

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



Gathering for Worship

August 4, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:00 a.m.

Eighth 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 "I just think it would be easier to trust God if I had extra money to trust him with." - Donald Miller, in *Blue Like Jazz: Non-Religious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality*

Welcome & Announcements

Praising

Call to Worship (seated Congregation respond with bold print.) adapted from Psalm 49:1-3

The psalmist cries out: "Hear this, everyone! Listen, all people everywhere, great and small alike, rich and poor together."

My thoughts will be clear; I will speak words of wisdom.

Open our ears, O Lord and help us listen.

***Opening Hymn**

"Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"

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Invocation (unison) Today's "Lord's Prayer" is from the Uniting Church of Australia.

Holy God, we gather this day to give thanks for your steadfast love and to experience afresh your desire to gather all people into communities of safety, justice and peace. With Christ as our guide, we seek to grow into "a new self" in your image: generous, compassionate, welcoming.

Baptized into Christ, we seek to love all of our sisters and brothers with Christ's inclusive love that sees beyond difference and extends the hand of peace to strangers. Send your Spirit among us and inspire our imaginations and wills in the things that make for peace. This we seek through Jesus who taught us to pray: Abba, lover of us all, most holy one. Help us to respond to you. To create what you want for us here on earth. Give us today enough for our needs. Forgive our weak and deliberate offences, just as we must forgive others when they hurt us. Help us to resist evil and to do what is good. For we are yours, endowed with your power to make our world whole. Amen.

Musical Offering

"Wayfaring Stranger"

Gaynelle Gosselin, Soprano

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

Luke 12:13-34

Pew Bible p. 949

Sermon

"In The Land of Storage Units"

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. You may also visit the Church's website and click on Prayer Wall and post your requests - www.laconiaucc.org

Committing

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

"His Eye is on the Sparrow"

Gaynelle Gosselin, Soprano

Doxology

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)

Gracious God, we offer our gifts as an act of extravagant faith.

Bless this offering, that it might be a witness to your realm of forgiveness, justice and healing. May this act of sharing embolden us to show great generosity throughout the coming week. In your many names we pray, Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Gluten free wafers are in the center of the plates and we use grape juice rather than wine.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

Going to Serve

*Closing Hymn

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

Pastoral Benediction

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Organ Postlude

***You may stand as able.**

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Today Aug 4- 9:00 a.m. | Summer Worship |
| 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 Aug 6- 6:30 p.m. | Membership Committee Mtg |
| 7:00 p.m. | Stitches of Love |
| Wednesday Aug 7- 6:30 p.m. | Outreach Committee Mtg |
| Thursday Aug 8- 10:00 a.m. | Faith Walk |
| Sunday Aug 11- 9:00 a.m. | Summer Worship |

Some Announcements

Faith Walk

Thursday 10:00 a.m.

You can still participate in the 40-Day Spiritual Fitness Program. Join us each Thursday morning as we gather to prepare to walk. Questions? Call Claudia Wright or Rev. Paula Gile.

Hand-Bell Invite - try it out!

Next Sunday August 11 at 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday August 15 at noon

Come play! Come try it out! Come see what we are all about. Stress free zone.

Questions? Call Chandra Hazelton 603.496.0272 or email

cjhazelton@roadrunner.com

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, and 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 Martha Kruse, Dave Smith

Today's Ushers are Luann Mussari, Brad Geltz, Diane Lockwood, Bill Gile

The Altar Flowers today are given by Joni Stover *"In loving memory of Christine and Virgil Ballard."*

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

Hand-Bell Choir is Looking . . .

Are you looking to try something new? Do you want to brush up those music reading skills? Do you have an hour or so a week to laugh and make music? Then we have just the thing for you - Hand-bells! The hand-bell choir is looking for 3-4 new regular ringers and as well as sub ringers. We rehearse most Sundays from September through June after worship at 10:45-12:00 in the bell room. We typically play 6 times a year as people's schedules allow.

August 4, 2019

Luke 12:13-21

Soul Investment

The man in today's story has a perfectly sturdy barn where he stores what he needs. He figures if he tears down this structure, he can make a bigger one, so he can store not only what he needs, but also a pile of extra stuff. If you read the story again, you may notice that there's nothing wrong with the barn, but he's going to knock it down anyway. The Rich Fool (as he is known) is not the first person, nor likely the last, to believe that destruction is the path to abundance. And it's not surprising that this parable was told in response to a dispute between two people over an inheritance. From the squabbling of siblings to wars that ravage the planet, if you scratch the surface of many disputes, it's fair to say that many of them are based in what Jesus calls greed.

Sadako Sasaki was two years old when the United States dropped an atom bomb on her home town of Hiroshima. Buildings all around her were destroyed and lives were lost, but the toddler survived, only to contract cancer from radiation poisoning ten years later. In her hospital bed, she became inspired by the ancient Japanese legend that if one were to fold one thousand origami paper cranes, their wishes would come true.

She began folding, with the wish, "I will write peace on your wings and you will fly all over the world." When Sadako became too weak to continue her work, her classmates and family vowed to continue the project she had begun. She became a symbol of the desire for peace that transcends national boundaries, and in the seven decades since her untimely death, thousands of peace cranes have been folded and sent into the world with "peace on their wings."

In 2011, Saron United Church of Christ members in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, folded the cranes on the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. But this act of devotion could not be contained. Six months later they were sent to Pilgrim Christian Church UCC in Chardon, Ohio, after a shooting at Chardon High School in February 2012. Later they flew on to Newtown Congregational UCC in Newtown Connecticut, to Old South Church UCC in Boston, to Christ The King UCC in Florissant, Missouri to Everett United Church of Christ in Washington state and beyond. Each of these communities had been wracked by violence. Each was reminded of the fullness of God's abundance and the care of Christ's community by a gift they were able to continue to pass on.

The Rich Fool believed that the path to abundance was destruction. Sadako and those who follow her example teach us another way. The only way to the abundance, the new life, the love and the peace promised by Jesus is creation. Each crane that is folded is an act of creation that connects us to Christ, to one another, and to our own true selves.

This week – August 6 – is the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. This act of destruction did not bring about Christ's abundance. But our prayerful response can.



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

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