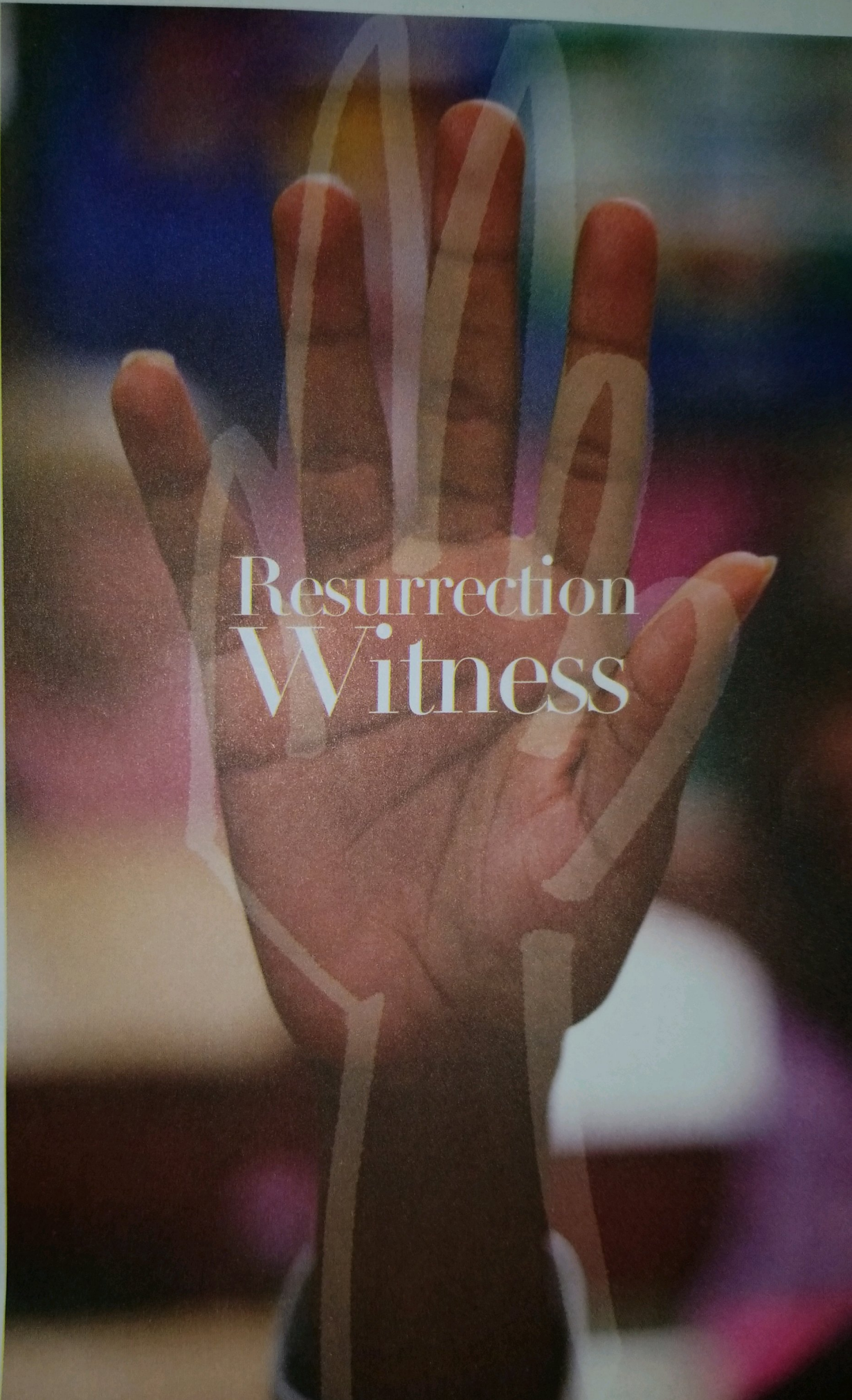
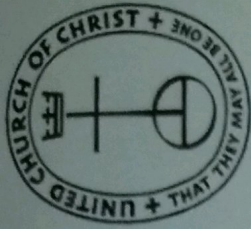


The Congregational Church of Laconia
United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Paula B. Gile, Associate Pastor
K. Robert Bengtson, Director of Music
603.524.0668

A close-up photograph of a human hand, palm facing forward, with several translucent, colorful ribbons (yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, blue, green) draped over the fingers and palm. The background is blurred, showing other people in a crowd.

Resurrection Witness

Gathering ~ for Worship

April 28, 2019

9:30 a.m.

+ * + * + * + * + *
The Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ, is a welcoming Christian community with a scriptural foundation seeking Justice and peace for all.

Preparing

Organ Prelude

K. Robert Bengtson

Meditative Thought

The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not the empty tomb, but the full hearts of transformed disciples. The crowning evidence that he lives is not a vacant grave, but a spirit-filled fellowship. Not a rolled-away stone, but a carried-away church."

Welcome & Announcements

Prayer

"Gather Us In"

Chancel Choir

Praising

to Worship (seated) Congregational response is the bold print.

Come in the wake of the Rising of the One we call Christ.

We gather as a people of sanctuary, as a people of Sabbath, ever seeking God's presence,

We gather in the awe of the new life around us.

We gather to worship, praise, sing and pray,

We gather to open our hearts and to invite God in.

