

## Dates & Meetings

May 2 - Na. Prayer Breakfast  
May 5 - 11:00 Maine Mission  
Info Session  
May 7 - 6:30 Membership  
Committee Mtg  
May 8 6:30 p.m. Deacons Mtg  
May 11 - 9:30 NHCUCC Women's  
Gathering  
May 12 - Mother's Day  
May 14 - 7:00 Property &  
Finance Committee Mtg  
May 15 - 6:30 Council Mtg  
May 19 - 11:00 Medical  
Planning  
3:00 Pastor Neil's Installation  
May 20 - Noon or 6:30 Book  
Club  
May 21 - Ed Ministry Mtg  
May 25 - Field of Flags  
May 26 - 2:00 Flag Dedication  
May 27 Church Office Closed

Stitches of Love meets every  
Tuesday at 7 pm  
Choir practice is every  
Thursday 7 pm  
Bell Choir practices Sundays  
10:45 am

# Tower Tidings



May 1, 2019

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,  
What a busy but wonderful Holy Week we just celebrated at the Congregational Church of Laconia! Organ recital, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday meal and service the Good Friday Service hosted by our sister church in Sanbornton and the wonderful celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday! But even as I look back on these I'm drawn to what is coming up in May and on into the summer.

May 2 there is the Lakes Region National Day of Prayer Inter-faith Prayer Breakfast. On May 5 after worship we will be having an informational meeting about the mission trip planned for July to the Housing Rehabilitation Program of the Maine Seacoast Mission. Mother's Day on May 12 is an important day for many families. Then there is my installation Sunday May 19 3:00 p.m. Martha Clement is hosting a Book Club on the book "*Ordinary Grace*" beginning Monday May 20. Then towards the end of the month there will be a dedication of the "Field of Flags" on Memorial Sunday and then on Monday the community Memorial Day parade will stop by the church.

More about most of these events can found in this edition of the Tower Tidings. All this is to say that the life of our congregation and its involvement with our greater Laconia community does not take a break after Easter or during the summer as those of you involved with GOT Lunch Laconia know well!

A little bit more about my installation service I know it has been a few years since one has taken place here! This is a service of the Merrimack Association where "at the request of a local church, confirms and celebrates the covenant between a local church and a newly called pastor and teacher and reaffirms the covenantal relationship between all the churches in the association." (United Church of Christ Book of Worship 1986).

Some may ask why now you've been here eight months already! True it did take some time to get all the proper authorizations and credentials from one association/

*continued on page two*



*How we do anything is  
how we do everything*

*continued from page one "Pastor's Letter"*

conference to another, yet as you can see from the description it is a celebration not just of this congregation but of the entire Merrimack Association. We all pastors and parishioners need to be reminded every once in a while that we are not alone that we are part of a larger Church with a upper case "C"! And it is good to come together in celebration.

I have invited the Rev. Stephen Gray to preach. Steve is a retired UCC clergy living in Maine, who served on the Massachusetts Conference staff and as the Conference Minister of the Indiana/Kentucky Conference during my years in that conference.

There will be lots of music, the Santus Bells will be performing along with Tim Hazelton on horn and of course Bob Bengtson at the keyboard of the organ and perhaps piano! I hope to see you there.

Looking forward to seeing you and some mayflowers!



*Pastor Neil Wilson*



## Maine Mission Trip

**July 14-19 Sunday thru Friday or Saturday  
Maine Sea Coast Mission Down East Campus  
Cherryfield, Maine**

There will be an information and organizing meeting for the Maine Seacoast mission trip on Sunday, May 5 at 11:00AM in the Church Library. This is a great opportunity to give back to a community in need!

We will be working on the housing rehabilitation project organized by the Maine Sea Coast Mission. The purpose of the project//mission is to provide home repairs and property weatherization for low income home owners so that their dwellings are safe, warm and dry in the Maine Seacoast area. We do **need** volunteers of all stripes - help do basic construction work, kitchen help, etc. as well as a few that have construction experience.

Please consider joining us on the important mission. If you cannot make it, we **do** need help from others in the form of donations for some that are going. The cost for going is \$175pp. This covers basic accommodations, project coordination, etc. We hope you will give for some that cannot afford this cost but want to go and help.

Dates: July 14<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> (Sun. - Fri. or Sat.) Location: Maine Sea Coast Mission Down East Campus, Cherryfield, Maine is a 5 hour drive.

