

Save the Date

Sunday September 8
3:00 p.m. Church & Vespers
at Camp Mowglis

More info to come!

~ AUGUST ~

Upcoming Meetings

- Aug 1- 5:30 Stewardship
Committee Mtg
- Aug 6- 6:30 Membership Com-
mittee Mtg
- Aug 7- 6:30 Outreach Mtg
- Aug 8, 15, 22, 29 Faith Walk
- Aug 13- 5:30 Education Ministry
6:30 Property & Fi-
nance Committee Mtg
- Aug 20- 7:00 Worship & Music
Committee Mtg
- Aug 21-24 Solidarity Walk
- Aug 28- Deacons Mtg

Faith Walk is every Thursday
through Sept 5 at 10:00 am

Choir practice meets every
Thursday at 7:00 pm starting
back up Sept. 5

Hand bell practice meets
every at 10:45 after
Sunday Worship

Stitches of Love meets every
Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Tower Tidings



Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC

August 2019

Pastor's Letter

Friends,

Pastor Paula's sermon themes of remembering the outcast and reminding us that we are all worthy of God's forgiveness and love, have had me thinking lately. Isn't this what sermons are supposed to do? I came upon this excerpt from the writings of Frederick Buechner. From a daily devotional, it is from a longer reflection of his on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

"When Jesus said to love your neighbor, a lawyer who was present asked him to clarify what he meant by neighbor. The lawyer wanted a legal definition that could be referred to in case the question of loving one ever came up. The lawyer presumably wanted something along the order of: "A neighbor (hereinafter referred to as the party of the first part) is to be construed as meaning a person of Jewish descent whose legal residence is within a radius of no more than three statute miles from one's own legal residence unless there is another person of Jewish descent (hereinafter to be referred to as the party of the second part) living closer to the party of the first part than one is oneself, in which case the party of the second part is to be construed as neighbor to the party of the first part and one is relieved of all responsibility of any sort or kind whatsoever."

-first published in *Wishful Thinking*
and later in *Beyond Words*.

But Jesus being the story teller he was told a story of a "good" Samaritan. And it would seem that the point of his story is that a neighbor is anybody who serves those in need, whatever the need, whoever they are, wherever we come upon them. And without saying, the inverse is true as well. Sometimes we have to let others be neighbors to us for there are times when we are the one who need others.

It is interesting that the lawyer's response is left unrecorded!

See you in worship!

Pastor Neil Wilson



As of Sunday September 8 . . .

Sunday worship returns to 9:30 a.m.

Faith Formation returns same time too!

Happy Horton Campers Photo Album! July Vacation...



Mission Trip Photos



A Deep Felt Thank You



On behalf of Mary and myself I want to give a big **THANK YOU** to all of you folks who provided such loving care and support to us during Mary's long decline. Our Church is known for being a group of people who go out of their way to give care and support, both physical and spiritual, to those who are in need and hurting. It is a joy to be a part of that community of care and love, but it is a very new and wonderful revelation to find oneself on the receiving end of so much love and support.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, and God Bless you all.

Bob Harrington

Solidarity Walk for Immigrant Justice 2019 - Concord to Dover

Wednesday, August 21 through Saturday, August 24, 2019

Participants will walk the 36 miles from Concord to Dover over the course of these days and you are welcome to join us! The walk begins in Concord at the US District Courthouse. The walk will end at the Strafford County Jail in Dover, where ICE jails people slated for their deportation. Can you join us?

Each day participants will walk 8-10 miles and stop in towns along the way. In the evenings we will hold educational, prayerful or discussion-focused events open to the public.



Their website is filled with tons of information and contact information. Here's the link to sign up to walk or volunteer <http://nhchurches.org/WALK2019/>

Cards for Sharing

It is wonderful to send and receive cards. The Diaconate is providing cards for any wishing to send one - Get Well, Birthday, Sympathy, Thinking of you! Karen Anderson, provided us with a wonderful collection. Please feel free to take a card or two or more to mail to those who have been mentioned in church for prayers or those on your heart. The cards will be in the Narthex over the summer, come fall, the box will be found in Church Hall and available during Coffee Hour.



Hand-Bell Invite

- try it out!

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





August Happy Birthdays!!

