

The Congregational Church of Laconia

United Church of Christ

18 Veterans Square

Laconia, NH 03246-3425

Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Senior Pastor

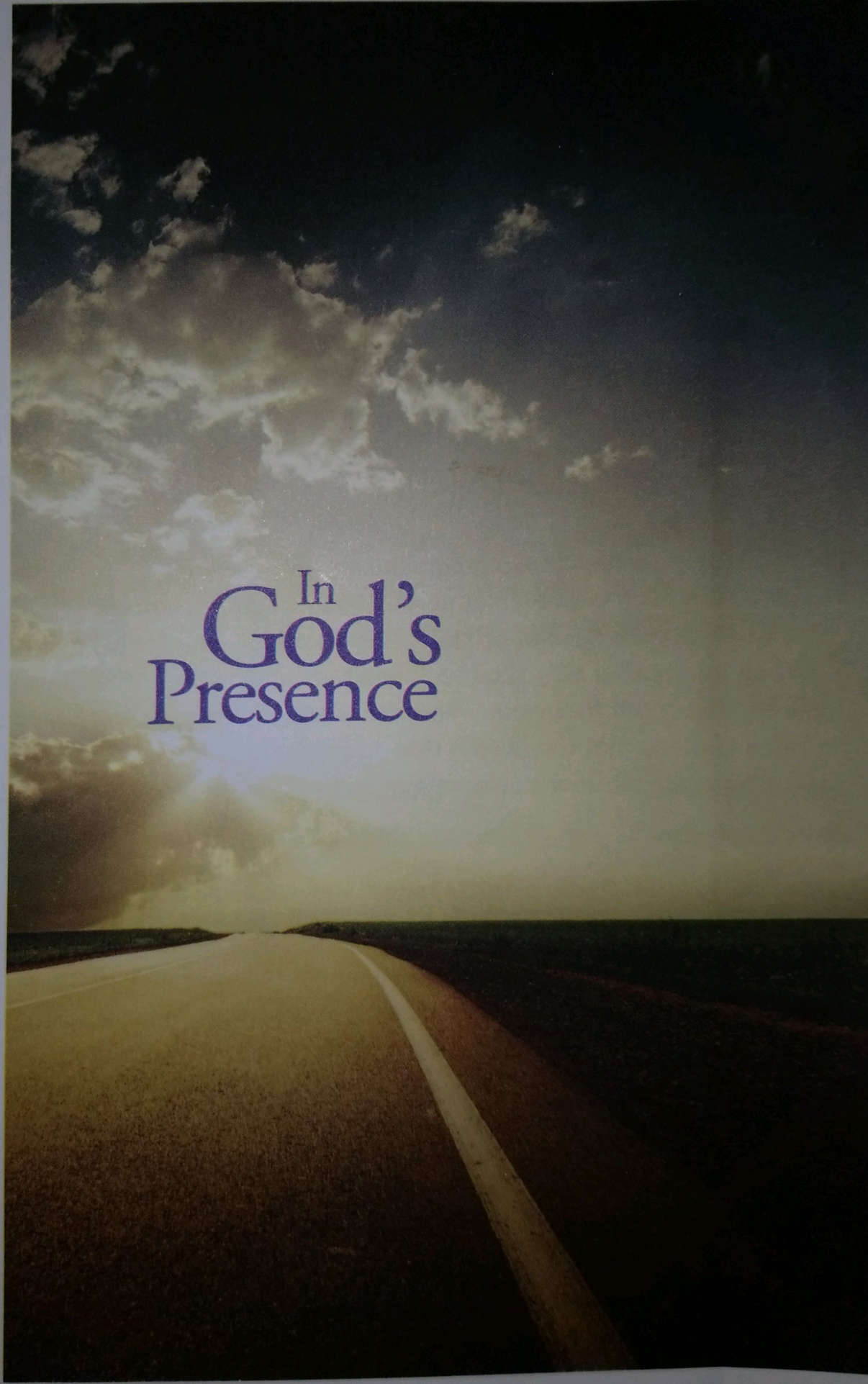
Rev. Paula B. Gile, Associate Pastor

K. Robert Bengtson, Director of Music

Church office: (603) 524-0668



In God's Presence



Gathering ~ for Worship

June 23, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after Pentecost

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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 *"It is our task to work the fields we know."* — M. Scott Peck

Welcome & Announcements

Praising

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

Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt God's name together.

We will bless the Lord at all times; God's praise will always be on our lips.

When we wander afar, God welcomes us back.

When we cry out in despair, God hears and delivers us from all our troubles.

Taste and see that the Lord is Good.

Happy are we when we take refuge in God's care.

***Opening Hymn**

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

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Invocation (unison) (Today's "Lord's Prayer" was written by Confirmand Andy Hazelton.)

