

# Tower Tidings



July 1, 2019

## Dates & Meetings

Jul 4 Church office closed  
Jul 9 -7:00 Property & Finance  
Committee Mtg  
Jul 24 - noon/6:30 Book Club  
Jul 25 - Christ Walk begins

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

Regularly scheduled  
programming continues  
in August!

Have a great summer!

## Pastor's Letter

Friends,

“Time marches on” or so the old adage goes and I tend to agree. And although it seems as if summer was slow in arriving we now find ourselves in the first days of July! Depending on where you are and what you do, summer is a season with a slower pace, time to enjoy a good book on a porch or beach, or gathering with friends and family. Or it could be just the opposite, when you need to get all the work in before fall is upon us and all the camps and cottages will be boarded up for the season.

Here in the church we see a bit of change in the pace; the office closes an hour earlier at 3:00 p.m.; there are fewer church members stopping by for one reason or another, many of the committees will not meet in July. Yet, the ministry of the Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ continues on. The Parish House meeting rooms are still filled with people gathering for recovery and other groups; VNA nurses are stopping by to access our medical lending closet; community members continue to stop by seeking assis-

tance with an emergency need; and of course every Monday morning the Church hall is abuzz with Got Lunch Laconia! We have 19 children, youth and adults going to church camp this summer!

During the week of July 14 we have a group of approximately 10 – 12 going to Washington County Maine where they will be working with the Maine Seacoast Mission Summer Housing Rehab program.

This summer the Creating & Leading the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church group having completed the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey will be anxiously awaiting the results and preparing to share them with the congregation in the fall. We also have an ad-hoc committee that has been working diligently on a reviewing and updating our church's by-laws and policies.

All this, I guess, is just to say that as time does indeed march on, here at the Congregational Church of Laconia we are doing our best to march right along with it!

See you in worship!

*Pastor Neil Wilson*



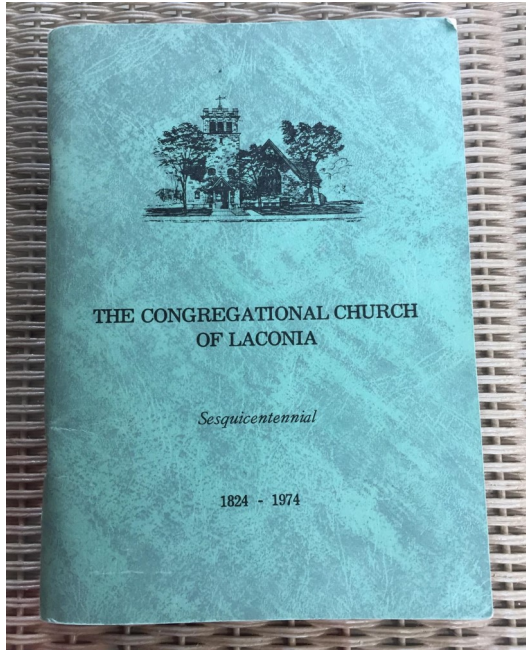
HAVE A HAPPY JULY 4TH  
FROM THE GIRLS IN  
THE OFFICE  
CAMILLE & CAROLYN!

# Confirmation Sunday





## Have you seen this Book?



It's been awhile since this **Sesquicentennial** was in circulation - 1974 to be exact! That being said, 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

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## A Note from Paula

School is finally out and year nine of GOT LUNCH! Laconia has begun as I write this note. It continues to amaze me...year NINE... There is so much support for this program in the community it's amazing. Mayor Ed Engler, and Scott Myers (the Laconia City Manager), Bob Fitzpatrick (from VISTA Foods) and two members of the Muskrats Baseball Team; Penny Pitou, and Westcott Law sent over volunteers as well. All these folks here to help us kick off year 9. If you have never seen this program in action come any Monday morning through August 26 at 8:15 am and see the magic happen. Over 70 volunteers working together to bring nutritional food to the kids of Laconia. Thank you Mayor Ed and Scott for your support!

## 21st Century Church Update

The Creating and Leading the 21st Century Church group sincerely thanks all of you who earned your whiskers by completing the C.A.T.-- the Congregational Assessment Tool designed to help us create a healthy, vibrant future for our church. There were 96 who took the time to share your perceptions, opinions, and experiences!



*Phewf we did it!*

What now? In September, we will meet with a trained interpretive consultant for the C.A.T. Kimberly Bergstand is currently serving as Associate to the Bishop for Mission of the New England Synod, ELCA. She presented a dynamic workshop in the NH Conference's two-year Leadership Development class on *Deep Vision: Finding Your Why*. Her topic and expertise seem perfectly suited to help us "work the fields we know" and "bloom where we are planted." May it be so.

For the Creating and Leading the 21st Century Church group, September marks the end of a year-long process. But it is just the beginning of what lies beyond. Year two of the Leadership Development class offers a peer-focused cohort approach as the concepts we've learned are applied in our individual churches. The information gained through these experiences and your thoughtful responses to the C.A.T. will assist our church leadership in decision-making that will move us forward as a 21st Century Church! Thank you!! And thanks be to God!

## Introducing Our Confirmation Class Graduates of 2019



### Andy Hazelton (Mentor, Warren Clement)

Andy is a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Plymouth Regional High School. He lives with his family in Holderness, NH and enjoys ski jumping, gymnastics, band and chorus. When he's not busy with these activities, he can be found playing the guitar or slack lining. Andy's favorite part about confirmation was learning more about the bible and making new friends. In church you'll often see Andy playing with the Sanctus Bells. This summer he'll be hanging out by the pool, going to camp, and driving! He has two summer jobs: working at summer camp and coaching gymnastics. In addition, he'll be attending his 8<sup>th</sup> summer at Diabetes camp.

