dinner	23 NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE 5:30-6:30p Wolf Cubs 6-7p Tiger Cubs 7p Board of Governors	24 7p Boy Scouts	25 6p UVPRN	26 7p Choir	27 6-7p Bear Cubs ALL-CHURCH RETREAT AT HORTON CENTER (begins)	28 No Bible Study ALL-CHURCH RETREAT (continues)
29 10a Worship/ Church School ALL-CHURCH RETREAT (concludes)	30 5:30-6:30p Wolf Cubs	1 7p Stewardship Committee 7p Boy Scouts	2 6p UVPRN	3 7p Choir	4 7p Cub Scouts Committee 6-7p Bear Cubs 7:30p Classicopia: Oboe/Piano	5 8a Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9a Bible Study

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

The FCC Safety Committee: Looking for a Few Good Monitors

Every Sunday, while most of us are in the Sanctuary focusing our attention on worship, the Safety Committee ensures that a team of monitors is on duty to make our building a safe place for everyone. If you would like to volunteer your time to this important purpose, please contact co-chairs Linda Oronte (loronte@aol.com) and Barb Jones (basketmaker@mac.com).

Our Work with Facilitator Nancy Brown

Church Council continues to plan our next steps in working through particular congregational issues, with the help of Nancy Brown. The congregation will be notified as those plans develop and more information becomes available; your patience is appreciated!

September Meetings

Stewardship Committee	9/3, 7:00
Diaconate	9/9, 7:00
Mission & Social Action	9/15, 11:15
Church Council	9/17, 7:00
Christian Education	9/18, 7:00
Music Committee	9/22, 11:15
Board of Governors	9/23, 7:00

October Meetings

Stewardship Committee	10/1, 7:00
Diaconate	10/14, 7:00
Church Council	10/15, 7:00
Christian Education	10/16, 7:00
Mission/Social Action	10/20, 11:15
Board of Governors	10/28, 7:00

From the Board of Governors FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Will be scheduled on a Saturday in late October or early November.
Please be ready to help out on this day of service!!

If you would like to ask about helping with this important annual event, or have suggestions of work to be done in and around the church property, please contact Trish Heatherton (603-448-4646 or prheatherton@gmail.com) or the church office.



Committee Members Needed for Current Vacancies

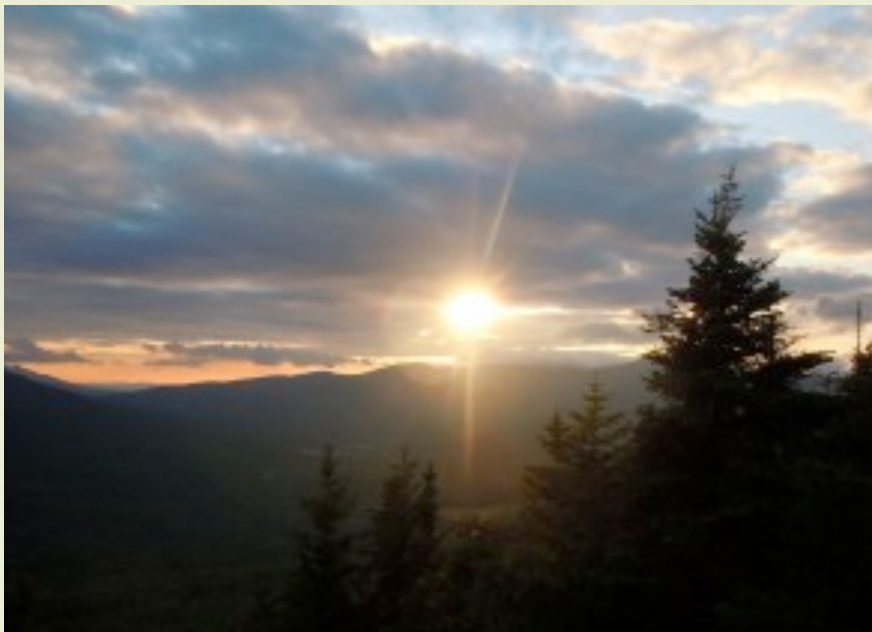
The Board of Governors and Nominating Committee both have vacancies, and Church Council seeks volunteers to fill them. If you are interested in serving the church by participating on either of these important committees, or if you would like to know more about their responsibilities, please contact Warren Belding at 603-448-2630 or warren.d.belding@dartmouth.edu.

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Friday to Sunday, September 27-29
UCC Horton Center (near Gorham, NH)

This month our congregation will join members of Meriden and Hooksett Congregational Churches for a weekend of worship, prayer, spiritual study, and fellowship in the White Mountains. Offering a mix of individual and group activities, the retreat will also include structured activities for children and youth—**families are strongly encouraged to come!**

The schedule will be flexible enough to allow participation in particular activities as you're able; attending the whole weekend is not required. We will collaborate with the other two churches on some meals and activities.

