

## First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ

SEPTEMBER 2016

# Grace Notes

*The Newsletter of First Congregational Church*

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### **The Pastoral Perspective**

The attractive, hip couple was laughing as they got onto the subway car, apparently having a fun night out together, like generations of young people before them. They found seats, sat down, pulled out their mobile phones, put on their headphones, and slipped into their own private spheres. There on the F train from Coney Island to Manhattan, they were together yet strikingly alone.

Technology can be a wonderful tool, something that can enhance and enrich our lives. If you are like me, you use email and social media to stay in touch with family and friends across the country and maybe even around the world. You may have read a book or scanned the headlines while standing in an interminably long line. As cliché as it sounds, we live in an age of electronic miracles. Yet this boon has a dark side, one I was reminded of as I looked at those twenty-somethings: it can be all too easy for us to lose touch with, even shut out, the people and world around us in favor of our companions and experiences in cyberspace.

That said, the temptation to cut ourselves off from others does not depend simply on our Android devices or iPhones. Instead, it has bedeviled women and men from the very beginning. We need only think of Adam and Eve, ignoring God's one command and losing no time pointing the finger at others when they were caught out. We are able to isolate ourselves by indulging our resentments, nurturing grudges, ignoring our responsibilities to those who depend upon us, or declining to make ourselves vulnerable to those who seek to care for us.

The Christian church—with its witness about God as Trinity, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each unique but all One—teaches us about the mutuality that is at the heart of the universe, reflecting how our Creator intended those made in his image to live: in relationship, in love. As we begin a new program year, I pray that each of us will be blessed to encounter God's love in this gathered

*Continued on Page 7*

# SUNDAY SERVICE



## SEPTEMBER 18 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*

#### **Word Search: The Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of the Bible**

This year our Church School children will explore the Bible in depth, learning about the characters, stories, and historical background of the Judeo-Christian tradition's fundamental text. They will consider how this book has communicated to ancient and modern audiences alike.

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

### **Fifteen Years On:**

#### **A Service of Music and the Word**

**Sunday, September 11, at 10:00 am**

Join us for this special service of music and Scripture, as we mark the fifteenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Framing our service will be the *Lamentations of Jeremiah* by Renaissance composer Thomas Tallis. This highly personal, melancholic, and evocative piece draws on the first verses of the Book of Lamentations, our Scripture for that day. Though composed some 450 years ago, Tallis' music gives voice to the sorrow and pain of all who confront chaos and loss in the present day.

### **COMMUNITY DINNER**

**Sunday, September 25, 5:00 pm**

**Leaders: Women of the Church**

We're grateful to Women of the Church for leading this month's dinner! Please consider helping out with this vital service to our neighbors.

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

### **Worship Transportation**

#### *A Congregational Service*

Some members of our congregation have difficulty getting to Sunday worship on their own. Many others of us have plenty of room in our cars and could easily offer rides. We would like to get these two groups together!

**If you need assistance getting to church, or if you're willing to give a ride to someone else who does, please contact the Church Administrator.**

