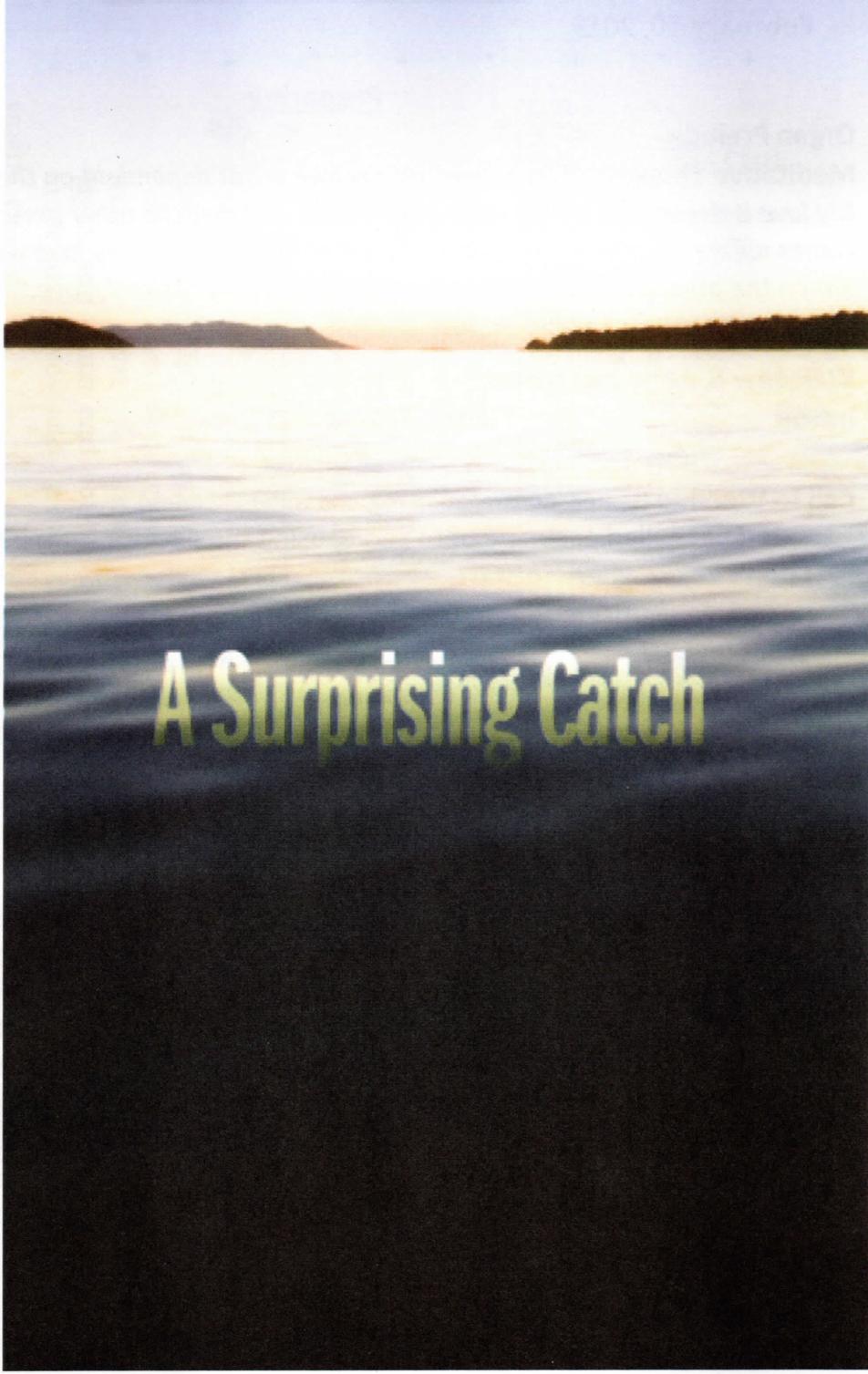


The Congregational Church of Laconia
United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Paula B. Gile, Associate Pastor
K. Robert Bengtson, Director of Music
(603) 524-0668



A Surprising Catch



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Preparing**Organ Prelude**

K. Robert Bengtson

Meditative Thought *"I love, because my love is not dependent on the object of my love. My love is dependent on my state of being. So whether the other person changes, becomes different, friend turns foe, does not matter, because my love was never dependent on the other person. My love is my state of being. I simply love."* from "The Celtic Christian Tradition Facebook post

Welcome & Announcements**Introit***"Enter, Rejoice and Come In"*

Chancel Choir

Praising**Call to Worship** (seated Congregation respond with bold print.)

God has called each one of to serve, using the gifts we have been given.

I don't know where to start.

Place your trust in God's guidance.

What if I fail?

God is with you - place your trust in God's presence.

Help me, O God, to trust in you and in your gracious gifts to me.

Help me to serve others in your name. Amen.

Opening Hymn"The Summons"*

Insert

Invocation (unison)

Gracious God, we come to you this day, seeking your guidance and strength.

You have called us to ministries for which we often feel inadequate. Help us to understand that it is your love that will support and sustain our efforts. Give us the courage to place our trust in your abiding presence. We pray this in the name of the one who is our companion along the way, Jesus the Christ who taught us to pray: *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever.*

Amen

A Moment with our Children

Rev. Paula Gile

***Passing of the Peace & the Gloria**

*Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle,
Halle, Hall-lu-jah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

Musical Offering *"Teach me, My God and King"* Arlen Clark

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Sermon *"The Greatest Gift"* Rev. Neil Wilson

Meditative Moment

Prayer Preparation *"O, Lord, Hear My Prayer"* Taize

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Pastoral Prayer

(Yellow prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate.)