O God, you come to us not in the chaos of the whirlwind, not in the roar of the earthquake, not in the crackling heat of the fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. Quiet our minds, bring peace to our hearts and stillness to our bodies that we might meet you in that silence. Help us to listen for your still, small voice. Give us the courage to go wherever you lead us, trusting that you will prepare the way. We pray this in the name of our Companion on the journey who taught us to pray: *Holy one, Who watches over us from heaven, Who's name we hold sacred. May Your kingdom come; May your will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us life and food and forgive us for our wrongdoings, as we forgive others who have hurt us. Guide us away from temptation and protect us from evil for you are the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for eternity. Amen.*

Musical Offering

"How Can I Keep From Singing"

Ed Bastille

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, Halle-lu-jah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Reading

1 Kings 19:1 – 15

Pew Bible p. 322

Sermon

"The Field in Which We Are Planted"

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.)

Committing

Stewardship Invitation

"One Minute of Sharing"

Jaylene Bengtson

Offertory

"Be Still, My Soul"

Ed Bastille

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)

Amen.

Going to Serve

***Closing Hymn**

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"

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Pastoral Benediction

Organ Postlude

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

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

Today Jun 23- 9:00 a.m.	Summer Worship time begins Strengthen the Church Offering
10:30 a.m.	My Church My Final Wishes
4:00 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
9:30 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Monday Jun 24- 4:30 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast Deadline for CAT survey
Tuesday Jun 25- 7:00 p.m.	Stitches of Love
Wednesday Jun 26- 6:30 p.m.	Council Mtg
Saturday Jun 29- 4:30 p.m.	Progressive Dinner
Sunday June 30- 9:00 p.m.	Summer Worship

Some Announcements

Today at 9:00 a.m. Strengthen the Church Offering

This is 5 UCC Offering we have this year. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Today at 10:30 a.m. The Legacy Series/ *My Church and My Final Wishes* with Pastor Neil. It will be an opportunity to consider and record your final wishes for your funeral or memorial service. These records will then be kept in the church office. The forms will be available through the church office if you are unable to attend.

Monday Jun 24 - 21st Century Church Deadline

Don't let the CAT get away before you act! The window for sharing your thoughts and opinions via the CAT survey is quickly coming to an end. Please click on the link on the church website or in the most recent News Blast to participate. We thank you for your time.

June 29 at 4:30 p.m. Progressive Dinner Saturday

Join us for this fun event! If you have any questions or would like to be part of this gathering give Ruth Gill 528.6608 or Hollis Thompson 512.970.6592 a call.

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.

Summer church office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday starting June 24.

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

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 Maurine Bastille, Richard Bastille

Today's Ushers are Martha Kruse, John Walker, Kelly Prescott, Shaun Prescott

The Altar Flowers today are given by Joan and Bill Bell *"In loving memory of Donald, Cindy, and Cathleen."*

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

In God's Presence

This week is General Synod, the biennial gathering of our United Church of Christ. Delegates and visitors from across our denomination are gathered in Wisconsin to work, worship and discern the way forward. The invitation to General Synod at ucc.org proclaims, "Always an extraordinary event in the life of the Church, delegates and visitors will experience dynamic workshops, generative plenary sessions, inspirational worship, engaging youth activities, special banquets, and luncheons. Delegates will conduct the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries. Keynote speakers will offer illumination and insight into challenges that face our congregations and communities. And delegates and visitors alike will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness, worship together, and participate in local community service projects."

In other words, for a few days, the church from many corners of the nation and the globe will gather and be the church together. The purpose of this gathering is not to turn inward on ourselves but to be a beacon. As the theme of the week declares, those gathered will let the church's light shine before others.

Centuries ago, Elijah the prophet tried to hide from God. The problems of the world seemed too big. Disgusted with the corruption of the powerful, convinced that his message would never be understood and fearing for his life, Elijah ran into the wilderness and hid himself in a cave. But he could not hide from God. God persisted in summoning Elijah and reminding him that his place was among the people who needed him, even if it was discouraging or potentially dangerous.

Like Elijah, as congregations we can be tempted to hide ourselves away from the rest of the United Church of Christ. We are not large by American denominational standards, but we are still a diverse and sprawling people. It may feel like it would be easier just to stay put in our solitary and (relatively) safe caves.

But God finds our congregations, wherever and however we have hidden ourselves away. God is calling each one of our churches, just as God called the prophet long ago. Our place is not hiding away by ourselves, but with one another, building community, so that the work of God and the church can be multiplied. We may not always agree with one another, but as Elijah learned and as we continue to learn, to follow God means to follow God into community.

Even if you are not physically at General Synod this week, you can be there in spirit and prayer. Pray for your church, that it may hear God's calling to engage in community. Pray for the safety and wisdom of delegates as they travel and gather. Pray for yourself, that you might hear God's voice calling you, whether in a roar or a whisper, to come forth.

