

Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

What's Inside

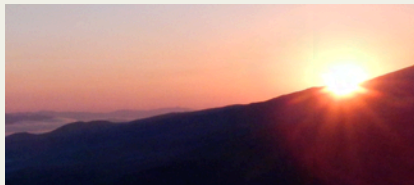
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The fastest growing lake in the world!		
8/1/15 - Devils Lake, ND		
It does not matter how slowly you go as long as		
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The Pastoral Perspective

On a recent visit to the American Museum of Natural History I came face-to-face with a rather large tortoise. He was a stolid fellow, holding his ground, craning his neck as he looked forward. And he was dead, and had been for a good 90 years. Even worse, every tortoise of his kind, a sub-species of the famed and beloved Galápagos tortoise, was gone: extinct, never again to be seen on this earth, save for a still-impossible act of genetically engineered revival.

Extinction, the bumper-sticker slogan goes, is forever. Dinosaurs: Sayonara. Woolly mammoths: No more. Passenger Pigeons: So long. Dodos: It was nice to know you. We hear that with climate change, we humans may be on our way to joining the list of the dear, permanently departed species.

Hopefully, we'll act to save our planet, in part because we take our faith seriously. God, we recall, gave us dominion over the earth, or so we are told in Genesis. There, too, we learn that we are created in God's image. And the one who fashioned our world and the universe of which it is a part doesn't strike me as a divinity who believes in trashing what he has so lovingly made.

So we as Christians are called to work to protect the environment, to learn about the threats to our planetary home, to advocate for change, and finally to pray that God will give us the strength and courage to do what's right, even if it is inconvenient.

Roger Cohen, writing in the *New York Times* on August 23 about change in the modern world, noted, "The more things change, say the French, the more they stay the same. Or, as a similar idea is put in *The Leopard*, one of the greatest of Italian novels: 'If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change.'"

If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change.

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SUNDAY SERVICE



SEPTEMBER 13 KICK-OFF SUNDAY!

The Blessing of the Backpacks!

Bring yours to worship!

Church School Registration!

Age 4–Grade 1, Grades 2-4, Grades 5-6

Lunch and Outdoor Fun!

Pizza, Salad, Popsicles, and Games

This Year's Church School Theme

Bible Buddies: Heroes, Heels, and Other Friends in Faith

This year our Church School children will meet several figures—some famous, some not so familiar—from both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. They will learn about faithful but sometimes fallible women and men whose stories can show us all, young and not-so-young alike, how to walk with God.

Join us to kick-off the Church School year, renewing old friendships and beginning new ones!

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.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, September 27, 5:00 pm

Leaders: WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Please participate in this vital service to our local community! Thanks to the WOC 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!

Participate in Worship!

Serve as a Liturgist or Greeter/Usher

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

***No experience or training is required.
Your congregation will thank you!***

Queued for Coffee Hour

September—Diaconate

October—Mission & Social Action

November—Women of the Church

December—Board of Governors

SEPTEMBER 2015 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10a Worship	31	1 7p Boy Scouts	2 6p UVPRN	3	4	5 No Men's Breakfast <i>(moved to 9/12)</i> PM S. Pellegrino rehearsal
6 10a Worship (Communion) 11:15a MSA	7 LABOR DAY <i>(FCC office closed)</i>	8 7p Boy Scouts	9 8a-4p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN 7p Christian Ed Committee	10 9:30a-4p Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn 7p Choir	11	12 8a Men's Breakfast 9:30a UVIP Exec Council
13 KICK-OFF SUNDAY! 10a Worship and Church School <i>(Blessing of the Backpacks, bounce house, and lunch!)</i>	14 6:15p Cub Scouts (Bears) 7p Diaconate	15 7:30a UVIP Exec Council 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts	16 6p UVPRN	17 7p Choir	18	19 10:15a Juneberry Music PM S. Pellegrino rehearsal
20 10a Worship and Church School 12:30p FCC Outing Club to Balch Hill	21	22 7p Boy Scouts	23 10a-7p NH-WIC 6p UVPRN OCTOBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	24 7p Choir	25 All-Church Retreat at Horton Center <i>(evening arrival)</i>	26 All-Church Retreat <i>(continues)</i> 8a-4p NH Button Assn Annual Conf 10:15a Juneberry Music
27 All-Church Retreat <i>(mid-afternoon return)</i> 10a Worship and Church School 11:15a Board of Governors 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 7p Choir	2 7p Concert: Danaher, Davis, and Turbes Trio	3 8a Men's Breakfast 10:15a Juneberry Music

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

COMMITTEE NOTES

CHURCH COUNCIL

At Council's August 18 meeting, Corrine Erskine reported for the Mission & Social Action Committee on early preparations for the **CROP Walk**, which this year will occur on October 18. In particular, there was concern about who would supply the vegetarian soup option. King Arthur Flour will be approached for bread, and their employees may also be encouraged to volunteer. Barry Schuster pointed out that the Community Dinner Fund would also be available to pay for CROP Walk food. Jon Scott added that from a stewardship perspective, it's important to make this popular lunch a successful community event.

Reporting on behalf of the **Finance Committee and Trustees**, Steve Silver noted that Treasurer Nan Parsons is comfortable with the current state of FCC finances. The Trustees will invite Bill Hoysradt to meet with them to discuss endowed-fund investments. They will also be consulting with an officer from United Church Funds as well.

Steve also noted that the Finance Committee is working to revise the **process for collecting and recording the Sunday-morning offering**, in order to make it more consistent and regularized. In part, this will shift some tasks to the Church Administrator position, but it will also involve having two Deacons serve as counters each Sunday, a practice generally recognized as sound fiduciary responsibility.

Marcia Corkins reminded everyone that Church School will start on September 13, **Kickoff Sunday**. This year's school theme will be "Bible Buddies," exploring several characters in the Old and New Testaments. Steve Silver occasionally will coordinate sermons with what the children are studying, in order to integrate Church School more effectively with worship. He also encouraged adult church members to spend at least one Sunday morning teaching Church School, in part to demonstrate our commitment to the children's growth.

Reporting for the Music Committee, Brian Clancy offered background on a proposal to support **Henry Danaher's supplemental organ study** with Diane Belcher, organist of St. Thomas in Hanover. (Details of the proposal had earlier been emailed to members of Council.) This organ study is just one part of Henry's overall efforts to strengthen his musical training and experience. Brian noted Henry's gratitude for the support that FCC has already given him, and he stressed that funding professional development in this way would surely benefit the church as well.

Discussion of the proposal was quite positive. Don Rowell, a member of the choir, spoke highly of Henry's contributions in leading the choir and worship music generally, and others recognized his commitment to the life of the congregation beyond music. As to the source of

*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)**.

September Meetings

Mission/Social Action and Stewardship	9/6, 11:15
Christian Education	9/9, 7:00
Diaconate	9/14, 7:00
Church Council	9/15, 7:00
Board of Governors	9/27, 11:15

October Meetings

Mission/Social Action and Stewardship	10/4, 11:15
Christian Education	10/14, 7:00
Diaconate	10/12, 7:00
Church Council	10/20, 7:00
Board of Governors	10/25, 11:15

THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

the required funding, all expressed confidence that a combination of individual contributions and other sources (such as perhaps the Deacons' Fund) would suffice. Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed funding.

Adding his own words of appreciation for Henry's service of the church, Steve Silver expressed gratitude to Council for supporting him in this way.

In his pastoral report, Steve reflected on a relatively busy summer, with several weddings and funerals along with service commitments in the wider church. While he still intends to take study leave in November, it may not be in El Salvador, which has been difficult to arrange. He also noted preparations for the new program year, both in Church School planning and events such as a hike to Balch Hill and another Horton Center retreat. Lastly, he reported that West Lebanon Congregational Church would soon welcome a new permanent pastor, and the UCC church at Dartmouth would begin looking for one, as Rev. Carla Bailey has announced her intention to leave that church.