Prayer Response *"Amen"* Chancel Choir

Committing

Stewardship Invitation & Response

Offertory *"Celtic Laud"* Pamela Martin and Craig Courtney

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

***Prayer of Consecration/Dedication** (unison)

Thank you, O God, for the gifts of your people. Help us that we rely not on our own understanding in the use of these gifts, but to seek your wisdom. Knowing that as we do, your will be revealed and your people near and far will be blessed. Amen

Going to Serve

***Closing Hymn** *"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"* # 82

***Pastoral Benediction**

Benediction Response *"Go Now in Peace"*

Organ Postlude

***Rise, if able and moved.**

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

Today, Feb. 10 - 10:45 a.m. Bell Choir Practice

11:00 a.m. Wills & Trusts w/ Pat Woods

4:00 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast

9:30 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast

Monday, Feb. 11 - 4:00 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast

Tuesday, Feb. 12 - 7:00 p.m. Property & Finance Committee Mtg

7:00 p.m. Stitches of Love Knitting Circle

Wednesday, Feb. 13 - 6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 14 - 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Next Sunday, Feb. 17 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Some Announcements

TODAY - Wills & Trust Sharing a Legacy Planning Series The Stewardship Committee has organized a series of three information sessions which address important components of legacy planning and sharing. These information sessions will be held on the second Sunday of the months of February, March, and April. The talks will be held in the Church Library at 11:00, immediately following coffee hour. Each session will last about one hour. We invite you to attend. February 10 - Wills and Trusts with Pat Wood

"We Are All One Humanity!" Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Celebration

TODAY 3:00 - 5:00 pm Here in the Church Hall, downstairs.

Guest speakers:

Dr. Dottie Morris, Assoc. V.P. Diversity & Inclusion, Keene State University

Seifu Ragassa, Chief, Probation & Parole Officer Carroll County

All are welcome! Refreshments sponsored by the Laconia Human Relations Committee.

Welcome & Information

Welcome to our service of worship! Please introduce yourself to those sitting near you & use a pew rack card to inform us of requests.

Wireless hearing assistance devices, back cushions, large print bulletins & children's bulletins are available; please ask an usher.

Faith Formation: After the Moment with our Children, children/youth in grades 1-8 are invited to meet across The Bridge in the Yellow Room. We are currently learning about the Love of Neighbor through a variety of experiences and service projects. Confirmation students are welcome to join in the fun and assist the younger kids.

Children's Offering: With great enthusiasm the children are collecting money to donate to World Vision to provide clean water to communities in need. Many Church members are contributing by donating coins in the Change for the Church containers available at each door. Place filled containers in the offering plate or give them to one of the young people.

Nursery & Child Care: Children younger than 1st grade are welcome in the Nursery before the service begins or following the Moment with our Children. Please escort your child to the Nursery room across The Bridge and pick them up after the service. Visitors are always welcome!

Yellow prayer request cards are available in pews. Write your request(s) and place them in the offering plate. Our prayer disciples will pray during the week.

Our Service is video recorded and published. Please speak to one of our ushers if you have any concerns.

Our Greeters today are Maureen and Richard Bastille

Today's Ushers are John Walker, Carolyn and Bob Hunt, Doug Teegarden

The Altar Flowers today are for all those we love given by LuAnn Mussari and Brad Geltz

Join us for a time of fellowship downstairs following the service for refreshments served by the Property & Finance Committee. Fair Trade is served in biodegradable cups. We are a *Just Peace* Church caring for our environment.

A Surprising Catch

Racial Justice Sunday / Science and Technology Sunday

Apparently, being the church is not all potlucks and Bible study, Christmas bazaars and picnics, preaching and marching for justice. Apparently, according to Luke's Gospel, it's also about deep sea fishing. That is, very specifically, deep water fishing. If you want to catch a lot of fish then you must put your nets out into deep water. Of course, the fish Luke is talking about are not mackerel and blue fin tuna, they are people. They are the people Luke envisions coming from all parts of the world to worship in Jerusalem and come to understand God through the person of Jesus Christ.

What does it mean in your community for your church to put its "nets" out into deep waters.

Our denomination is casting our evangelical nets more broadly and effectively through reorganization. The United Church of Christ is hoping that by combining some of its offices we will be able to spread the good news of the UCC in a way that will benefit the local church. We have launched a newly organized team called OPTIC.

OPTIC is the Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity and Communication. We believe that combining our communications and marketing with philanthropy and technology will enable the casting of our nets into deeper waters. Our denomination believes that there are people out there waiting to see our vision, hear our voice and understand the wide-welcome and just-world creating church that is the UCC. Finding these audiences, developing them and welcoming them into our churches is what this new team is about.

One of the many initiatives of this new team is to work closely with those planning the next General Synod. The newly minted "Shine" logo is part of that work. There will be roll outs of innovative resources for local congregations and an attention to how we can put our collective nets into deeper waters. After all, the church is called to grow and to call disciples, not simply to exist. Our passion for spreading the good news is as deep as our belief in a God who offers an extravagant welcome and longs for us to live in a Just World for All – where love of neighbor, love of children and love of creation are woven in the net cast for all of us in the UCC.

Look at ucc.org for word of what is happening with your OPTIC team and see the new logo for General Synod 2019.

