



Tower Tidings

Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ

18 Veterans Square Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

603-524-0668 www.laconiaucc.org

February 2022

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Dear friends,

The Lunar (or Chinese) New year is celebrated on February 1 this year. As I understand it, we are entering the year of the tiger! I know there are some that celebrate this day with a gathering for family and friends and Asian foods.

The Celts celebrated Imbolc on February 1. Imbolc also known as also called Saint Brigid's Day marks the beginning of Spring and honors the saint who was known as the protector of homes and livestock. This celebration predates the Christian observance, and was thought to have had elements of weather divination, and the ancient tradition of watching to see if serpents or badgers came from their winter dens may very well be a forerunner of our North American Groundhog Day.

Which leads us to February 2 as we know it, Ground Hog's Day. And whether we really hold to the tradition or not, some of us still will want to know whether old "Punxsutawney Phil" saw his shadow or not. And whether he did or didn't we will then turn back to the more recent tradition of watching Bill Murray in Ground Hog's Day over and over and over... Did you know that Ground Hog's Day is also known as Candlemas and has its roots in an ancient Christian feast day marking the Presentation of Christ in the temple (Luke 2:22-38)? Records of this celebration have been found as early as the fourth century. It was observed with many lighted candles and thus was know as a "candle – mass".

So, whether you greet each other with

Gong hei fat choy a Cantonese wish for prosperity and good health,

Or *beannacht Brighdhe* – Gaelic for "Happy Brigid's day"

Or simply "Happy Ground Hog's Day" may your month of February be blessed with light and warmth on your hearth and in your homes and may the light of the child presented by his mother in the temple become a real presence in your lives.

Pastor Neil Wilson

Lunch and Learn Is Back!

The Educational Ministries Committee is bringing back **Lunch and Learn!** This is an opportunity to gather at noon (on Zoom for the time being) for 45 minutes to learn about a particular topic. There will be time for questions, but it will primarily be a chance for listening and learning from the leader. We have two dates planned for February:

February 8- Pastor Neil will be discussing *"A Mad Dash through a Good Book"*

February 22- Details to be announced soon!

How do you participate? The link is below, try to "arrive" a few minutes early so we can begin promptly at noon. You're welcome to bring your lunch but you don't need to unless it's convenient for you.

CONFIRMATION

We have three youth continuing to participate in the Merrimac Association Confirmation program. The group includes youth from 5 area churches and is led by Pastor Sara Holland from the Plymouth Congregational Church and Pastor Peter Lovett from the Meredith Congregational Church. They meet at different churches (they'll meet this Sunday at our Church) and are developing new friendships and enjoying fellowship with other UCC youth. The program enables the youth to learn through scripture, discussions, lessons, games, and other activities. There is also an overnight service trip to Boston planned in March.

Each young person also meets with a mentor from our church to keep them connected to their home church community. Please keep Haily, Jennah, and Carson in your prayers as they grow in their faith.

Little Food Pantry

Some of the ways we help out our neighbors is Hands Across the Table, Salvation Army, Belknap House, Hazel Duke Thanksgiving, and our **Little Food Pantry**.

When you go to the grocery store, buy a can or two of vegetables, or pasta, or soup, or pancake mix and syrup and drop it by the church office or bring it to church on Sunday and put it in the wagon.

Someone will get food they need and you probably won't notice the little extra you spent.

They are grateful.

STANDING WITH JESUS FOR JUSTICE

The ONA committee would like to hear from YOU! Last year we did a series of programs on race and racism as part of our mission to “Stand with Jesus for Justice”.

We will be continuing this year with these topics:

March 6 - Justice issues in the schools

March 20 - Belknap House – helping homeless families

April 3 - Refugees in NH

April 24 - Civic Responsibility – how to do your part

(all sessions will be held on Zoom, after the church service)

We have many other topics on our minds but we feel it is important to hear from you, our congregation. What are your concerns; what matters or subjects would you like to learn more about; what do you think we, the Congregational Church of Laconia can or should be doing to Stand with Jesus for justice?

Please share your ideas by sending them to the church office at churchoffice@laconiaucc.org or to Kathy Giovanni at kgiovani@metrocast.net.

The ONA committee is: Kathy Giovanni, Bob Harrington, Muff Kruse, Alida Millham, Beth Shehadi, Janet Simmon, Diane Tinkham, Diane Wells, Patrick Wood.

Historical Preservation Committee Save the date!

Come join us for sharing memories as we work on identifying old photos - who are in them, what year, what event.

Our next session will be on February 23, 2022 from 1 - 3 pm., in the Historical Room of Discovery .

You might be surprised how many people you recognize. We have pictorial directories to help identify folks.

For more information, Contact Beth Shehadi 603 528-2475 or Hollis Thompson 512 970-6592.

Prepared to Serve

New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ

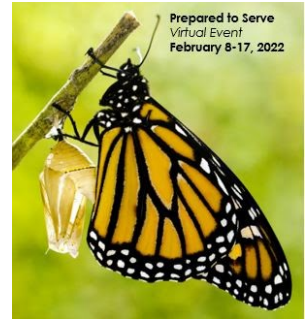
Plans are well underway for Prepared to Serve 2022, which will be held as an online event from February 8 - 17, 2022. This year's theme is from the scripture passage found in 2 Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*

Registration Closes February 4th

All registrations will be processed online on or before Friday, February 4TH at 11:59 pm. Some workshops have limited capacity, which will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis, so please register soon to get your desired selections.

Visit the registration site at: <https://cvent.me/YdeNld>

Note: At the conclusion of the event all those registered will receive information on how to access workshop recordings for all of the sessions we have permission to record, regardless of whether you registered for that specific session or not.



Welcome the Barrows Granville and Lorraine

Granville (Gran) and Lorraine Barrows met in the music department of UNH and have been making music together or singly ever since. Lorraine has taught instrumental and vocal music in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and most recently, in Rochester, NH. Their several moves have allowed them to play in many bands, community orchestras, brass quintets, theater pit bands and even a week-long stint for the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus. Both heavily involved in the barbershop vocal music world, Lorraine founded and directed the Royal River Chorus in Yarmouth, Maine, competed internationally with her quartet, A Sterling Affair, and spent nine years as the Sweet Adelines International director of education at their headquarters in Tulsa, Oklahoma. While there, Gran directed the Founders' Chorus of men and delivered many Singing Valentines and performances with his quartet. He sang for many years with the Downeasters Chorus in Portland, Maine, directed there for a few years and still retains his membership with the chorus, travelling to perform and sing with them when he can. Both sang regularly with the choir in their Maine, Oklahoma and NH Congregational churches and look forward to the day when our own choir can rehearse and sing together again!



Mostly retired, Gran holds his broker's license and still manages several rental properties through his business in the Great Bay area of NH. Prior to that he worked in sales--mostly furniture--and owned the Scandinavia House furniture stores in Maine. Gran grew up in Waterville, ME and Lorraine in New London, NH. They have two children, Peter, and Robyn, and three granddaughters. All love the water and are excited that their parents and grandparents now live on the river and have close access to all the lakes here. Gran and Peter are avid skiers and look forward to many days on the slopes. Laconia is the place to

Welcome the Dupaks Peter and Dawn

Dawn was raised in Vancouver, