



# Tower Tidings

Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ  
18 Veterans Square Laconia, New Hampshire 03246  
603-524-0668 [www.laconiaucc.org](http://www.laconiaucc.org)

## June 2021

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### Staff:

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### Church Office

603-524-0668

Office hours

Mon. Wed. Fri. 9am-3pm

[www.laconiaucc.org](http://www.laconiaucc.org)

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## Pastor's Letter

Dear friends,

I thought I would take this pastor's letter to tell you a little bit about what to expect when we return to in person worship on Sunday June 13. (YEA!)

+ **First** note the time! We will worship will start at 9:00 am. Worship & Music Committee decided to avoid confusion and start are "summer hours" with this service.

+ **Second**, plan on gathering outside on the Veterans Square side of the church (weather permitting) for a special dedication of the new church tower chimes! It would be good to be there a little before 9:00 am for this to hear the hour struck for the first time in many years.

+ **Thirdly**, once we enter the sanctuary for the worship service don't expect what you remember from over a year ago. The service -something more like what you have grown accustomed to in the Live Stream service.

Face masks will be required while in the sanctuary.

To ensure safe distancing, bulletins will be placed on the seats of pews. We ask that you find a bulletin and sit in that pew. Couples and families of course can sit together.

The choir will not be singing and there will be no congregational singing. Bob will play the hymns and songs and the words put in the bulletin for you to reflect upon.

There will not be a "Passing the Peace."

No offering will be taken. A receptacle will be available to leave an offering. (Of course, you can still mail it into the church office.)

Any videos that will be a part of the service will be shown on a big screen television on a movable stand.

And for now, there will not be a "Coffee hour."

+ **Fourth**, of course, any expressions of appreciation such as applause or perhaps a “Amen!” (as Derek Waldron reminds us!) is welcome anytime. (Even after the sermon!)

**On the other hand**, you can also expect is to see the faces of your friends, hear the fullness of the music, experience once again the sacredness of the space, and to see the worship leaders in reality not virtually on whatever screen you have used over the past 15 months! Yes, it has been that long!

Let me also say that we encourage each of you to use your own judgement and be attentive to your personal comfort level. If you are not ready to return to a group setting, we understand, and the worship service will continue to be live streamed for you to enjoy at home. There will be someone there online to greet you, receive your comments and take prayer concerns.

And while you may have seen me over the months, I am looking forward to seeing those of you who choose to join us in person on June 13<sup>th</sup>!

*Pastor Neil Wilson*

P.S. You may have to forgive me for a time. I have grown accustomed over those 15 months to speak to the cameras. So, if on occasion I seem to be speaking to the ceiling, I am not ignoring you and no, I am not seeing angels!

1 June 2021



Greetings friends. I have a few parting thoughts to share as I end my 17-month term as your Moderator. First and foremost ....

- Thank you for being who we are. What a wonderful Congregation, so committed to *MISSION*. When we consider causes we support, I think of Salvation Army, Mini-Pantry, Got Lunch!, One Life Africa, Belknap House, Isaiah 61 Cafe, AA/NA, Horton Center. I think there are probably a few more.

- Year 1 of this term was a significant challenge, one that I was not fully equipped to handle. However, with a lot of support from a lot of folks, we righted the ship and this ship is in good shape.
  - Pastor Neil is a delight to work with. Folksy, friendly, welcoming and easy to relate to. Follow-on leadership will truly enjoy working with Neil. Our employees that he supervises are the best .... Bob, Carolyn, Chandra and Chuck. Thank you.
  - My biggest benefit was working with the Officers of the Church. Brad .... What can I say, the most lovable imp I have ever known, always there for advice, counsel, ribbing and support. Don, despite some significant health challenges, the hardest worker in the church. Ashley, “the kid”, thoughtful, efficient, and gorgeous inside and out. (We miss your family, Ashley.)
  - The Executive Committee was always a source of good advice, as was Council. Thanks to all of you.
  - In closing, my biggest THANK YOU is to our 5+ Office volunteers who are there every day the office is open to keep this church running, and to support Pastor Neil. Maurine, Diane, Mary Ellen, Hollis, Claudia, and Martha .... THANK YOU!
- And in closing, the Executive Committee will be meeting early next week to decide the Officers from 1 July until the Annual Meeting. I will share the results of that meeting with you in the very next Blast.

