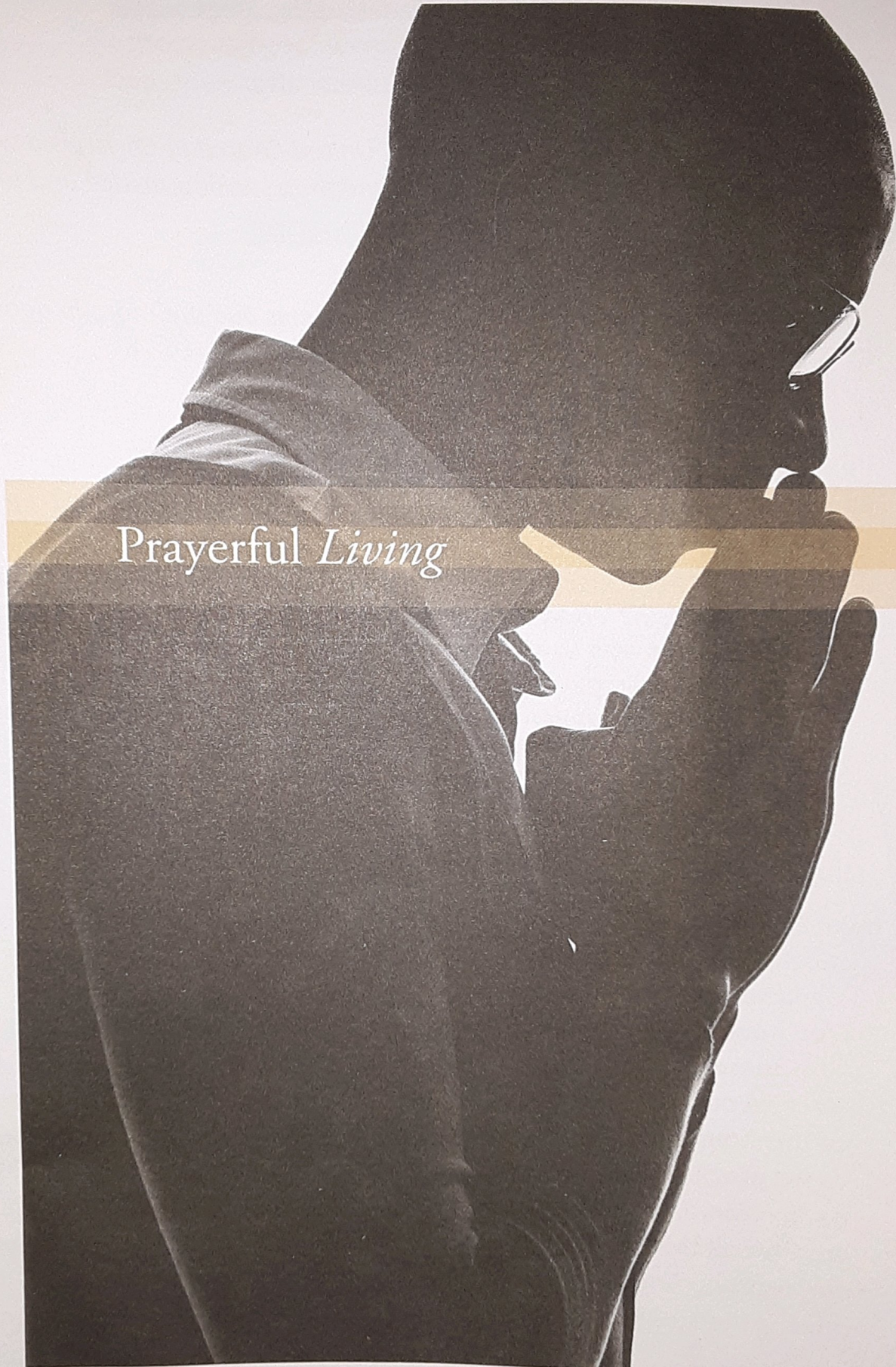


Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Paula B. Gile, Associate Pastor
K. Robert Bengtson, Director of Music
Church office: (603) 524-0668

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



Prayerful Living

Gathering for Worship

September 22, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:30 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

+ * + * + * + * + * +

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 "... for the children of this age are more in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light" - Jesus, Luke 16:18

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"Let Us With a Gladsome Mind"

Chancel Choir

Praising

Call to Worship (Congregation responds with bold print.)

Mary Ellen Azem - Liturgist

We come together, still thinking about our daily routines and concerns:

What's for lunch? What still needs to be done? What's happening this week?

God invites us now to take a deep breath and turn our attention in a different direction:

Where is the Spirit at work? Where is Jesus present today?

Where is God creating something new among us?

So let us quiet the voices within us

And be attentive to God's voice speaking to us in this hour. Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn**

"O God Beyond All Praising"

See Insert

Invocation (Unison)

God of Great Wisdom, You are beyond our imagining, beyond our control, and sometimes beyond our comfort zone. You amaze us.

You have given us more than we could ever earn or deserve, and in response, we are not only grateful but determined to be faithful stewards.

Receive our worship this day, O God. Speak to us in the sounds and silence of this hour and amaze us once again in your presence. Incline your ear to us

as we pray in the manner of Jesus: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For

thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Musical Offering "Fanfare for Thanksgiving"

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 16: 1-13

Pew Bible p. 953

Sermon

"The Photo Op"

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. Also you may go to the Church's website click on Prayer Wall and post your requests. www.laconiaucc.org)

Prayer Response

"Amen"

Chancel Choir

Committing

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

"Follow Me" (Fisherman Peter)

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)

God, as your church we reflect your hopes for humanity. We offer these gifts and ask you to guide us to shrewd and loving management of all we are given in order to further your work in our midst. Through Jesus we pray. Amen.

Going to Serve

***Closing Hymn**

"We Love Your Realm, O God"

312

Pastoral Benediction

Benediction Response

"Peace Be With You Alleluia"

Chancel Choir

Organ Postlude

***You may stand as able.**

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Today Sep 22- 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |
| 10:30 a.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| 11:00 a.m. | Adult Faith Formation - Library |
| 11:45 a.m. | Hand-Bell Practice |
| 4:00 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| 9:30 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| Monday Sep 23-6:30 p.m. | Educational Ministries Mtg |
| Tuesday Sep 24- 7:00 p.m. | Stitches of Love |
| Wednesday Sep 25- 9:00 a.m. | National Day of Caring |
| 6:30 p.m. | Diaconate Mtg |
| Thursday Sep 26- 7:00 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| Saturday Sep 28- 11:00 a.m. | Fred Smith Memorial Service |
| Next Sunday Sep 29- 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |
| 11:15 a.m. | Deacons' Retreat |

Some Announcements

Today Sept 22 11:00 a.m. Adult Faith Formation

In the Library - Guest presenter on science of addiction, Trish Weatherbee.

Today Sept 22 Noon - 3:00 p.m.

We are having a 2nd Belknap House cleaning day on next Sunday prepping for the coming season. This is a family homeless shelter located at 200 Court Street. Cleaning supplies will be furnished - you may want to bring gloves and an inspired soul!

Wednesday September 25 National Day of Caring

Join members of the community who are participating in this day of caring to clean our sanctuary. Please let Neil or Paula know if you can help.

Sunday September 29 11:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Diaconate Retreat

For information call Betty Bergstrom 860.749.9732.

Thursday October 3 Deadline or sooner Scarves on the Square

Please deliver your scarves to the church office. Thanks!

Welcome & Information

Welcome to our service of worship! Please introduce yourself to those sitting near you and 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!

Faith Formation for Children: After the Moment with our Children, children/youth in grades 1-8 are invited to meet across The Bridge in the Yellow Room. Confirmation students are welcome to join in the fun and assist the younger kids.

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 and Richard Bastille

Today's Ushers

The Altar Flowers today are given *"In loving memory of Harry G. Merrill"* by Florence Merrill, and Bruce, Claire, Emily and Eric.

Join us for a time of fellowship downstairs following the service for refreshments served by the Membership Committee.

Thursday October 24 6:00 p.m. Spelling Bee

The Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation is looking for one or two spellers who might be interested in joining the team. The LRSF provides scholarships. Contact Jean Clarke at clarkefamily@metrocast.net or 455-9702.

If you are not getting your Tower Tidings or News Blast, please let Camille know 524.0668 or via email churchoffice@laconiaucc.org

Prayerful Living

This week, we are invited to pray for leaders. Strong leaders cast a vision for the community, so that the community can follow the vision, not the leader. Insightful leaders empower others to explore and use their gifts. Compassionate leaders are able to understand the concerns of those they lead without getting drawn into anxiety or drama. Faith-filled leaders seek to understand God's will for themselves and their communities as they make decisions large and small.

Some few people are born leaders, but most people need to grow into leadership. Some leaders become strong, insightful, compassionate and faithful through mentoring or training. In the scripture reading for today, Paul reminds us that praying for our leaders is one of the ways we can help guide them. We can, and should, still ask our leaders hard questions and, when necessary, call them to account. But whether we follow their lead or dig in our heels, the first step is to pray. This week, try adding the leaders in your life to your prayer time, and see how it changes them, and you.

Monday: Pray for leaders of your congregation. Pray for pastors, officers, deacons, lay leaders and teachers.

Tuesday: Pray for leaders of your community, county or city. Pray for elected leaders as well as leaders in local advocacy and activist groups.

Wednesday: Pray for leaders of the nation. Pray for elected officials in the three branches of national government – judicial, legislative, presidential. Pray for the senior staff members in these branches.

Thursday: Pray for leaders of the world. Pray that world leaders understand that we are one global family so they can make good decisions about immigration, climate, economics and other issues that transcend borders.

Friday: Pray for the future leaders being formed now. Pray for children and youth who are making their voices heard, and for those who have no voice yet.

Saturday: Pray for yourself as a leader. Pray to be strong, insightful, compassionate and faith filled. Pray to be shown opportunities where your unique gifts and skills might be used to lead.

Sunday: Today is sabbath day. Pray for adequate rest for all leaders.