### **Queued for Coffee Hour**

**September—Diaconate**

**October—Mission and Social Action**

**November—Women of the Church**

# S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> <b>10a</b> Worship <b>No</b> Board of Governors <b>5p</b> Community Dinner	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>31</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN <b>6-9p</b> Bel Canto Auditions	<b>1</b> <b>6-9p</b> Bel Canto Auditions <b>7p</b> Choir ( <i>resumes weekly</i> )	<b>2</b> <b>1p</b> UVIP Listener Training	<b>3</b> <b>8a</b> Men's Breakfast
<b>4</b> <b>10a</b> Worship (Communion) <b>11:15</b> MSA	<b>5</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b> <i>(FCC office closed)</i>	<b>6</b> <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN	<b>8</b> <b>9:30a-4p</b> Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Assn <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>10a</b> Worship ("Fifteen Years On" 9/11 Service); Church School	<b>12</b> <b>7p</b> Diaconate	<b>13</b> <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> <b>8a-4p</b> NH-WIC <b>6p</b> UVPRN <b>7p</b> Christian Ed Committee	<b>15</b> <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>10a</b> Juneberry Music Class
<b>18</b> <b>KICK-OFF SUNDAY!</b> <b>10a</b> Worship and Church School ( <i>Blessing of the Backpacks, bounce house, and lunch!</i> )	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>4-8p</b> UVIP Phone Bank <b>7p</b> Church Council <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts/Troop Committee	<b>21</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN	<b>22</b> <b>10a-6p</b> NH-WIC <b>4-8p</b> UVIP Phone Bank <b>6p</b> UVIP Exec Council <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>23</b> <b>FCC Retreat at Horton Center</b> ( <i>evening arrival</i> )	<b>24</b> <b>FCC Retreat at Horton Center</b> ( <i>continues</i> ) <b>10a</b> Juneberry Music Class
<b>25</b> <b>FCC Retreat at Horton Center</b> ( <i>concludes</i> ) <b>10a</b> Worship and Church School <b>11:15a</b> Board of Governors <b>5p</b> Community Dinner	<b>26</b> <b>3p</b> WCBH After-school Group <b>5:30p</b> Cub Scouts (Tigers) <b>5:45p</b> Cub Scouts (Wolves) <b>OCTOBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE</b>	<b>27</b> <b>4-8p</b> UVIP Phone Bank <b>5:45p</b> Cub Scouts (Webelos) <b>7p</b> Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> <b>6p</b> UVPRN	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> <b>8a</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9a</b> CPR Class <b>10a</b> Juneberry Music Class

If your event is missing or incorrect, please notify us at [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org) or 603-448-4281.

## COMMITTEE NOTES

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Meeting at the end of July, the Board of Governors discussed the funding and specifications involved in the kitchen water-heater proposal.

Wendell Smith, after considering the smaller capacity of an electric system, recommended a propane unit instead; he believes the latter will be less expensive as well.

Wayne Braley recommended that we contract with Valley Floors for refinishing the Parish Hall floor, based on their estimate and their professional attitude. The project would likely take approximately 1-2 weeks. All agreed that it would be best to do this during the summer of next year, so as to minimize any inconvenience.

Brandon Mason noted extensive progress in completing a list of small projects around the church building and grounds, including the Sanctuary, Parish Hall, kitchen,

and bathrooms. Nan Parsons added that the newly re-planted side garden was doing quite well, and she noted a couple other minor landscaping and exterior items.

The Board also reviewed its three-year project plan, focusing on the Sanctuary painting job. Aside from the ceiling work done in 2013, it has apparently been at least 35 years since any painting was done in the Sanctuary, and the Board hopes to finish the project this winter.

### CHURCH COUNCIL

For the **Board of Governors**, John Gilliatt reviewed a variety of repairs and improvements that the Board had completed in the previous few months, for which all expressed gratitude. John also summarized tasks still to be done, including some larger, more ambitious projects in the Sanctuary and around the building exterior.

Council discussed the substantial **Sanctuary painting project**, for which Don Collins has supplied an estimate of around \$57,000. Meant to cover most everything below the coving of the ceiling, the project would be subdivided into three phases—the balcony and loft spaces, the main central space, and the proscenium arch and altar area. Amy Driscoll wondered how the pews (which will not be included) would look afterward in comparison; she also raised the possibility of installing ceiling fans, an idea that many present supported.

Brian Clancy reported on **Henry Danaher's continuing efforts** to include new music and musicians in worship, strengthen the choir, and build FCC's reputation as a supportive environment for music. These efforts include tentative plans to create a designated space for instrumental practice in the church basement.

### *NHC-UCC Annual Meeting 2016*

Saturday, October 22, 8:00 am–4:30 pm

*Registration Now Open*

**Be a part of the experience!** All are welcome—friends, visitors, delegates, lay and ordained church leaders, everyone!—to attend the annual meeting of the NH Conference of the UCC. Come to this day and hear **Music in the Air**, as we worship together, share in communion, fulfill the business of the NH Conference, enjoy fellowship, and experience the many gifts of our keynote speaker and musician, the Rev. Bryan Sirchio.

Further details and registration information are on the meeting page of the NH Conference website (<http://www.nhcucc.org/ConferenceMinistries/ConferenceAnnualMeeting/>).





## COMMITTEE NOTES

While the **Nominating Committee** has been quiet, Amy Driscoll noted the need for more church-wide conversation and education about the most important offices and responsibilities in our governance. Chief among these priorities is financial management.

Adding her ideas about FCC's monthly **Community Dinner**, Amy suggested that the "regular" dinner organizers should perhaps work to recruit and raise awareness among the rest of the congregation about this important service responsibility. She also encouraged the church to be more intentional about kitchen safety and hygiene, with the ultimate goal of adopting best practices in a re-design of the kitchen's work space.

Marcia Corkins reported for **Christian Education** that the Musical Drama Camp had so far been a promising success, with all campers enjoying their experience. Everyone was looking forward to the performance and cookout on Friday. Kick-off Sunday will be September 18 this year, and the year's Church School theme is "Word Search: Exploring the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of the Bible."

For **Mission and Social Action**, Corrine Erskine noted that our work project with the Penobscot Nation in Maine had been postponed, primarily because of logistical challenges and the lack of

essential preparations for the planned site work. Steve Silver added that the collaboration has still been a positive experience, as our members have helped identify the general requirements for such a project in the future.

In his **pastor's report**, Steve Silver reported positively on the worship exchange with West Lebanon Congregational Church. He also previewed September programs, particularly a special September 11 anniversary service featuring the *Lamentations of Jeremiah* by Thomas Tallis. Steve will be participating in the annual Wings of Hope event in Colburn Park on September 10; the choir will also sing at that event. Steve also reminded Council (as he has the Diaconate as well) that he would be eligible for sabbatical in February 2017.

On behalf of the **Trustees and Finance Committee**, Steve noted that Barry Schuster has made good progress reconciling the books. He also brought a proposal to increase the Church Administrator's job by four hours per month to include check-writing, bill-paying, and additional bank deposits—tasks which seem better suited to the centralized location of the office and more consistent and direct contact with our service providers. (Signing of checks would continue to be done by one of the church's designated volunteer officers who currently sign checks.) The proposal passed unanimously.

### September Meetings

*Mission/Social Action and Stewardship* 9/4, 11:15

*Diaconate* 9/12, 7:00

*Christian Education* 9/14, 7:00

*Church Council* 9/20, 7:00

*Board of Governors* 9/25, 11:15

### October Meetings

*Mission/Social Action and Stewardship* 10/2, 11:15

*Diaconate* 10/10, 7:00

*Christian Education* 10/12, 7:00

*Church Council* 10/18, 7:00

*Board of Governors* 10/23, 11:15

### Call for Nominations 5th Annual Micah Awards *Sponsored by UVIP*

**All are welcome to nominate up to three congregation members** who best represent the spirit of UVIP's Micah Awards (only our previous winners, Ron Bailey and Pete Mason, are ineligible). The individual with the most votes will be our Micah Hero for 2016. (As this is an annual award, Micah nominations typically reflect service during the past year.)

**Nominations (up to three per person) must be submitted to the church office no later than TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6.**

***Please contact the church office with any questions.***

## FCC RETREAT AT HORTON CENTER

Friday to Sunday, September 23-25  
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 welcome; contact the church office or your deacon.



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



## THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

**MUSICAL DRAMA CAMP!** Fourteen lively children enjoyed a fun-filled week at our first Musical Drama Camp, with Elizabeth Duvall leading the way in a production of *King David and the National Treasure*. Families shared a festive cookout afterward.



### The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

community of faith. I pray that we will be able to nurture existing relationships and forge new ones, restore those that have frayed and nurture those that could be so much more. I pray that in worship, fellowship, service, and all our common life, we will rejoice and give thanks to God for calling us to a holy and sacred place, where even if we are alone, we are joined together by, in, and through our Maker's grace and love.

Yours faithfully,

Steve



# THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

*Brian,*

Thank you for sending a message to the church membership following my mother's death. It meant a great deal to Dad and me; we've received so many lovely cards and remembrances of my mother from Upper Valley friends as a result.

The last few years have been such a difficult time, losing pieces of Mom first to Alzheimer's Disease, then watching her health continue to fail rapidly after hip replacement surgery in April. We take comfort in the many wonderful times and travels we shared. Lebanon was like a second home to Mom, and the church was her second church home. She loved New England, as we do.

We know that whenever we spend time in nature, whether watching a sunset from her favorite bench on the Maine coast, or planting something new in our garden, she is with us still.

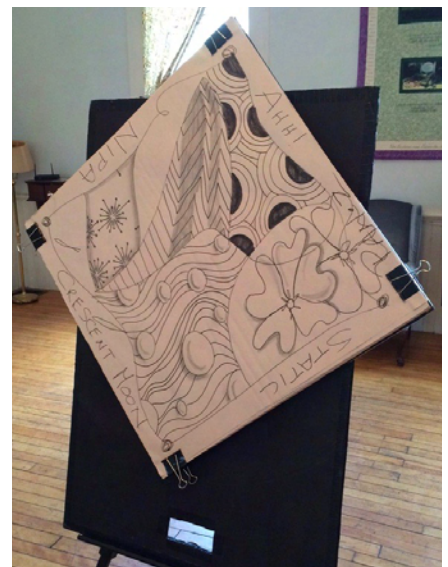
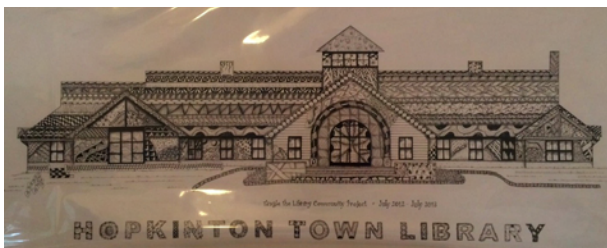
<http://www.greenhills-funeralhome.com/?p=879>

Regards,

*Rachel Smith-Jones*

*Isabelle Smith, Rachel's mother and wife of Kenneth W. Smith, passed away on July 26. Rachel served for a time as FCC's church administrator, and the Smith family has maintained a fond connection with our church even after moving several years ago to Kentucky and Tennessee.*

***The View from Switzerland!*** In late July and early August Pete Mason visited the Swiss Alps with his son Richard, who grew up in our church and was involved here for many years. Pete has traveled and hiked extensively in Europe, but this was his first trip there with Richard.



***Zentangle!***



## THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION



**AUGUST WORSHIP GUESTS.** Our worship exchange with West Lebanon Congregational Church brought an animated Rev. Jeff Scott and lively music to our Sanctuary; on the last Sunday of the month, Kevin Schwartz enjoyed a moment with Finn Danaher.



**CLASSICOPIA!** Large, enthusiastic audiences enjoyed cello and piano on a steamy August 12, then two piano quintets on a somewhat more comfortable night a week later.



## OUR LOCAL MISSION



### Wings of Hope

*Butterfly Release to  
Benefit VNH Hospice*

**Saturday, September 10, 1-3 pm  
Colburn Park (Rain Location: FCC)**

For six years, the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT/NH has offered this memorial and benefit event, honoring the lives which have benefited from hospice care. Steve Silver will once again offer a benediction, and our own choir will sing.

*To participate, you may purchase butterflies to be released for \$20 each, or simply attend as a spectator.*

**For more information, call 888-300-8853 or visit [www.vnhcare.org](http://www.vnhcare.org).**

### *Save the date—and participate!* **2016 Lebanon CROP Walk**

**Sunday, October 9  
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!**—FCC will again host a post-walk meal. We need help!

**Donate!**—Sponsor a walker, or donate online at [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org).



**[www.cropwalk.org](http://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](http://www.cropwalk.org).**

### **CASA of NH**

**Training Wednesday Nights in New London  
September 14 - October 12**

CASA of NH trains compassionate, concerned citizen-advocates for abused and neglected children in the courts. Offering their common sense, skills, and experience in just 10-15 hours a month, these advocates help ensure that children have the chance to grow up in a safe, permanent home.

**For more, contact Diane Valladares at 800-626-0622 or [diane@casanh.org](mailto:diane@casanh.org).**

### **Volunteer at DAVID'S HOUSE!**



In thirty years David's House has welcomed more than 12,500 families from around the world, while their kids get the specialized treatment they need at DHMC next door. David's House is supported by many sources—including our own Church School!—but volunteers are essential to its operations.

