



# 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)

## January 2022

- Pastors Letter
- Book discussion
- Digital Stewardship
- Historical Preservation
- From the Pastor
- Faith Formation
- Brick Pavers
- Birthdays

### Staff:

#### Pastor:

Rev. Neil Wilson  
[neil@laconiaucc.org](mailto:neil@laconiaucc.org)

#### Director of Music:

K. Robert Bengtson

#### Financial Sec.:

Carolyn Jorgensen  
[carolyn@laconiaucc.org](mailto:carolyn@laconiaucc.org)

#### Sexton:

Chuck Laurent

#### Church Office

603-524-0668

#### Office hours

Mon. Wed. Fri. 9am-3pm

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

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Friends,

Tower Tidings Pastor's Article

Janus the Roman god for which the month of January is named is often thought of as a god with two faces one to look forward and another to look back. But more accurately Janus was the god of gateways and doorways, the god of transitions, of beginnings and endings. It comes from the Latin word *lanus* which means arched passage or doorway.

I know that many of us are sincerely hoping for 2022 to be a better year than the past two have been at least from the perspective of the pandemic. But to be honest it looks like we may be in for a few tenuous months with the latest variant of Covid rapidly spreading even infecting those who are fully vaccinated with boosters! It seems to me we've been in a two-year transition, and I am ready to be out of this transition and walk through that arched passage into a beginning.

But true to the mythology of Janus as I look forward, I need to also look back, at least enough to see that even as difficult as it might have been at times I wasn't traveling alone. I had Donna at my side, I had friends, I had some very capable leadership in this church, I had sisters and brothers in Christ who kept me in their prayers. Without I would have stumbled and fallen more than I did these past two years!

There is a verse from the prophet Micah that seems to me is the informal motto of our church. You will find it on the back of the blue t-shirts many of our Faith Formation students wear. It is from Micah 6:8 *"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* Micah 6:8

Another verse that comes to mind is from Hebrews 12:1 *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,..."*

I have had many in this "cloud of witnesses" surrounding me this past year

and as I enter through the arched passageway into 2022, I know I will not walk alone. So, I can look forward with hope and faith that whatever the New Year brings I will not face it alone *and neither will we Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ! **Neither will we!***

"My faith it is an oaken staff the traveler's well-worn aid"

*Pastor Neil Wilson*

"As the old year retires and a new one is born, we commit into the hands of our Creator the happenings of the past year and ask for direction and guidance in the new one. May God grant us God's grace, tranquility and wisdom!" - Peggy Toney Horton



The book discussion group will meet on Wednesday, January 19. Come at noon in the Beane Parlor upstairs at Congregational Church of Laconia. The book is *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. Join us whether you have read the book or not.

## 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

Thanks, Dan



## Historical Preservation

What year do you think this picture is from? This is one of many treasures we have in our Historical Preservation Room.

Not everyone in a picture can be identified but we would like to name as many in a picture as possible.

Join us on Wednesday morning, January 12, 2022 from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM and again on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 26, 2022 from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM to help us identify as many in a picture as possible.

Our 200th Anniversary or Birthday is in 2024 so we need help with identifying, and organizing pictures, documents, and stories to go along with these memories. This will become a part of our permanent history records.

Contact Beth Shehadi at [bethshehadi@gmail.com](mailto:bethshehadi@gmail.com) or Hollis Thompson at [hollisandgreg@yahoo.com](mailto:hollisandgreg@yahoo.com) for additional information.

Hope to see you there. It really is a lot of fun to look back and remember.

## ***From the Pastor***

As the rate of Covid positive cases rises with the latest variant and we are hearing more and more of them within the membership of our congregation, I want to reassure you that even as we are making every effort to remain open for in-person worship I also encourage you to feel completely at ease with the decision to stay home and watch the service online. We want everyone to be safe and to feel comfortable. So, if over the next few months (especially during the snow and ice months!) you believe it is better for you personally and for the overall welfare of the congregation and our community to stay home that is okay! Enjoy the service from the comfort of your home and be sure to use the chat function on YouTube that we might be able to greet you!

Rest assured that: We will always have a seat for you, we will always have a caring heart for you, and we will always keep you in our prayers.

*Pastor Neil Wilson*



## **Faith Formation**

Starting in January, Faith Formation will be the first Sunday of every month. We hope that we can all be there on those Sundays to continue the fellowship with our Faith Formation community. On all of the other Sundays, the kids/youth are welcome to stay in the worship service and be a part of the larger church.

The upcoming schedule is:

Jan. 2, Feb. 6, Mar. 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, Aug. 7, Sep. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4





## 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)



## January Birthdays

- 2 Karen Anderson
- 2 C. Allen Gable
- 5 David Williams
- 10 Angela Vaillancourt
- 11 Donna Wilson
- 14 Carolyn Furber
- 14 Margie Kreidler
- 16 Craig Shippee
- 17 Richard Bastille
- 22 Tammy Emond
- 23 Bette Dudley
- 29 Diane Lockwood



## Early February Birthdays

- 1 Mary Hatfield
- 2 Justin Piscopo
- 3 Michelle Wein
- 4 Barbara Sweetser
- 6 Lorraine Doyon

