

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

A photograph of a hand holding a hula hoop, with the hand and hoop appearing as white outlines against a dark, textured background. The hand is positioned at the top of the frame, with the fingers gripping the hoop. The hoop is held in a way that it forms a large, open shape, resembling a flower or a star. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric, with some faint, light-colored lines or patterns. The overall image has a blueish tint.

Hold on to
Faith

Gathering for Worship

November 10, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

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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 *"I have cared for you since you were born. Yes, I carried you before you were born. I will be your God throughout your lifetime—until your hair is white with age."* – the prophet Isaiah chapter 46: verses 3 & 4

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"Celtic Alleluia"

Chancel Choir

Praising

Call to Worship (Congregation responds with bold print.)

Derek Waldron Liturgist

From up on high, we tumble and turn, crashing into peak after peak.

It is down the river of loss we travel with you, Most High God.

Through dark forests, around stubborn stones, and across endless plains.

We travel this river of uncertainty, knowing You are never far.

After the twists and turns, with determined speed, we break out into the expanse.

Into the unending ocean of your love, Creator God.

Where, with open arms, you welcome us into new life with you.

*Opening Hymn

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

42

Invocation (Unison)

Holy God, through this treacherous, glorious journey we call life, you are always there with us. Whether its watching from far above, leading us from just a few steps ahead, or driving us from within, you are always there. Help us to feel your presence, help us to feel confident in your guidance, help us to embrace you, God of Grace. For in this life we are bound to struggle, bound to doubt. It is in these times, we ask that you help us to remember these words taught to us by your own; Our Mother and Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come. Your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Musical Offering "Jubilee" Sanctus Bells
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, Hall-lu-jah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Readings Haggai 1:15b—2:9 Pew Bible p. 863
Sermon "A Camelot Memory" Rev. Neil Wilson

Meditative Moment

Prayer Preparation "Nada te Turbe (Nothing Can Trouble)" # 772 Taize
*Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.*

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 "Prayer for the Nations" Chancel Choir

Committing

Invitation to Stewardship

Offertory "In Heavenly Love Abiding" 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)

The gifts that sometimes seem, in our sight, to be nothing, O God, You bless and increase to fill your house with splendor. Where you dwell, where your Spirit abides, prosperity will abound. We are happy to offer these gifts to you. Amen.

Going to Serve

*Closing Hymn "Glorious Things of You Are Spoken" # 307

Pastoral Benediction

Benediction Response "Savior, Again to Your Dear Name" Chancel Choir

Organ Postlude

*You may stand as able.

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

Today Nov 10-	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
	11:00 a.m.	Hand-Bell Practice
	11:45 a.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
	4:00 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Tuesday Nov 12-	6:30 p.m.	Property & Finance Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	Stitches of Love
Thursday Nov 14-	noon & 6:00 p.m.	Book Club
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Next Sunday Nov 17-	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship

Some Announcements

Thursday November 14 noon and 6:00 p.m. Book Club Discussion on *Outrageous Openness Letting the Divine Take the Lead* by Tosha Silver.

Sunday November 17 We have an opening for altar flowers. If you would like to sign up, please contact Camille in the office 524.0668.

Drop off dates are November 21 and 22 for the Christmas Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Take a moment to complete a drop off sheet.

Thursday Hazel Duke Thanksgiving Volunteers needed!

Wednesday 8:00 a.m. til 2:00 p.m. for food prep and set up

Thursday 10:30 a.m. Greeters and servers

Thursday 1:00 p.m. clean up

To volunteer, call Camille or Carolyn in the office anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Monday thru Friday 603.524.0668. Or sign up during coffee hour after Church services any time in November.

Thank You – Good Stewards! I hope you were there to help us celebrate another Stewardship Sunday. Please take the opportunity to show your financial support of our Church with a 2020 pledge. It sure helps plan ahead for the next year of Ministry together. Thank you for your generosity! Your Stewardship Committee

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.

Wireless hearing assistance devices, back cushions, large print bulletins and children's activity bags 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 The concept of "the beloved community" is seen throughout the Bible and in literature from around the world. The African term "Ubuntu" refers to this and is translated from a longer phrase to mean "I am because you are". As you consider this phrase, also consider donating your spare coins this year to the Faith Formation offering. It will be given to our local family homeless shelter, Belknap House. Take one of our small plastic containers (distributed at Coffee Hour) and be a part of our Faith Formation community!

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 Janet Janke, Mary Ellen Azem

Today's Ushers are Char Landow, Linda and Ted Tunnicliffe, and Martha Crane

The Altar Flowers today are *"In honor of all veterans who have served and are serving"* given by Kay and Ray Vercoe.

Join us for a time of fellowship downstairs following the service for refreshments served by the Membership Committee. Fair Trade coffee is served in biodegradable cups.

Christmas Fair Help needed! If you can create ornaments, toys, a batch or two of cookies or Christmas bark or fudge, or homemade jelly, we'd love to sell it at the fair! Knitwear and jewelry are also hot items. Questions? Email Hollis at hollisandgreg@yahoo.com.

Did you know? Your CL21 Team wants you to know that it takes three to five years to make culture change in any organization including a church.

November 10, 2019

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Hold on to Faith *Stewardship Sunday*

Surely the end is near.

Violence runs rampant.

Consumerism holds a culture in thrall.

The people listen to the words of the leaders and struggle to discern which are true.

Sound familiar? As it was for the church in Thessalonica, so it is for us today.

But hear the voice of Jesus calling and saying, "I am the way."

You may hear, my friends, that the end is near.

You may hear that this one is the Messiah,
or that one is the Savior.

Don't let yourselves be stirred or shaken.

Do not believe everything you hear or see.

Be calm and discerning.

Don't let anyone fool you.

And listen for the voice of Jesus, calling and saying, "I am the way."

You may be tempted to put your trust
in this celebrity or that one,
a certain candidate or the opposition,
one charlatan or another.

These may seem to us to be gods, but they are not.

God will reveal these exalted ones for
who they truly are – flesh and blood like you and me.

Just listen for the voice of Jesus, calling and say, "I am the way."

How do we know the voice that we hear
is indeed the voice of Christ?

First of all, be grateful.

Give thanks to God whenever you can.

Then, remember this.

You are God's beloved child.

You are called for such a time as this.
so stand firm in the truth.

Listen! the voice of Jesus, calling and say, "I am the way."

Be comforted in your heart and
be strong in your spirit, knowing that
you are held in Christ's embrace.

