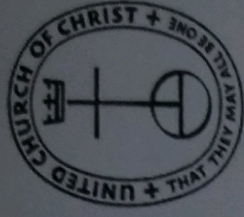
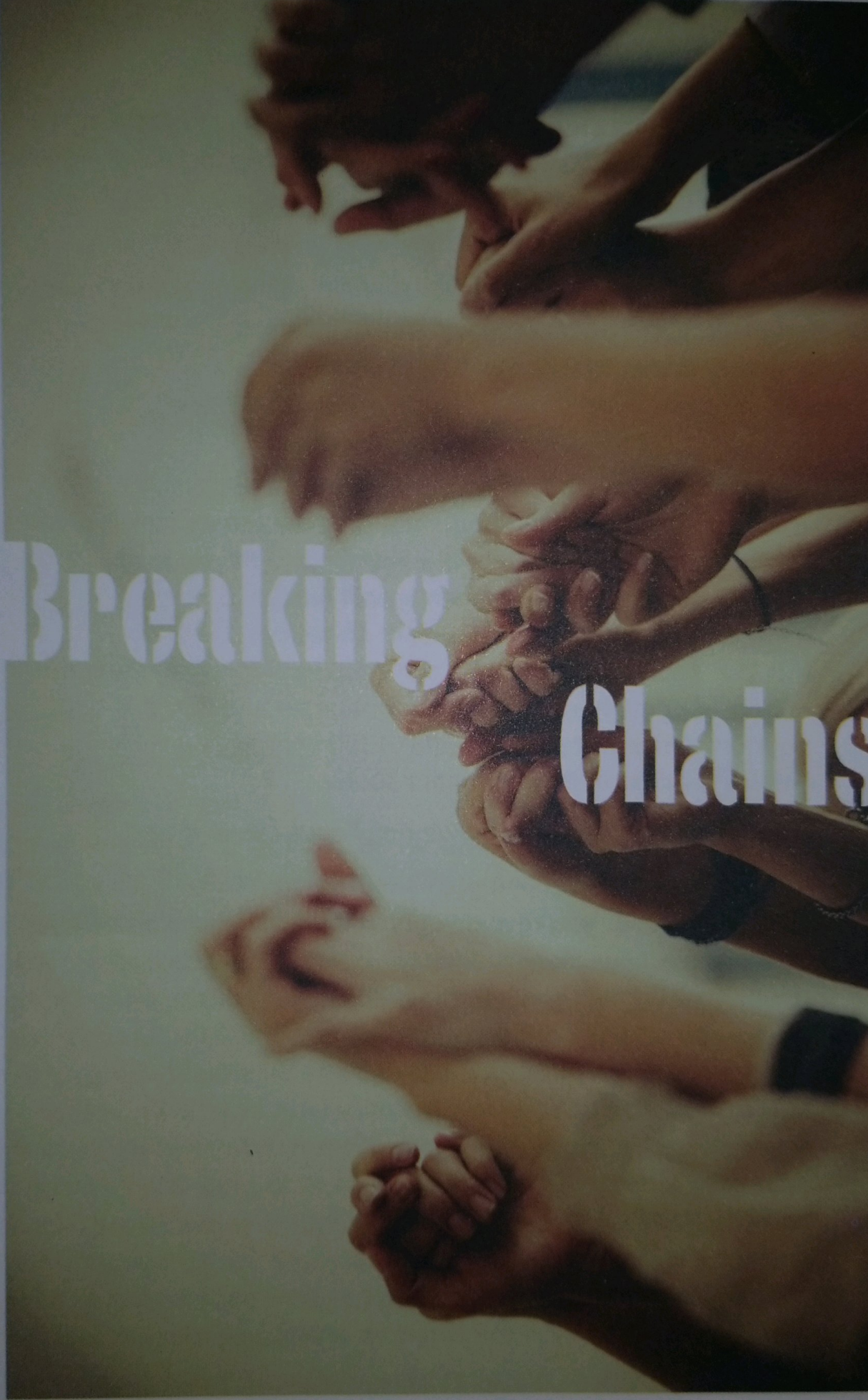


The Congregational Church of Laconia  
United Church of Christ  
18 Veterans Square  
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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



# Breaking Chains



## Gathering ~ for Worship

June 2, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

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** *"You may say that I'm a dreamer, But I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one."* — John Lennon, *Imagine*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit**

*"This Little Light of Mine"*

Chancel Choir

### Praising

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

Only the hungry search for bread. Only the thirsty look for water.

