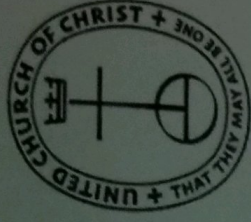


The Congregational Church of Laconia  
United Church of Christ  
18 Veterans Square  
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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**

July 14, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:00 a.m.

Fifth 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:** *"Compassion is not a relationship between the healer and the wounded. It's a covenant between equals."* - Quote from Tattoos on the Heart

## **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Praising**

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

Come, neighbors and strangers,  
**prophets and seekers of justice,**  
those who need a helping hand,  
**and those who have something to offer.**

Whether your faith is weak or strong,  
**Come: let us be neighbors in this place,**  
and let us worship God together.

**\*Opening Hymn**

*"They Asked, Who's My Neighbor?"*

# 541

**Invocation (unison)**

*Lord's Prayer* is from The Inclusive Bible

**Loving God, from the very beginning you have journeyed with your people. Journey with us, this day, as we learn what it means to follow you and to be a good neighbor. Open our ears to your word. Open our hearts to your love and compassion. Open our hands to receive your grace and to share it with others. Empower us with your Holy Spirit, as we worship you and serve one another. Abba God in heaven, hallowed be your name! May your reign come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: give us today the bread of Tomorrow. And forgive us our debts, as we hereby forgive those who are indebted to us. Don't put us to the test, but free us from evil. For You are the Glory forever. Amen**

**Musical Offering**

[It's a surprise]

David Frost, Tenor

**A Moment with Our Children**

Martha Clement

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

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

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

**Commissioning of the Mission Team**

***Commissioning Litany***

**One:** The time has come for all of you to go forth as representatives of this congregation, but more importantly as ambassadors for Jesus Christ.

***Missioners:*** *We are prepared to travel to Maine to learn the joy and rewards of hands-on work with the Maine Seacoast Mission. We intend to share Christ's love with those we meet along the way.*

**Congregation:** Just as we have supported you as members and friends of this church, so we will continue to support you in prayer while you travel, work, and share Christ's love.

***Missioners:*** *We are grateful for the prayers and support we have received from this church family. While we are away, we promise to represent you with our best efforts. And, once we return, we will share our experience with you, confident that God will touch us through this experience.*

**One:** While you are away, you will be immersed in a community different from our own. The work may be as exhausting and tedious, as it is fun, challenging, and rewarding. What is it that compels each of you to be a part of this missionary journey?

***Missioner:*** *We believe that our faith in God through Jesus Christ comes alive when we put our faith into action. We have heard this call to go to Maine and to work in Weald Bethel, which means God's house in the woods. It is God's call to service and to putting our faith into action that has brought us to this place and time.*

**Congregation:** May God go with each of you, and keep you all safe. May this offering you are making glorify God our creator, Jesus our brother, and God's Holy Spirit.

**Commissioning Prayer**

**Reflecting & Praying**

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 10:25-37

Rev. Louise Bastille

**Sermon**

"Compassion"

Rev. Paula Gile



**Meditative Moment**

**Prayer Preparation**

*"God Help the Outcasts"*

Insert

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

**Pastoral Prayer** (Yellow prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate.)

**Committing**

**One Minute of Sharing**

**Stewardship Invitation**

**Offertory**

[It's a surprise]

David Frost, Tenor

**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)

God of grace and compassion, may our gifts enable your church to be a place where strangers become friends, outcasts are welcomed, seekers receive, and doubters find faith. Bless these gifts and the givers. We offer this prayer in your holy name. Amen

**Going to Serve**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*"All Are Welcome"*

Insert

**Pastoral Benediction**

**Organ Postlude**

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

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

Today Jul 14- 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 Jul 16- 7:00 p.m.	Stitches of Love
Friday Jul 19	Church office is closed
Sunday Jul 21- 9:00 a.m.	Summer 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.*

**Church office closed** this coming Friday.

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

**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 Bill Gile, Catherine Tokarz, Janet Janke, Charlotte Landow

**Today's altar flowers** - are given by Pat and Jack Weeks: *"In loving memory of Robert Weeks."*

**Join us** for a time of fellowship outside weather permitting following the service for refreshments served by the Education Committee. Fair Trade coffee is

### **Some Announcements**

**Today at 10:30 Information Meeting in Church Library**

Intrigued? Come find out what the "Christ Walk" is all about. Come with your questions and curiosity! Next meeting will be July 21 at 10:30 to discuss getting started.

**Altar flowers** needed for either August 4, 11 or the 18. Please let Darlene Sellars know if you can donate flowers 603.286.4070.

**Book Club Wednesday July 24 at noon or 6:30 p.m.** Book title "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion" by Gregory Boyle.

July 14, 2019

Luke 10:25-37

## Caring Neighbors

The Good Samaritan story reminds us that Christ calls us to draw a wider circle as we bring compassion, healing, and hope to others. The 3 Great Loves initiative is giving congregations across the denomination a forum for sharing stories about the way that they are practicing being Good Samaritans.

Congregations like Spring Creek UCC in Rockford, IL. Since December 2015, the congregation has provided household goods and supplies to ten families moving from homelessness into an apartment through their Adopt An Apartment Initiative (AAA). "The generosity of the congregation in donating items has been outstanding and we are very grateful to our dedicated group of volunteers who have helped to transport the items and clean & stage the apartments," the congregation reports.

Hadwen Park Congregational UCC, Worcester, MA reaches out to LGBT people escaping from countries where it is illegal and dangerous to be themselves. These asylum seekers are unable to work or receive public assistance while awaiting asylum, so the congregation gives them a shared apartment, food, cell phone, a small stipend, help finding medical care and legal representation. The asylum seekers are also into the church community for spiritual care and a sense of community and friendship. The congregation has supported as many as two dozen asylum seekers at a time.

Zion United Church of Christ, in Hubbard, Iowa has extended their definition of neighbor to include those living 2000 miles away. The rural congregation is demonstrating love of neighbor by collecting over 1,100 needed items for two UCLA Mobile Health Clinics for the homeless living in Los Angeles. Zion UCC has provided travel sized bottles of shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, as well as underwear, flashlights, shoes, and many other necessary and much needed items to their neighbors.

These congregations, and many others, are redrawing the lines of what it means to be a neighbor, drawing the circle ever wider. How is your congregation a Good Samaritan? Tell your story!

*3 Great Loves is the United Church of Christ's denomination-wide storytelling initiative. Telling the story of how we are living out God's love and expressing love of neighbor, children and creation, 3 Great Loves demonstrates how our denomination lives out the love of God and creates a just world for all.*

*Visit [www.3greatloves.org](http://www.3greatloves.org) and share how you are living out God's love. And use the hashtag #3greatloves when sharing on social media. No action is too small, and no story is too insignificant to share.*

