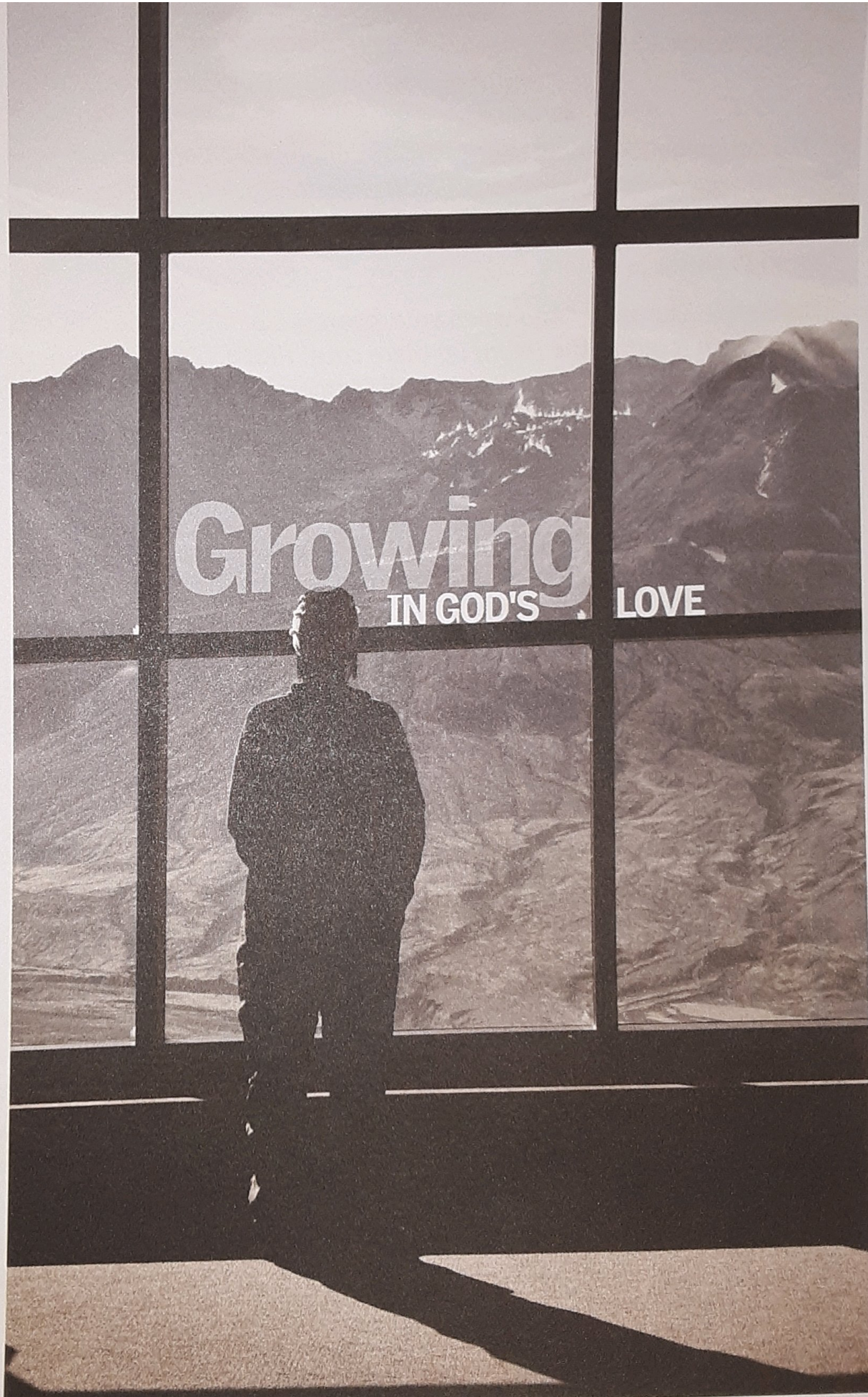


The Congregational Church of Laconia
United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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



Growing
IN GOD'S LOVE

Gathering for Worship

September 15, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:30 a.m.