FCC Outing Club Balch Hill and Pine Park

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 12:30 PM

Plan to join us for the next adventure of FCC's "Outing Club," led as always by our beloved, in-house park ranger, Ron Bailey! This expedition consists of two segments in Hanover. First is a modest 10-minute hike to the cleared summit of Balch Hill, where we'll have a picnic lunch while enjoying nice views of the town and valley below. Then we'll carpool to nearby Pine Park, for an easy trek through a beautiful forest stand along the Connecticut River and Girl Brook.

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

Meet at 12:30 at the trailhead area on Hemlock Road in Hanover (off Reservoir Road, near the Ray School).

Bring a picnic lunch, water, a blanket or chair, bug spray, and sunscreen.

Don't miss this latest opportunity to grow deeper by walking farther!

OUR RENEWED COMMUNION TABLE

Our thanks to Susan Montmagny for her efforts in refinishing the communion table. Beautifully renewed, it even has casters now for easier movement (making Communion a "Meal-On-Wheels").

The table was originally crafted by Brad Morse to the glory of God and in loving memory of his son David, who passed away in 1973. Brad (Reverend, Chaplain, Colonel—he could claim all three titles) and his wife Elaine were very active members of our church after Brad's retirement as a chaplain in the USAF. His strong, deep voice anchored our choir's bass section for many years.



IN MEMORIAM
DAVID THORPE MORSE
1954 - 1973
BY CHAPLAIN & MRS. BRADLEY T. MORSE

THANK YOU!

FCC Contributes Welcome Packets to WISE

In June WISE sent an appeal asking for contributions of “welcome packets” for residents of its new Safe House, where individuals and families can find refuge from the threats of domestic and sexual violence. Filled with comforting items such as soft towels and linens, scented soaps, chocolate treats, children’s games, and stuffies, these packets afford kindness and gentle care in desperate situations.



Our church has responded to this appeal with generous abundance. Individual members quickly supplied a few complete packets, and Women of the Church committed to four packets, challenging the congregation to match that. In all, FCC managed to assemble over fifteen complete packets, all ready for WISE to give to its safe-house residents. **Thanks to everyone who played a role in this act of congregational compassion!**

FCC’s Micah Hero for 2015 is Pete Mason

The congregation joins in congratulating Pete Mason, who has been selected as this year's UVIP Micah Hero from FCC. Pete will join other honorees from across the Upper Valley at a ceremony on October 25 at Listen Community Services in WRJ. The event offers UVIP member groups and supportive businesses and non-profits a chance to connect and build support for strong community engagement.

We can be proud of the many individuals among our congregation to whom this honor might just as easily have been given. This year and every year, our church offers ample witness to Micah's exhortation to “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly” with our God. ***Congratulations, Pete!***

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

These words are true as we consider the future of the church, of our species, and of our planet. God has given us tremendous powers, abilities that can be used creatively or destructively, as acts of worship or profanation. We have been given free will. What we as individuals, as a faith tradition, as a people choose to do will determine whether we are able to share with future generations the good gifts of our Maker’s creation—or if we find ourselves sharing the fate of that dead tortoise on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

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*)

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

end violence
wise
share hope ♦ change lives

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).

Service Opportunities at the Raven Food Pantry

The Raven Food Pantry at First Baptist Church on School Street is now open an additional day each month to accommodate more of those in need. If you're interested in helping out, please contact the FBC office at 603-448-5618 or office@lebfirstbaptist.com.