**If you're interested in this opportunity, please contact Georgie Sawyer (603-643-2298/ [georgie.sawyer@davids-house.org](mailto:georgie.sawyer@davids-house.org)).**



*Are you 55 or older? Do you enjoy working with children?*

### **You Can Help Change Lives!**

A long-standing federal program invites seniors to serve as tutors and mentors to local children. The Friends Program, a non-profit organization in Concord, has sponsored this initiative in NH since 1970. Working with the age group of their choice, seniors read and listen to children, help them adjust to school-day activities, share their experience and encouragement, and offer guidance during a critical developmental period. They receive a modest, tax-free stipend (without affecting social-security or other benefits), training and support, and meals—as well as an invaluable sense of satisfaction and connectedness.

**For more information and to enroll, visit [www.friendsprogram.org](http://www.friendsprogram.org) or call 603-228-1193.**



# MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



## Music at the Meetinghouse

## COMING IN OCTOBER

In the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

### ***Classicopia: Jewish Jazz—Weekend of October 7-9 (Date/Time TBD)***

Pianist Dan Weiser welcomes a great clarinetist for a program of American jazz composers (details soon!).

### ***Aged to Perfection (with Fast Track)—Saturday, October 15, at 7:00 pm***

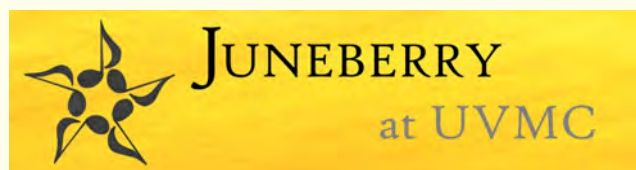
This sensational women's quartet returns with special guests Fast Track, for an entertaining program in a variety of musical genres, including gospel, doo-wop, jazz standards, and barbershop. *Free-will donation.*

### ***Fauré Requiem Open Sing—Sunday, October 16, at 3:00 pm***

With our own Henry Danaher accompanying on piano, Hal Sheeler will conduct this sing-through of Gabriel Fauré's beloved *Requiem* (1890). All are welcome to sing—or just come listen!

### ***Sunflower Woodwind Quartet—Saturday, October 22, at 7:00 pm***

Faith Goodness (flute), Carolyn Stone (bassoon), Steve Jordan (oboe and English horn), and Tom Norton (clarinet) offer their warm, blended sound on a program of music from Europe and the American South.



*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—now affiliated with the Upper Valley Music Center!—helps people of all ages and backgrounds develop 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. Participants in this 16-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..

### **Vocal Exploration Class—Saturday Mornings at FCC, 10:00-11:30 am, Starting September 17**

*Cost—\$25 registration fee, plus \$160 for full 16-week course or \$120 for 8-week “mini-course”*

For more information, complete schedules, and registration, please visit [www.juneberrymusic.com](http://www.juneberrymusic.com) or contact the Upper Valley Music Center ([info@uvmusic.org](mailto:info@uvmusic.org)/603-448-1642).

## **New! JUNEBERRY COMMUNITY CHORUS**

**Rehearsals on Sundays, 3:30-5:00 pm, Starting September 11, UVMC (occasionally at FCC)**

**Contact Juneberry Music for more information. All are welcome!!**

## **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](mailto:church@fccleb.org) • [www.fccleb.org](http://www.fccleb.org)  
Rev. Stephen R. Silver — [silver@fccleb.org](mailto:silver@fccleb.org) • Newsletter Submissions — [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org)



First Congregational Church of Lebanon  
10 South Park Street  
PO Box 230  
Lebanon, NH 03766

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**Music**  
*at the*  
**Meetinghouse**

## COMING IN OCTOBER

In the Sanctuary, First Congregational Church

*Classicopia: Jewish Jazz*—Weekend of October 7-9 (Date/Time TBD)

*Aged to Perfection (with Fast Track)*—Saturday, October 15, at 7:00 pm

*Fauré Requiem Open Sing*—Sunday, October 16, at 3:00 pm

*Sunflower Woodwind Quartet*—Saturday, October 22, at 7:00 pm

### **Fifteen Years On:**

#### **A Service of Music and the Word**

Sunday, September 11, at 10:00 am

A special worship service in commemoration of  
the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks,  
featuring Thomas Tallis' *Lamentations of Jeremiah*.

**SEPTEMBER 18**

## **KICK-OFF SUNDAY!**

The Blessing of the Backpacks, Church School  
registration, and lots of outdoor fun!