Fourteenth 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 *“And when your heart is troubled you gotta reach out your other hand, reach it out to the [man] up there caus’ that’s what [he’s] there for. . . .”*

— Neil Diamond *Brother Loves’ Traveling Salvation Show*

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

“Exalt Ye The Lord”

Chancel Choir

Praising

Call to Worship (Congregation responds with bold print.)

Based on John 15:1-8

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.

If we abide in Christ, then Christ’s words will abide in us.

We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

***Opening Hymn**

“Spirit of Love”

58

Invocation (Unison)

Gracious God, when our spirits lift at the beauty of the day, you are Lord; when chaos threatens to overwhelm and we dread the next news cycle—still, you are Lord. Speak then your mercy into this place until we discover the courage to open our eyes, unclench our hands, and move toward our neighbors in need, until all the world rises and moves with the rhythms of your grace; through this may honor the name of Jesus, by whose breath we pray: 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 *"Joys Like A River"* Chancel Choir
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 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Pew Bible p. 1080

Sermon *"Sin & Salvation"* 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 *"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"* Chancel Choir

Committing

One Minute of Sharing Charlotte Landow

Offertory *"Brother James's Air"* Chancel Choir

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)**

Holy One, receive these offerings as you receive our lives. Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts, our generosity and our reluctance. Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes known that our lives might show forth your glory. For we pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Going to Serve

***Closing Hymn** *"Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls"* # 383

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 15- 9:30 a.m. | Sunday 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 Sep 17- 7:00 p.m. | Stitches of Love |
| 7:00 p.m. | Worship and Music Mtg |
| Thursday Sep 19- 7:00 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| Next Sunday Sep 22- 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |

Some Announcements

Sunday, Sept 22 11:00 a.m. Adult Faith Formation

Following fellowship, join us in the Library. Guest presenter, Trish Weatherbee will help us understand the science of addiction.

Sunday, 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. We can use help for both inside and outside small cleaning jobs. 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

Please deliver your scarves to the church office. Thanks!

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

The Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation will hold its annual spelling bee competition on Thursday, October 24 at Laconia High School. We are seeking one or two spellers who might be interested in joining the team. The LRSF supports young adults by providing hundreds of higher education scholarship opportunities. Contact Jean Clarke at clarkefamily@metrocast.net or 455-9702 for more information.

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. You can find requested name tags in the bulletin basket.

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: 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 Doug Teegarden, Mary Ellen Azem

Today's Ushers are Martha Kruse, John Walker, Carolyn and Bob Hunt

The Altar Flowers today are given "*In honor of all our grandchildren*" - Hollis and Greg Thompson.

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

Pastor Paula will be out of the office on vacation from September 16 - 19.

Carolyn, our financial secretary, will be on vacation from September 17 through 19.

September 15, 2019

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Growing in God's Love

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (New International Version) Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy One,

We confess.

We confess that we miss the mark as often as we hit it. We confess that we gaze longingly down the road that branches the other way, not Your way. We confess that our thoughts and our actions separate us from You, from Your beautiful creation and from our own true selves.

We confess that we separate from You whenever we are captivated by consumerism, by violence, by political polarization, by all our addictions and resentments. Remind us always that we cannot serve You and those other gods.

We confess that we do all that we can to separate ourselves from the rest of your creation. We ignore the crisis of the changing climate on this beautiful planet which you have placed in our care. We foment division among peoples, making war with neighbors across the street and across the globe.

We confess that we are separate even from our own true selves, the beings of love and light that you created.

We confess that we hate to confess.

Unlike your follower Paul, who proudly proclaimed that he was “the worst” of sinners, we shudder at the word sin. Maybe it’s because we believe that if we confess that we sin, we will somehow be confessing that all we are is sinful. Maybe we even believe that’s true.

We confess, then, that we have forgotten that we were born of your love, in order to live in your love. We confess that we need reminding that You created us in Your image, holy and pure. Free us to see that confession is the path to freedom from shame, not the piling on of it.

Give us the courage to look at our broken places and name them, bringing them into the light. Unchain us by this act of confession from both our sin and the shame we feel about our sin, so that we can move forward into your transformation. In your Holy Name we pray, Amen.