Symphony NH Benefit Concert

for
GOOD NEIGHBOR
HEALTH CLINICS

Sunday, September 27, 4:00 pm, Lebanon Opera House
Music of Bernstein, Copland, and Gershwin

Tickets: Call the Good Neighbor Clinic (802-295-1868) or the LOH (603-448-0400), or visit <http://lebanonoperahouse.org/event/details/symphony-nh-a-benefit-for-good-neighbor-health-clinic/>.

OUR LOCAL MISSION

A community appeal for help with Huntington's

To the people who worship at First Congregational Church,

Many of you know Daniel Baxter from your wonderfully plentiful community dinners. He is the young man with Down's syndrome and a ravenous appetite. And I am his mother, Susan.

It is so important that Daniel have opportunities to be a "giver" too. On September 19, we will be participating in a three-mile walk to raise funds for research that will lead to a treatment for Huntington's disease. The gene for Huntington's disease was discovered in 1993—twenty-two years ago. Still today, as many as one person in 7,000 suffers and will surely die from this disease until A CURE is found. This is so close to my heart that, some days, I can barely speak about it. If you have ever helplessly watched the deterioration of someone you care about, you will understand.

Certainly, I do not want anyone to feel pressured to donate to our walk. On the other hand, if your heart directs you to contribute, so many stand to benefit. No donation is too small. And if you want to forward this email to others, all is well and the world will be a better place.

Thank you very much,

Daniel (...with a little bit of prodding from his mom)

For a basic explanation of Huntington's disease, visit https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huntington%27s_disease; for direct access to Daniel Baxter's donation page, visit <http://hdsa.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=5677>.



www.cropwalk.org

Save the date—and participate!

2015 Lebanon CROP Walk

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

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

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

Serve!—Our church 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 will be available in the Parish Hall later this month. **Questions?** Contact the office or visit www.cropwalk.org.

Drama Outside and In.

Right: A summer storm and evening rainbow lend FCC a striking backdrop.

Far Right: Classicopia's Dan Weiser and friends passionately perform the Schumann Piano Quintet on August 23.



OUR NATIONAL MISSION

A letter from...

Bike & Build

The fastest growing lake in the world!

8/1/15 - Devils Lake, ND to Rugby, ND

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop." - Confucius

This is a cue sheet I used a while back to give me turn by turn directions from A to B!

At	Turn	Onto	For
0	L	Out of church on N Dakota 20 N	1.1
1	L	US-2 W	57.2
58.4	R	5th St SE / Country Rd	0.9
58.5	L	3rd St SE	0.3
58.7	R	2nd Ave SE	0.1
59.1	L	Arrive City of Rugby Memorial Hall - 224 2nd Ave SE	

In addition to the cultural diversity of the recent western ND oil boom industry has brought jobs and money to the state and inflated living costs with it. Having the opportunity to speak with locals and work with affordable housing organizations throughout the trip has inspired me to give back to my community wherever I may end up. I feel like I am fully experiencing every moment of the day especially because I get to spend it with 24 amazing friends. I think often about the kindness we received in Lebanon, NH. I hope you are having a wonderful summer!!

Hannah Langsdale

Thanks to Linda Jacobs for sharing this note from Hannah Langsdale, one of the Bike-&-Builders who stayed at FCC in June. Above: A "cue sheet" of directions in North Dakota, which Hannah included with her note. Below: The group poses for a photo at a build site in Whitefish, MT.

Dear Linda,

Saying hello from Bike & Build in Montana! We've biked a beautiful 3,000 miles so far thru NH, VT, NY, PA, OH, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN, ND, and MT. I've been making time along the way to take spontaneous swims, sip coffee in comfy couches, and take much-needed roadside naps. In addition to learning about myself on the trip, I've been taking in the geographical and cultural diversity of the Northern US. It was both interesting and shocking to learn how the recent western ND oil boom has impacted communities throughout the whole state. The industry has brought jobs and money to the state, but has brought along crime, drug problems, and inflated living costs with it. Having the opportunity to speak with locals and work with affordable housing organizations throughout the trip has inspired me to give back to my community wherever I may end up.