Housing Rehabilitation Program

<https://www.seacoastmission.org/what-we-do/housing-rehabilitation-program/>

Maine Sea Coast Mission <https://www.seacoastmission.org/>

## A Note From Paula

It's finally looking like springtime. Time when the trees, flowers and grass seem to awaken and come back to life (along with the bears) from the dormant time of winter. I came across this poem by Joyce Rupp, I encourage you all to take several quiet moments and pray this message of Awaken Me. May it fill you and awaken your spirit as it does mine.

Awaken Me by Joyce Rupp

Risen One,  
Come, meet me  
In the garden of my life.  
Lure me into elation.  
Revive my silent hope.  
Coax my dormant dreams.  
Raise up my neglected gratitude.  
Entice my tired enthusiasm.  
Give life to my faltering relationships.  
Roll back the stone of my indifference.  
Unwrap the deadness in my spiritual life.  
Impart heartiness in my work.  
Risen One,  
Send me forth as a disciple of your unwavering

love,  
A messenger  
Of your unlimited joy.  
Resurrected One,  
May I become  
Ever more convinced  
That your presence lives on,  
And on, and on,  
And on.  
Awaken me!  
Awaken me!

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## Sharing a Legacy Planning Seminars Continue

The successful Sharing a Legacy planning seminars continue in May and June to complete the four seminar series. Church members have responded positively to the events. Several of the discussions will be available on the church website in the near future.

The next seminar is "Medical Planning" (living wills, etc.) With Maria Babineau MSW. Maria is a Social Worker in Central VNA/Hospice. Her presentation will cover planning for your Advance Care Directives, DNR's, etc. Participants may request help completing these forms after the presentation. The date for this session is: Sunday, May 19 at 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Church Library.

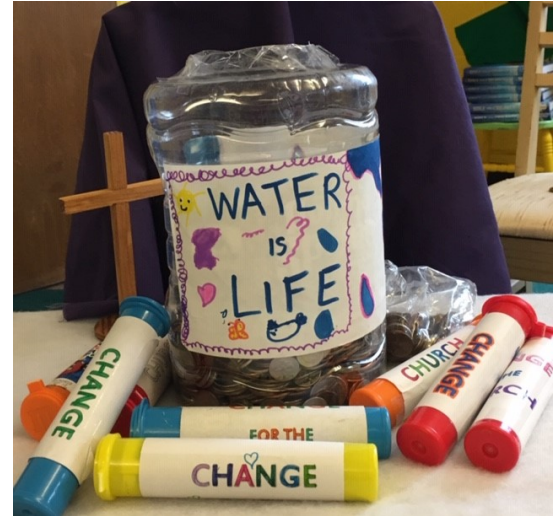
The final seminar is "What I Want My Church to Know". (Or "What I would like my pastor to say about me after I'm gone!") This session led by

Pastor Neil. This is an opportunity to consider what you want your family and church to know when it comes time to plan your funeral or memorial service. Your wishes might include, but are not limited to hymns, scripture readings, poetry, etc. Attendees will be offered the opportunity to complete a form that describes these wishes. Forms will be also available for all church members after the seminar. A copy of the form stating your preferences can be kept at the church office if you so choose. The date for this session is: Sunday, June 9 at 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Church Library.



## CHANGE FOR THE CHURCH!

The Faith Formation group is completing their fund-raising for CLEAN AND CLOSE WATER through WORLD VISION. So far, we've collected over \$700 and our goal is to raise \$1000 by June 9. Please bring in your coins on any Sunday and we'll try to fill up the water jug for the third time!



Look what Joey found!

Got Easter Eggs!?  
Too Cute!



Oh! Another one!



Jesse struck gold!



## Confirmation Class Photo Album



Hamming it up!

## Prayer, Prose and Potpourri



The New Hampshire Conference UCC Women's Fellowship has a special project in the works.

In 1984 and 1997 the First and Second Editions were printed offering prayers and words of encouragement and support to anyone who read it. Now we are working on the Third Edition for publication in September 2019.

tion for publication in September 2019.

We are asking for contributions from our church members and friends for this Third Edition.

Please email your contributions to Margie Kreitler, Chair of the NH Women's Fellowship to [mvkreitler@gmail.com](mailto:mvkreitler@gmail.com).

Please include your name, telephone number and the name of the your church along with your submission.

Submissions need to be received by July 15 to allow for preparing the publication for print.

Thank you in advance,  
NH Women's Conference

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## 21st Century Church Update

*Submitted by LuAnn Mussari*

The Creating and Leading the 21st Century Church group of the Congregational Church of Laconia-UCC is actively preparing for your participation in the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT). The CAT is a quick, customized assessment instrument that we will access online. It can help our leaders:

- Measure the level of satisfaction and energy in our congregation.
- Identify the critical success factors for improving organizational climate.
- Pinpoint the strengths of our congregation's culture.
- Discover where members would like to go in the future.
- Gauge readiness for change.

