

Congregational Church of Laconia

United Church of Christ

The Reign of Christ Sunday Thanksgiving Sunday

9:30 a.m. November 21, 2021

In-Person and Live Stream Worship

It is recommended that everyone on church property wear a facemask while indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Safe Distancing will be practiced in the Sanctuary.



Meditation Moment:

"I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity." — C.S. Lewis

*Indicates where you may stand as able or desire.

Welcome, Announcements and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Introit *"My Life Flows On in Endless Song" (How Can I Keep From Singing),*
John Kreitler, Tenor Bob Harrington, Bass

Call to Worship (Congregation respond with the **Bold** print.)

In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.

We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

* **Hymn** *"We Gather Together"* (Pilgrim Hymnal)

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing,
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.**

**Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining maintaining God's kingdom divine,
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou. Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine.**

**We all do extoll thee, thou leader triumphant,
And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation.
Thy name bever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

Invocation

**God, we praise You! We gather together to worship you, to remember
the goodness and unfailing love you have shown toward us, your people.
Time after time, you have come to our rescue.
Your love has sustained us through good times and bad.
No matter what we faced —whether accident, illness, disappointment or death,
You were there, encouraging, strengthening, and blessing.
Because we have known your love in the past, we look to the days ahead
without fear. No matter how uncertain the future may seem, we will continue
to trust in your unfailing love, confident that you will guide us in the days ahead
as you have guided us in the past and taught us the manner in which we are to
pray: Our 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 our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. Lead
us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the
power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Musical Offering *“Give Thanks”* (Words and Music by Henry Smith/Arranged by Gary Hallquist)

Jaylene Bengtson, Soprano Claire Bragg, Alto
Lorraine Barrows, Tenor Wayne Domin, Tenor

Our Young People May Leave for Faith Formation

Scripture Reading Luke 23:33-43 John 18:33-37

Message *“A King on a Cross?”*

Musical Reflection *“Now Thank We All Our God”* (Nun Danket),

Beth Shehadi, Soprano Rita Krupp, Soprano
Alida Millham, Alto Diane Wells, Alto
Lorraine Barrows, Tenor Granville Barrows, Bass

Pastoral Prayer

* **Hymn** *“Jesus Shall Reign”* (vss. 1, 3-5) # 300 (New Century Hymnal)

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun,
does its successive journeys run;
God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**People and realms of every tongue
dwell on God's love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
their earliest prayers in Jesus' name.**

**Blessings abound where'er Christ reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blessed.**

**Let every creature rise and bring
tributes of praise for all to sing;
Angels descend with songs again,
and earth shall repeat the loud amen.**

* **Benediction**

* **Parting Song** “*Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*” (v. 1) # 77 New Century Hymnal

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace;
Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

Postlude



Today’s Altar flowers are in loving memory of Evelyn Roberts on her birthday by her daughter Marilyn Lynch and in celebration of Marilyn and Dave’s 60th anniversary.

Announcements

Church office hours

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 AM – 3 PM

Welcome to our Live Stream and In-person Worship!

We would like to acknowledge in the service the presence of our on-line worshippers, if you are comfortable with this and would allow us to do so, let us know through chat that you are watching. Also let the Church Office know if we can help you in any way! 603-524-0668. or neil@laconiaucc.org

Seeking to be the church God desires for us to be!

Prayer Requests: Watching online? Be sure to *post prayers as early as possible in the comment area of the YouTube page.* In order for Pastor Neil to share them, they need to be received **before the end of the sermon.** Worshipping in Person, please use one of the yellow prayer cards from the pew rack and hand it to whoever is monitoring our live stream for the morning. Also, you may post your prayers on the Prayer Wall on the website and throughout the week, please remember to contact Pastor Neil if you have needs to share.

From Across the Merrimack Association

Today Sunday, November 17, Rev. David Keller will be retiring and leaving the South Newbury Union Church, UCC. We are asking that you hold David and the South Newbury church in prayer during worship. Please pray for celebration of ministry shared and David’s lifetime of ministry.

Hand-crafted boxes have been placed at each of the entrances for you to leave any gift or offering you have for the mission and programs of our church. You may also continue to mail in your gifts to the Church office 18 Veterans Square, Laconia, NH 03246 or contact Carolyn Jorgensen 603-524-0668 ext. 224 about Electronic Fund Transfer. (EFT)



Many Thanks!

To those who have sent in their pledges for 2022, thanks so much for supporting the Church! If you haven't had a chance or have lost your pledge card, call the Church Office and that issue can be resolved quickly. It's budget time for 2022 and the more we know the better, so thanks in advance!

Outreach Opportunities

Do you enjoy cooking dinner for others? Is it fun to prepare a meal for 10 people who would really benefit from your time and energy? And how about if you don't even need to clean the house?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you might want to volunteer to prepare a Thursday night dinner for the families at Belknap House. Please contact Diane at tinkhams@metrocast.net for more information or to sign up.



Also, from the Belknap House something for you to consider or pass it on to someone who know who might be interested.

We have learned that Belknap House is looking for a House Assistant to join their team in their commitment to assisting families become independent and self-sufficient. Many of you are familiar with or have participated in our church's outreach ministry with the Belknap House as they serve families who are experiencing homelessness. We have supported them financially and more recently with weekly meals for the families.

If this is an outreach/ministry (as a compensated position) you or someone you know might be interested in contact Tom Sica, Belknap House manager: Housemgr@belknaphouse.org or call (603) 527-8097.