We gather to ignite our passion to serve. Alleluia, Alleluia

Evening Hymn

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

252

Invocation (unison)

O Risen Christ, be with us this day. We recognize your wounded hands; they tell us that you know what it is to struggle and suffer, and to prevail in the power of love. Some of our days are filled with worries, questions, injustices and disappointments. Come, God of love and receive our burdens as we empty our cares into your loving hands. Extend to us your joy. We pray the prayer Jesus taught us; 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

Moment with our Children

Tim Hughes, Director of Horton Center

Blessing of the Peace & the Gloria

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle,

Halle, Hall-lu-jah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Musical Offering

"Our Father"

Chancel Choir

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Reading

Acts 5: 27-32

New International Readers Version

Sermon

"Only Witnesses"

Rev. Paula Gile

Meditative Moment

Prayer Preparation

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Pastoral Prayer

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

Prayer Response

"Amen"

Chancel Choir

Committing

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

"Grace"

Chancel Choir

***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**

Loving God, may these gifts contribute to making the world a better and safer place. May they help to change lives and be a blessing of justice and peace in the world you love! Amen.

Going to Serve

"We are Called"

Inse

***Closing Hymn**

***Commissioning (responsive)**

We have worshipped God.

We have listened for God's word.

Let us go forward sharing God's word!

We go now into the world as instruments of God's peace.

***Pastoral Benediction**

Benediction Response

"Celtic Alleluia"

Chancel Choir

Organ Postlude

*** Rise if able and moved**

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

Today, Apr. 28 - 10:45 a.m. Bell Choir Practice
4:00 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
9:30 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Monday, Apr. 29 - 4:00 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Tuesday, Apr. 30 - 6:30 p.m. Education Ministries
7:00 p.m. Stitches of Love Knitting Circle
Wednesday, May 1 - 6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee Mtg.
Thursday, May 2 - 7:30 a.m. National Prayer Breakfast
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
Today, May 5 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Some Announcements

Today, Welcome to Tim Hughes, Director of Horton Center who will be participating in today's worship. Tim will also be at Fellowship Time, showing a short video about Horton Center. Make sure to introduce yourself.

May 2, Thursday at 7:30 a.m. National Inter-Faith Prayer Breakfast at St. Andre Bessette Parish Hall, Gilford Ave. Tickets are \$12, at the church office. Proceeds are shared between Camp Resilience and the Field of Flags. Make checks out to Inter-Faith Prayer Breakfast.

May 11, Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. NHCUCC Women's Spring Gathering and Annual Meeting at First Congregational Church, 5089 Union Street, Manchester. This year's theme is "*Everyday Brings New Choices.*" \$12 registration fee includes lunch. Make checks out to NHCUCC Women's Fellowship and send with registration to Trudie Bergeron, 46 Nantucket Place, Greenland, NH 03840. Contact Trudie at trudieglenn@yahoo.com or 603.828.4200.

May 20, Monday at Noon and/or 6:30 p.m. Book Club with Martha Book: *Ordinary Grace* by William Krueger. See the most recent News Blast!

May 26, Sunday 2:00 p.m. Field of Flags The Greater Laconia Ministerial Association Laconia, VFW and the American Legion Post 1 are sponsoring a Field of Flags for the Memorial Day weekend. The flags will be all around the church and the flagpole in Veterans Square. Please see the website or Tower Tidings for more specifics about the event.

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 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.

Our Greeters today are Maurine and Dick Bastille

Today's Ushers are Catherine Tokarz, Sue and David Smith

The Altar Flowers today are given *In loving memory of Edward Barent Grevatt, Pastor of Laconia Congregational Church, UCC 1971-2001*, given by Mary Lou, Carla and Rick

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 5:27-32

April 28, 2019

Resurrection Witness Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Sunday

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." Acts 5:27-32

Today we sing a song of joy and thanksgiving for a new day. The psalmist calls the people to rise up and rejoice as branches bursting with renewed life. After the night of persecution, confusion and death, there is new light and hope! The risen Jesus enters our fearful lives, offers us peace, and sends us to cooperate with God's abundant grace throughout the whole of creation.

Faithful witnesses all of them, Peter and the Apostles, risking death and public humiliation because they must preach what they preach. New church starts are kind of like that, though usually without the death part, because they have no building or traditions born of "we've always done it this way." They have only the way in which they proclaim their faith and their hope. Just like Peter in the Book of Acts, pastors planting new churches have only themselves and the genuine message of their personal testimony to convince and invite. Such is the ministry of The Lighthouse Church of Chicago.

The Lighthouse Church is 5-year-old church plant called by God to be, "passionate about Jesus and serious about Justice." Lighthouse is a predominately African American LGBT-inclusive church that welcomes all people. They follow the life, teachings, and ministry of Jesus Christ, believing that God has offered the greatest love story in all of human history: the story of a God who has come to us in human form, lived, died, rose, and is soon to come again. From faith, Lighthouse takes serious the call towards Justice. Lighthouse welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, races, ethnicities, and class—beloved not in spite of the gospel, but because of the gospel. And anywhere they experience -isms or -phobias at work in the world, they commit to work to uproot them, inspired by the example of Christ. Pastor Jamie Frazier says of the Lighthouse Church of Chicago: "It is wonderful to be so utterly supported by all levels of the United Church of Christ, including National! Words cannot express the pleasure and honor it is to pastor the incredible folks at Lighthouse."

Learn more about Lighthouse here: <http://www.lighthousechicago.org>.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE