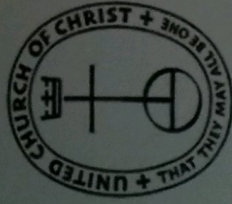


The Congregational Church of Laconia
United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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



PICK UP THE MANTLE



Gathering ~ for Worship

June 30, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:00 a.m.

Third 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: *"So if the heir—the Only Begotten—makes you free, you will be free indeed." - Gospel of John 8:36*

Welcome & Announcements

Praising

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

God calls us to be people of the Spirit.

To receive the gifts of patience, kindness, and generosity.

God calls us to practice being people of the Spirit.

To practice faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

God calls us to share the gifts of the Spirit.

To share with all, the gifts of love, joy and peace.

Let us gather in this time of worship

To receive, practice and share God's gifts of the Spirit.

Let us worship!

***Opening Hymn**

"The Gift of Love"

Insert

Invocation (unison) (Today's "Lord's Prayer" was written by Confirmand Lydia Tucker)

God of love, Help us to receive the gifts of the Spirit. That through these gifts we may come to know the spiritual freedom that you offer. As we gather to worship you this day, help us to live so that our lives may bear the fruit of your Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We pray this in the name of our Companion on the journey who taught us to pray: *Eternal Spirit how humble and godly you are. May you create heaven on earth through us. Fulfill our needs and allow us to forgive and be forgiven. Guide us to resist evil and follow the light! For we are Yours, uplifted by the Holy Spirit. So Be It.*

Jaylene Bengtson, Soprano

Rev. Neil Wilson

***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

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Rev. Paula Gile

Meditative Moment

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.)

Committing

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory *"Dreamer, Leave Thy Dreams"* Jaylene Bengtson, Soprano

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)**

Generous and loving God, giver of spiritual freedom; may these gifts reflect our gratitude and may our gifts today lift up others in need and be a guiding light for others to come to know your freedom as well. Amen

Going to Serve

498

Pastoral Benediction

Organ Postlude

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

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

Today Jun 30- 9:00 a.m.	Summer Worship time begins
10:30 a.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
4:00 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
9:30 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Tuesday Jul 2- 7:00 p.m.	Stitches of Love
Thursday Jul 4	Church office closed
Sunday Jul 7- 9:00 a.m.	Summer Worship

Some Announcements

HOLY COW! 96 individuals participated in taking the CAT survey! The Creating and Leading in the 21st Century Team says THANK YOU! Such great participation shows peoples' commitment and passion for this church.

If you would like to send a note to Horton Center for those going to Camp this week the address is: **Horton Center, Pine Ridge Trail, Gorham NH 03581**

June 30 through July 3 Session:

"Getting Started"

campers are: Lyllah Anstey and Grace Southworth
the Dean is Sally Tinkham and Counselor is Aly Lines

"Grandparents and Grandchildren"

campers are: Grady Wilson and Rev. Neil Wilson

Diane Tinkham is the Dean

Does anyone remember this book "Sesquicentennial" which was in circulation in 1974? (*See July Tower Tidings for more info*). The Historical Preservation Committee of the church is hopeful that someone just might have a copy or two tucked away in a drawer or trunk. If you do, would you consider sharing one with us? Give one of us a call if you happen to come across one -

Catherine Tokarz cell 603.998.3811

Ray Vercoe

cell 603.455.6827

Beth Shehadi 603.528.6057 (h)

Hollis Thompson

cell 512.970.6592

Wednesday July 24 at noon or 6:30 p.m. Join us in the Beane Parlor for a discussion on the book *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Gregory Boyle.

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 Ruth Gill, Ila Matilla

Today's Ushers are LuAnn Mussari, Brad Geltz, Linda Tunnicliffe, Ted Tunnicliffe

Today's altar flowers - *"In loving memory of our Moms and Dads,* given by Connie, Ed, and Lyndsey Bickford

Today's special altar rose is for John Gauthier, who is celebrating a special birthday!

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

June 30, 2019

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Pick up the Mantle

Open and Affirming Sunday

A Prayer for Open and Affirming Sunday

Creator of Us All, Holy One of Many Names, Eternal Love,
We wonder at the care and joy manifest in your design and creation.

You created the sliver of the waning crescent moon,
a slender thread of courageous light;

You created the tenacity of each blade of grass that
muscles aside concrete to reach for sky;

You created the birds that soar and creatures of the ocean depths
who somehow thrive where it is too dark and too cold for life.

You look at all you have created and call it good.

We are amazed that, in ways beyond our understanding,
you formed humanity with the same joy and care that birthed the rest of creation.

We rejoice that each one of us is fearfully and wonderfully made in your Divine image.
On this Open and Affirming Sunday, we proclaim who we are.

We are gay, we are straight, we are lesbian, we are bisexual,
we are transgender, we are cis-gender, we are gender-fluid.

We have many names and labels for what we are,
but we know that you call us by one name - beloved.

Let us say it over and over and over again until we believe it.

We are beloved. We are beloved. We are indeed beloved.

We acknowledge that for many of your beloved children, especially those who are LGBTQ, church communities have been places of shame and suffering, rather than homes of sanctuary and safety. Help us to pick up the mantle of those who have gone before us in this liberation movement, that their hard work and their sacrifice might not be in vain.

We are, all of us, called by love, for the sake of love, to be love
in this faith community and in all the world.

Continue to create us to be your beloved people. Amen.

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in the UCC, and equips UCC congregations to become effective witnesses to Christ's extravagant welcome. ONA is now the largest and fastest-growing LGBT-welcoming movement in the Body of Christ. We welcomed ONA church #1 in 1986 and church #1,500 in 2018. To find out more, visit openandaffirming.org.