**This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.**

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

**This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.**

So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,

our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

**And let the God of life satisfy our souls.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*"I've Got Peace Like a River"*

# 478

**Invocation** (unison)

**Mysterious God, you reveal yourself in Jesus, your Beloved Child who gives us a glimpse your glory and invites us to share in the unity of all that is Holy: the holiness that is You, your creation, your people, united in the Spirit that breaks through all boundaries of fear and injustice. Teach us to be one in love for each other and all Creation; one in understanding with all who find in Jesus the Way to You, one in peace with all who find other paths to your Truth. We ask all this in the name of Jesus, whose fervent prayer was ever: "May they all be one." and 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.***



## Chancel Choir

**Rev. Paula Gile**

### **\*Passing of the Peace & the Gloria**

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

## Reflecting & Praying

Pew Bible p. 985

**Rev. Neil Wilson**

## Meditative Moment

## 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.)

## Chancel Choir

## Committing

## Stewardship Invitation

## Chancel Choir

**Doxology** (Note the change in words)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:*

*Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

**\*Prayer of Consecration/Dedication (Unison)**

**We present this gifts and dedicate them, O God, to the work that you have called us to be about through this church and in our community. AS we have been blessed and gifted, may these gifts be a blessing to all who are touched by the ministry they represent. Amen.**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** (Non-alcoholic juice is used for Communion.)

## Centering Words

When our days become over-busy and our spirits are worn and bleached like driftwood...

**May we be flooded with a downpour of encouragement!**

## When we take things for granted and gratitude goes to sleep...

**May a new song be put on our tongues.**

**When life's abrasive pressures fray us, losing our hold on the Still Center...**

May we be told again about sparrows and nesting robins, about daffodils and lilac blossoms, and the Parent who knows our every need.

Silence

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at this table with it's symbols of God's Creative Presence.

In company with all who seek nourishment at this table, we come to celebrate community, and to share these life-giving symbols.

Communion Prayer

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Going to Serve

\*Closing Hymn

*"The Church's One Foundation"*

# 386

Pastoral Benediction

Benediction Response

*"Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name"*

Chancel Choir

Organ Postlude

\*Rise, if able and moved.

### **This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings**

Sunday Jun 2 - 10:45 a.m.	Bell Choir Practice
4:00 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
9:30 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Monday Jun 3 - 4:30 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Tuesday Jun 4 - 7:00 p.m.	Stitches of Love Knitting Ministry
Wednesday Jun 5 - 6:30 p.m.	Membership Committee Mtg
6:30 p.m.	Outreach Committee Mtg
Thursday Jun 6 - 6:30 p.m.	Stewardship Committee Mtg
7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday Jun 8 - 11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service - Ralph Plumer, Jr.
3:00 p.m.	Memorial Service - Betty Howard
Sunday June 9 - 9:30 p.m.	Sunday Worship

## 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.** Please speak to one of our ushers if you have any concerns.

**Our Greeters** today are Hollis Thompson, Dave (Last name not known at time of printing!)

**Today's Ushers** are Martha Crane, Bob Phillips, Marilyn Lynch, Dave Lynch

**The Altar Flowers today** are *"In gratitude to the Congregational Church of Laconia,"* given by Phyllis MacDonald.

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

June 2, 2019

Acts 16:16-34

## Breaking Chains

There's a reason The Book of Acts is not called The Book of Hanging Around Doing Nothing. This book, which tells the story of the second generation of Jesus' followers, is definitely the adventure story of the New Testament. Full of perilous journeys, sometimes-deadly confrontations, and miraculous encounters, you can almost picture it as a comic book, "Kapow!" and "Blam!" exploding in bright colors from the margins.

Having freed a slave and, in so doing, robbed the slave-owner of his ill-gotten livelihood, Paul and his trusty sidekick Silas are taken prisoner! Dragged to the center of town, attacked by a crowd, stripped of their clothing and beaten, our heroes find themselves thrown into the local slammer! Kapow! Blam! In a comic book, Paul and Silas would use their superpowers (Invisibility? Incredible strength? Shooting magma out of their ears?) to escape the prison and exact revenge on those who have wronged them.

But Acts is not a comic book after all, because the story doesn't end here. Indeed, God's story is just beginning. Once in prison, Paul and Silas draw on one of the most transformative superpowers of God's people – they begin to sing together. When they sing, they strengthen themselves after a painful ordeal. When they sing, they bring a measure of comfort to those around them, who have also suffered unimaginable trials. When they sing, walls crumble and chains are broken. And look! It's not just the prisoners who are freed by their hymns. The jailer, too, is freed from the bondage of being a cog in the machinery of punishment. In the song God helps them sing, there is not such a neat division between the good guys and the bad guys – just people, together, in need of freedom and redemption.

In a moment, you will raise your voices together in song. Remember when you sing in a community, that you are not just making your way through a series of notes and words. You are using one of your most potent superpowers, stronger than any kapow or blam. So, sing like it's your superpower. Sing to warm yourself. Sing to comfort the imprisoned. Sing to knock down walls. Sing to break chains. Sing to bring people toward the Holy One. Sing because we all, whether powerful or powerless, await salvation.

Holy Spirit - We raise our voices in song. May the words and the tunes together fill us with joy and comfort, strengthen us with resilience and courage, lead us toward freedom and salvation. And may we, through our songs, bring those gifts to all the world. Amen.