Blessings and thanks to each and every one of you, it has been a privilege,  
John

## Digital Stewardship

Your Stewardship Committee has been discussing our digital presence in the Community. The pandemic has accelerated a shift in the way people learn about churches. Driven by younger people long before the pandemic, now all age groups are learning about our mission digitally, including our own members! For better or worse, our on-line presence is our welcoming mat, and we need to welcome folks electronically. How do we do that? We have been looking into the possibility of getting help from a tech-savvy intern to look at what we have and offer suggestions on how that can be expanded to reflect a vibrant, relevant ministry. If you have suggestions, please send them our way.

Muff Kruse, Dan Tinkham, Jaylene Bengtson, and Pat Wood

## Horton Center - Climate Buddies Camp

If you are going into 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade in the fall then we invite you to join Deans Peter Lovett and Judie Bryant July 19-24 and jump into Creation for the week!

*Everything, everyone is very good* (Gen. 1:31).

Climate Buddies will gently explore the natural setting on Pine Mountain— rock ledges, birds, trees, bees, streams and more! And, we will marvel at how good and interconnected everything is. Art, songs, bible stories and courageous words of Greta Thunberg will help campers to see how they can play a role in caring for God's creation. Come join us as we celebrate the natural world!

Sign up for this camp (or any [2021 summer camp session](#)) on our website: [www.HortonCenter.org](http://www.HortonCenter.org)

## Weekly Devotionals

Weekly Zoom devotionals have been discontinued for now.

## Salvation Army Meals

As you are probably aware, our church assists in providing food for community members through various local organizations besides Got Lunch and the Little Free Pantry. One such organization is the Salvation Army. If you would like to assist in providing periodic meals to usually about fifty-five people, please contact Hollis, current chairman of our Outreach Committee, (512) 970-6592.

## Strengthen The Church – SPECIAL OFFERING

On Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrated the UCC's Strengthen The Church Offering. This is the second of four 2021 Special Offerings and one of the elements of our commitment to be a "5 for 5 Church". Thanks for your gift of approximately \$325, to the Wider Church!

## Brick Pavers

Be a part of the Congregational Church of Laconia history by purchasing a brick for the walkway with your

name or family on it

business name

honored Veteran's name

in memory of a loved one

or just because!

you can even add small symbols like a heart or cross

\* small brick \$125

4' x 8'

2 lines, maximum 20 spaces per line

\* medium brick \$250

8" x 8"

4 lines, maximum 20 spaces per line

\* Granite Walkway Marker \$1000

If you are interested in purchasing a forever brick, or have any questions please speak with Carolyn Jorgensen at the church.

603-524-0668     [carolyn@laconiaucc.org](mailto:carolyn@laconiaucc.org)

## June Birthdays!

|                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1-Patti Hines               | 26-Constance Bickford |
| 1-Michael Mussen            | 26-Charlotte Cilley   |
| 1-Cassie Prescott           | 26-Martha Crane       |
| 2-Zachary Nelson            | 26-James Groleau      |
| 4-Michelle Piscopo          | 28-Jean Clarke        |
| 12-David Smith              | 28-Michael Izard      |
| 13-Hannah Marcel            | 30-Alyson Lines       |
| 20-Ronald Baker III         | 30-Joshua Rawson      |
| 24-Jacqueline Shoemaker     | 30-John Gauthier      |
| 24-Kieran Coraccio-Prescott | 30-Lisa Marshall      |
| 25-Stephen Lanning          | 30-Mitzi Tucker       |