### Molly Hazelton (Mentor, Sally Tinkham)

Molly will be attending Plymouth Regional High School this fall as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader. In school she participates in band and chorus and served as the Student Council President last year. In her free time, Molly likes to stay involved in dance, theatre and art. Her favorite confirmation activity was visiting all the different churches. In church she has been playing with the Sanctus Bells for several years. Over summer vacation she will be taking part in the theatre program at Jean's Playhouse and summer dance classes.

### Danyan Outhoummontry (Mentor, Diane Tinkham)

Dan attends Belmont High School and will be going into the 11<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. Dan loves to be outside and two of his favorite activities are hunting and fishing. He has taken a hunter safety course and. He is also involved in an archery club and has won several awards in various tournaments. Dan enjoyed confirmation, especially the field trip to the Catholic church in Laconia. This summer he is looking forward to working for Belknap Landscaping where he will be gardening and mowing lawns.

He's also looks forward to participating in the church's service trip to Cherryfield, Maine in July. Upon graduation from high school, Dan plans to go into the military and will be enrolled in the National Guard's boot camp in his junior year.

Lydia Tucker (Mentor, Catherine Tokarz) will be a junior at Laconia High School this fall. She is overjoyed to have had the opportunity to go through confirmation and learn so much about religion. She is a member of the Educational Ministries committee at our church, and Lydia can't wait to get more involved! In my free time, she plays field hockey, lacrosse and she is a gymnast. She also loves doing yoga, hiking, and being with her dog, Finnigan. Lydia's favorite extracurricular activity is Key Club member. In fact, this summer she will spending a week in Baltimore, Maryland at the International Key Club Convention. Most importantly, she is thrilled to see all of our church family throughout the summer, and feels blessed to be a member of The Congregational Church of Laconia.

## July Happy Birthdays!!



July 3  
Sally Sessler  
Zach Pearson

July 4  
Douglas Evans  
Susan Smith

July 6  
Charlotte Landow  
Katharine Dade

July 7  
Diane Knierienn  
JoAnne Durfee  
Dee Laurent  
Jacob Nelson

July 8  
Beth Shehadi  
Mark Liebl

July 9  
Lindsey Bickford  
Ted Tunncliffe  
Robert Mitropoulos

July 12  
Jennifer Muzzey

July 14  
Dan Tinkham

July 15  
Bernie Chapman  
Matt Fink

July 16  
Alex Prescott

July 17  
Arthur Burbank

July 18  
Bill Bell

July 19  
Russ Beane

July 20  
Vera Pierce  
Janet Janke

July 23  
Robert Neylon

July 24  
Pat Normandin

July 26  
Olyve Buekley  
Beverley Fortson  
Dawn Marcek  
Emily Clement  
Sean Mussen

July 30  
Donnie Richards  
Ed Bickford



## Book Club

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

## Inquiring Minds want to know . . . What is the Water Vision Project

If you don't know what this water project is all about just ask any of the kids from Faith Formation class because they will proudly tell you that they raised \$1200 to help less fortunate people in other parts of the world get clean, healthy water for their communities. With this money raised they afforded to buy three water purifiers and three foot powered water pumps.

That's quite an accomplishment for this band of intrepid do-gooders! What an amazing feat!





Congregational  
Church of Laconia,  
UCC  
18 Veterans Square  
Laconia NH 03246

Church office  
summer hours  
Monday thru Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Office Closed**

**July 4**

Senior Pastor:  
Rev. Neil Wilson  
neil@laconiaucc.org

Associate Pastor:  
Rev. Paula B. Gile  
paula@laconiaucc.org

Financial Secretary:  
Carolyn Jorgensen  
carolyn@laconiaucc.org

Editor-in-Chief:  
Camille Gibson  
churchoffice@laconiaucc.org

## Walking for Spiritual and Physical Growth



*Walking is good for our physical health  
and our spiritual health.*

- ◆ For 40 days let's travel like Jesus from:
- ◆ Nazareth to Jerusalem (65 miles)
- ◆ Or If you need a bigger challenge walk Jesus' path in the last week of his life (88 miles)

When we do it together, we absolutely can.  
We will be using the book **Christ Walk** by Anna Fitch Courie.  
Who knows how far we can go together. People can walk in teams or by themselves and track the miles they walk for 40 days. Those who wish will gather each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the church library for coffee, support, conversation and to record their miles.  
The **Christ Walk** book provides a daily devotion to read and to ponder as you walk, or to discuss if you go as a group. Take the time you walk to enjoy God's creation and to spend more time with God.

**One fun idea is to ask for people to sponsor you for 10 cents (or more) a mile. At the end of the 40 days people "pay up" and all the money raised will go to the Dorcus Fund.**

### Pastors' Summer Holiday Schedule

Pastor Neil plans to be out of the office: July 1 & 2 and will be attending Horton Camp; and July 14 through July 20 and will be participating in the Maine Seacoast Mission trip; and on vaca August 17 through August 31  
Pastor Paula plans to be out of the office: July 3 through July 8

Outreach Hosts  
"Christ Walk"

Information  
Meeting  
July 21  
10:30 a.m. church  
library

The 40-Day Walk  
Begins July 25

Check in Each  
Thursday 10:00  
a.m.

Contact:  
Claudia Wright for  
more information  
603.389.5275