I feel like I am fully experiencing every moment of the day especially because I get to spend it with 24 amazing friends. I think often about the kindness we received in Lebanon, NH. I hope you are having a wonderful summer!!

Hannah Langsdale



MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



Music at the Meetinghouse

COMING IN OCTOBER

All in the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

Friday, October 2, 7:00 pm—The Danaher, Davis, and Turbes Trio

Our own Henry Danaher (on piano) welcomes clarinetist Meghan Davis and violist Jennifer Turbes for an intriguing program of trios by W. A. Mozart, Libby Larsen, and Max Bruch. *Free-will donation to support WISE.*

Friday-Saturday, October 9-10, 6:00-9:00 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 the 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.

Friday, October 30, 7:30 pm—Halloween with Classicopia

More details about this mysterious concert still to come, but we know it will involve... A BASSOON!



JUNEBERRY MUSIC

Choral Singing School

Do you like to sing? Do you want to improve vocal skills and sing in a choir without performance pressure? Would you like to connect with others and improve your health in a choral setting?

Get out of the shower and into the choir!

Founded in 2012, Juneberry Music's Choral Singing School helps people of all ages and backgrounds develop choral singing skills in a fun and affordable way. We welcome you wherever you are, whether completely inexperienced and untrained or more comfortable and ready to challenge yourself. We'll help you reach your choral singing goals—or simply discover what those goals might be! Participants in this 10-week class encounter music from across centuries and cultures, while gaining the skills and confidence to sing in church choirs, community choruses, and other groups.

Saturday Mornings at FCC, September 19 through November 14

First Class 10:15-11:30, Skills Class 11:15-12:30 / Final session in Thetford, Sunday, November 15

Cost—\$90 for full ten-week course, \$12 for drop-in per session

For more information or to register, please visit www.juneberrymusic.com or contact director Patricia Norton (juneberrymusic@gmail.com/802-785-4740).

The Mary Ives Concert Series at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College

ORGAN RECITAL: CHRISTOPHER HOULIHAN

Sunday, September 13, at 4:00 pm / Sanctuary, CCDC, 40 College Street, Hanover

FELLOWSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Friday to Sunday, September 25-27

UCC HORTON CENTER, WHITE MOUNTAINS

This month we will once again join members of Meriden and Hooksett Congregational Churches for a weekend experience of fellowship, recreation, and worship amid gorgeous natural surroundings on Pine Mountain, near Gorham. Although we collaborate with the other churches on some meals and activities, the schedule is completely flexible and open; attending the whole weekend is not required.

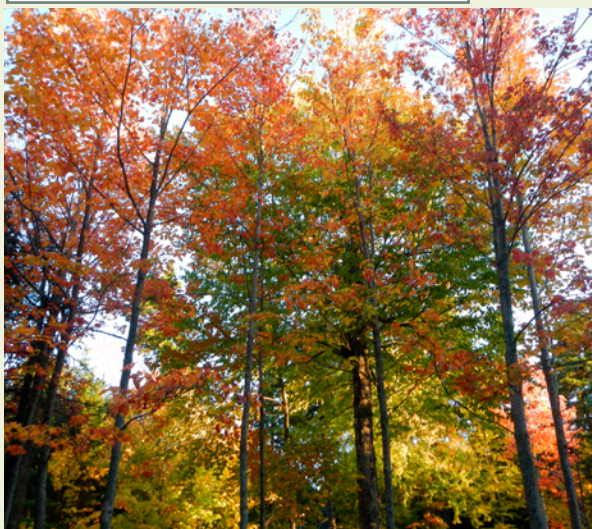
All are invited and encouraged to come, especially families!

Cost is \$25/night (\$20/night for children), including meals; assistance is available from the Diaconate.



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 considering it. Questions and suggestions are welcome; contact the church office or your deacon.



Don't miss this incredible opportunity to build community and faith amid God's creation!

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