Little Free Pantry Needs Some Magic

The Outreach Committee is asking you to consider making a contribution to the Little Free Pantry outside the Parish House. The magic of Little Free Pantries is they get filled by folks who have extra items and offer gifts to those who have less. It is not designed to be filled regularly as if we were running a food bank, so the contents are everchanging and dependent on the generosity of those who feel they can give a little extra. So show us your favorite magic trick and make something appear!

Hazel Duke Thanksgiving Meal

Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away and once again the church will be providing a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings for the public to have a wonderful meal for Thanksgiving. It will be as we did last year, Take Out, but still a lot of help will be needed from you for peeling and chopping and baking.

We did not have a Christmas Fair this year, so no pies were baked to complete the Thanksgiving meal.

An email will be sent out asking for volunteers to take home the vegetables and prepare them as needed and then return them to the church kitchen on Wednesday, November 24th. We will also be asking for donations of pies to go with our meal.

Please email Hollis Thompson at hollisandgreg@yahoo.com

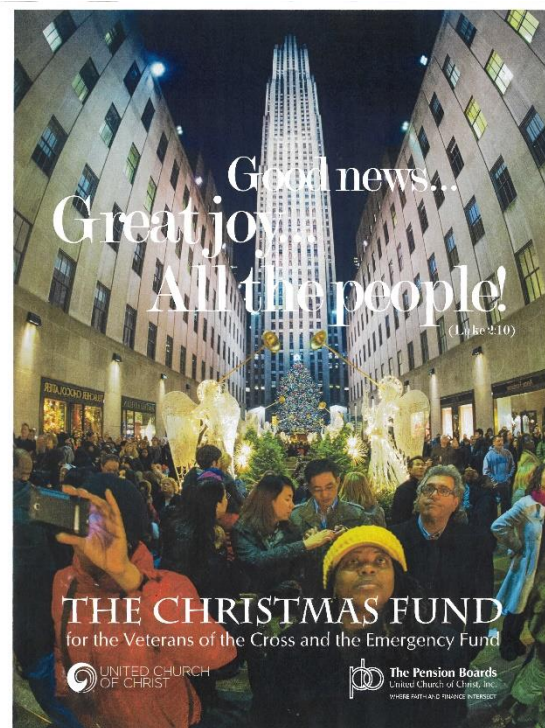


CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

“The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!”

Please place your gift in the offering envelopes by the wooden offering boxes at the back of the church or mail to 18 Veterans Square, Laconia, NH 03246 (marked Christmas Fund). We will be collecting your gifts throughout the month of December.



AMAZON SMILE

So, the next time you get ready to place an order with Amazon....Smile
AmazonSmile is a program that makes donations to your favorite charity at no extra cost to you... and we now are up and running with an AmazonSmile charity account of our own.

In Amazon click on the upper left corner 'AmazonSmile' and search for Congregational Church of Laconia. All you need to do is pick us as your favorite charity.

- AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice.
- All you need to do is start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. The donation will be made at no extra cost to you.
- Though 0.5% is not a large donation and it isn't intended to replace your regular charitable activities, AmazonSmile is still a great way to take advantage of a service you're using anyways.

We also have two companies that match charities through selected workplaces:
GuideStar & Your Cause

We have an amazing church family! Thank you all!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me @ 603.524.0668. Carolyn

Grief Support Surviving the Holidays



The Deacons invite all who are dealing with loss and grief to gather during the holiday season with Margie Kreidler and Beth Shehadi in the Beane Parlor room on Wednesdays at 10 AM.

Come explore strategies for dealing with loss and grief through the holiday season.
For more information, contact Beth at 603-528-6057 or Margie at 603-260-3673

Hallelujah Toffee 2021

Over 227 lbs. of Hallelujah Toffee has arrived! Pound and half pounds available. It makes a great Christmas gift. The sale and support from this Hallelujah Toffee will enable 5 Kenyan students to attend High School, provide books, uniforms and enable the students to attend Christian/Leadership camps at the newly constructed OneLife Campus. **Toffee will be available in the Church office and after worship in the Narthex.**

Hallelujah Toffee Order Form

Name:

Phone #:

_____ of $\frac{1}{2}$ pound box @ \$12.50 each =

_____ of 1 pound box @ \$20.00 each = =

Total Cost = \$

Please make checks out to: Hallelujah Toffee

Delivery options:

Curbside Pick up @ 113 Shore Drive or can be delivered to your home by Linda and it will be available at LUCC in December.

Call 524-5049 or ictunnicliffe@aol.com for COD order



PAGE POND WALK

SPONSORED BY THE EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE



**PAGE POND AND FOREST / MEREDITH
FLAT TERRAIN TO QUIET PONDS, A QUARRY AND OTHER
HISTORICAL SITES IN THE HEART OF MEREDITH.**

TODAY

**BRING A SNACK, WATER, STURDY FOOTWEAR, BINOCULARS AND A
SMILE!**

(3 MILE LOOP, MINIMAL ELEVATION GAIN, FOREST TRAIL)

**CONTACT JEAN CLARKE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER
TEL. 603.455.9702 OR CLARKEFAMILY@METROCAST.NET**

**BONUS: SWING BY MOULTON FARM
ON YOUR WAY HOME FOR A SWEET TREAT.**

This time we will meet in **front of the Church Parish Hall at 1 PM** to carpool to Page Pond in Meredith (about 20 minutes by car). As you'll read, it's flatter than the loop we did at the Morse Preserve, but a mile longer. Depending on the group, we may split into two for a shorter and longer option.

The way things are going perhaps there will be a few leaves left on the oaks and definitely some ducks will be found on the pond.