Uncover potential resources we may be missing. In other words, the CAT will give YOU a voice in creating a healthy, vibrant future for our church. Keep us in your prayers, and be ready to contribute your thoughts when the CAT is ready to be accessed in June!

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## Book Club with Martha

**Monday, May 20**

**Noon or 6:30 p.m.**

**Beane Room**

**Book:** Ordinary Grace by William Kent

Told from the perspective of a man forty years after that fateful summer of 1961 when his small, quiet town was suddenly filled with death, family secrets and betrayal. This is a story of mystery, conflict, questioning, hope, and grace. Join Martha Clement for a discussion.





## Happy May Birthdays!



May 1  
Somchit Outhoummontry

May 2  
Ed Darling

May 3  
Jessica Dade  
Nicole Levasseur

May 5  
Diane Wells  
Phorn Havonglasan  
Thomas Southworth

May 6  
Chandra Hazelton

May 7  
Allen Gauthier  
Ellen Valovanie

May 8  
Gregory Thompson

May 12  
Ed Warfield

May 13  
Florence Merrill

May 14  
Valerie Sargent  
Caleb McCarty

May 16  
Rebecca Guyer

May 18  
Ralph Sellars, Jr.  
Brady Reynolds

May 20  
Karen Kurz

May 21  
Don Clark  
Susan Izard

May 23  
Andrew Giovanni  
Jennifer Moholland-Black  
Daniel Smith

May 24  
Ginny Barunas

May 25  
Olie Anderson  
Hannah Glines

May 26  
Louise Bastille

May 27  
Sheryl Weeks

May 28  
Kelly Dow  
Kendall Myers

May 29  
Bobbie Morin

May 31  
Joan Geary  
Jennah Valovanie



**May 2, Thursday at 7:30 a.m.**

### National Inter-Faith Prayer Breakfast

St. Andre Bessette Parish Hall, Gilford Ave. Stop by the church office to purchase your ticket for \$12. Proceeds will be 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 Sprint 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. Call Trudie with questions 603.828.4200 or [trudieglenn@yahoo.com](mailto:trudieglenn@yahoo.com).

**May 18, Saturday 11:00 a.m.**

### Ceremony at Meadowbrook

Elena Anderson is graduating with a degree in Culinary Arts.





Congregational  
Church of Laconia,  
UCC  
18 Veterans Square  
Laconia NH 03246

Church office hours  
Monday thru Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Church office closed  
Memorial Day**

**May 27**

Senior Pastor:  
Rev. Neil Wilson  
neil@laconiaucc.org

Associate Pastor:  
Rev. Paula B. Gile  
paula@laconiaucc.org

Financial Secretary:  
Carolyn Jorgensen  
carolyn@laconiaucc.org

Editor-in-Chief:  
Camille Gibson  
churchoffice@laconiaucc.org

## Field of Flags

The Greater Laconia Ministerial Association, Laconia Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Post 1 are jointly sponsoring a Field of Flags for Memorial Day Weekend. The "Field", will be located on the lawns of the Congregational Church of Laconia and around the city flag pole in Veteran's Square. They will be on display from May 25 thru May 27, in time for the Memorial Day Parade in Laconia.

3936 flags will be on display representing each of the names on the Veterans Memorial in downtown Laconia, which includes people from Belknap County who fought in the Spanish American War, WWI, WWII and Korea. Anyone wishing to honor or remember anyone who has served since the Korean War or who is not from Belknap County, may make a donation of any amount in his or her name. All the names will be listed and posted at the site of the "Field of Flags". Please send



or stop into the church office with your donation, the name (clearly printed) and in the memo line "Field of Flags". Donations will be used to purchase the flags and any funds remaining will be equally shared with the Laconia Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion Post 1.

Sunday, May 26 at 2:00 p.m. there will be a flag dedication. All are invited to attend this meaningful dedication. Immediately following the dedication people are invited into the Congregational Church for a brief time of singing patriotic songs.

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## New Beginnings Needs the Following . . .

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Twin size blankets            | Socks                    |
| Full size blankets and sheets | Women & Kids undies      |
| Laundry detergent             | Reusable bags            |
| Fabric softener               | All purpose cleaners     |
| Disinfecting wipes            | Sweat shirts/sweat pants |
| Loofahs                       | Diapers sizes 4,5,6,     |
| Binders and notebooks         | Kids clothing            |
| Crayons and markers           | Toilet paper             |
| Backpacks (adult and kid)     |                          |