Aug 2
Bethany Clark
Emily Mussen
Nicolas Austin

Aug 3
Taylor Williams

Aug 4
Bea Lanning

Aug 7
Elvena Anderson

Aug 9
Carolyn Carwell

Aug 10
Brad Geltz
James Bobotds

Aug 11
Janyce Forsberg
Connor Sullivan

Aug 13
Judith Nelson

Aug 14
Jacob Mitropoulous

Aug 15
Hollis Thompson
Janelle Woodland
Janet Hunt

Aug 16
Darlene Sellars

Aug 17
Linda Swenson
Christine Evans

Aug 19
Karen Mussen
Caragh Smith

Aug 21
Andrea Liebl

Aug 22
Jaylene Bengston

Aug 24
Finley Smith

Aug 25
Janet Simmon

Aug 26
Linda Normandin

Aug 27
Susan Hayes
Dawn Swain

Aug 28
Shannon Sullivan

Aug 29
Carol Hounsell

Aug 31
Pamela Kyle



Pastor Neil's Summer Vacation Schedule

Pastor Neil plans to be on vaca from August 17 through August 31.

Change for the Church Offering Update

Thanks to the many generous donations, our **Faith Formation** group surpassed our goal of collecting \$1000, and collected a total of \$1342!!! Every week since the fall, we emptied the coin containers that you filled to put in our **WATER IS LIFE** jug. To our surprise we were able to fill it 4 times which was really an exciting part of our Faith Formation time each Sunday.

Our fund-raising was specifically geared to help fund **CLEAN and CLOSE WATER** through donations to **World Vision**. We learned a lot about the struggles of families all over the world who don't have clean and close water available to them and our kids decided to try and help.

Items that we have purchased and given to a community in need:

3 Water Purifier Kits- In just 5 minutes, one of these easily operated machine can create enough chlorine to treat 200 liters of dirty water and prevent serious illnesses. This empowers local communities to sustainably treat their own drinking water!

3 Foot-Powered Water Pumps- This simple water pump is a true gift for farmers who previously lugged all of their irrigation water in buckets. With this pump they can bring more water so that families can grow more food more efficiently.

Thank you for contributing to the water fund and for joining in with the children and youth by supporting their efforts!

*If you are depressed
you are living in the
past. If you are anx-
ious you are living in
the future. If you are
at peace you are liv-
ing in the present.*

- Lao Tzu

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A Note From Paula

A group of eight of us are exploring a 40-Day Spiritual Fitness Journey with Jesus or Paul. We each have chosen a specific path that Jesus or Paul walked like: Jerusalem to Nazareth or Paul's conversion trip on the Damascus Road. The goal is to read a scripture and devotion and to intentionally spend time with God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit as we walk. We are tracking the steps or miles that we walk because this is both for physical and spiritual health. Some of those walking are focused on the physical fitness while others are focused on their spiritual fitness.

My first day was one that I won't soon forget; I want to share my experience with everyone.

I was at Planet Fitness on one of the elliptical machine. As I walked I started to think about the scripture of the day; "Walk in love, as Christ loved us.." Walk in love ...I started to visualize that I was walking next to Jesus, sandy road, hot

and sunny day. We both had sandals on and he was in one of the long robes with a rope sash (creative of me huh).

At one point I thought about reaching out and holding Jesus' hand but I decided that there were so many others who needed to hold Jesus' hand today instead. It ended up that I started to picture each of the members of this group....walking with Jesus and holding his hand. I walked behind them... and as I walked I prayed for each person. Before I knew it, I had done 20 minutes on the elliptical and spent 20 minutes with Jesus and friends. It was so special, watching each talk and laugh with Jesus. I saw joy and peace in each and I felt that joy and peace myself as I observed.

It was a wonderful way to start this journey. Each day since has been different but each day it is a joy to intentionally walk with Jesus. All are welcome to join in - connect with Claudia Wright or with myself.

Congratulations Andy!

Andy Hazelton was honored earlier this summer as a New Hampshire delegate at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Children's Congress. Andy, and more than 100 other children and youth gathered in Washington DC to help members of Congress understand what life is like living with Type 1 Diabetes. Andy is an excellent role model to younger children, competes in gymnastics and skiing, plays several instruments, and is well respected by adults; so he was a great choice to be an advocate!

Andy was Confirmed in our Church in June, plays in our Bell Choir with his sister, Molly, and parents Tim and Chandra

- our most musical Church family, and is always a strong and positive presence in Faith Formation. Andy will be a sophomore at Plymouth High School in September.



*Andy Hazelton in Washington D.C.
with Jeanne Shaheen, US Senator from
NH, and another youth delegate.*