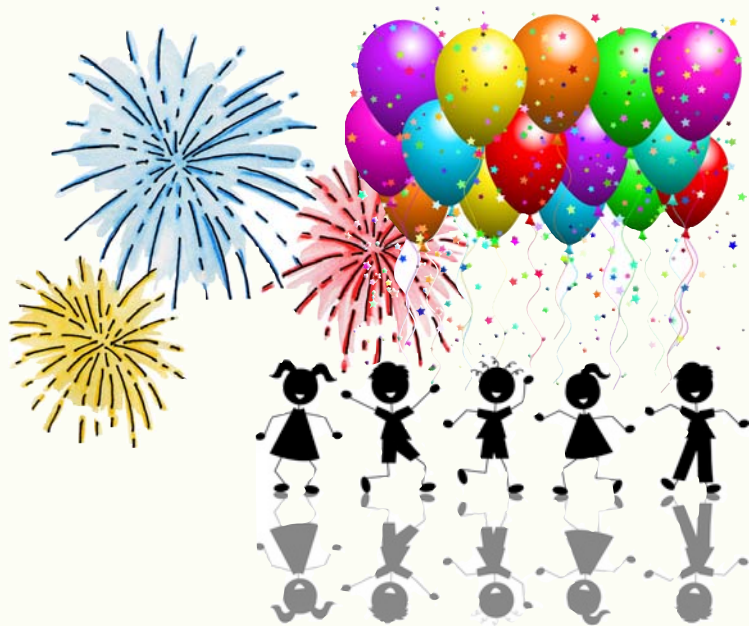


RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

To assist in planning the retreat, please let us know whether you're planning to come or even just considering it. Questions and suggestions welcome; contact the office or your deacon.

*Please join us for what promises to be an enriching experience
of building community and faith!*

A NEW PROGRAM YEAR



Kick-off Sunday is September 8!

The Blessing of the Backpacks
Bring yours to worship!

Church School Registration
Age 4–Grade 1, Grades 2-4, Grades 5-6

Our Theme for the Year
“Life in Biblical Times”

Lunch and Outdoor Fun
Pizza, Salad, Ice Cream, and Games

AND A BIG SURPRISE on the Front Lawn!



Abigail Lynn Renee Braley **Baptized August 25, 2013**

We would like to thank everyone for all they did to make Abby's day so special for her and for us.

We couldn't have done it without all of you, and appreciate it so very much.

God Bless You All,
Laurie, Wayne, and Abby Braley



Photos courtesy Kris Hansen

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION

Wings of Hope

Butterfly Release
to Benefit Hospice Programs

Saturday, September 7, 12-3 pm
Butterfly Release, 1-2 pm
Colburn Park (Lebanon Green)

For the fourth year, the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Association of VT and NH is sponsoring this wonderful memorial and benefit event. You may purchase butterflies to be released for \$20 each, or simply attend as a spectator. (Rain location is the FCC sanctuary.)

For more information, call 888-300-8853 or visit www.vnavnh.org.

Are You Ready for a Mission to El Salvador?

The Mission and Social Action Committee is planning a trip to El Salvador with Epilogos, either on our own or with another group. If you are interested in joining this trip, or if you have questions, please contact Wendell Smith at 603-632-1117 or polestar3056@gmail.com.

CALLED TO CARE

If you would like to learn more about Called to Care or join the group, please contact Linda Jacobs (mrandsmrs.j@comcast.net / 802-296-8251).



www.cropwalk.org



Save the date—and participate!

The Upper Valley CROP Walk

Sunday, October 6 — Registration 12:30 / Walk 1:00

This annual event, organized by Church World Service and involving thousands of participants in over 1600 communities across the country, 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!—Our church hosts a post-walk meal, and we will need volunteers to set up, serve, and clean up.

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

Fundraising materials for walkers and sign-ups for volunteers will be available in the Parish Hall later in September. **Questions?** Contact the church office or visit www.cropwalk.org.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music *at the* Meetinghouse

Peter Griggs: Latin Café

Saturday, September 14, at 7:30 pm
Sanctuary, First Congregational Church



Internationally renowned guitarist Peter Griggs returns to FCC, to explore the classical and popular music of Latin America and Spain, including tango, bossa nova, samba, rumba, bolero, flamenco, and jazz. He'll perform works by Antonio Carlos Jobim, Luiz Bonfá, Roberto Baden Powell de Aquino, Compay Segundo, Bartolome Calatuyud, and Angel Villoldo, as well as American composers influenced by Latin music, such as Duke Ellington and Cole Porter. **There is no charge for admission; a free-will offering will be collected.**

Peter Griggs has performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, at concert halls, art centers, festivals, museums, universities, cafes, jazz clubs, and other venues. The *New York Times* has described his playing as "clear and mysterious as the dance itself," while the *Bergische Morgenpost* praises him as "an almost unbelievable talent [who] performs magic!" For more, please visit <http://griggspeter.wordpress.com/about>.

And mark these other great fall concerts on your calendar too!

Classicopia (Oboe and Piano)—Friday, October 4, at 7:30 pm

UV Music Center Mini-Mandolin Festival—Saturday, November 2, at 7:00 pm

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

Bel Canto Chamber Singers—Saturday, December 7, at 7:30 pm

Classicopia (Four-hand Piano)—Friday, December 13, at 7:30 pm

The First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sunday, 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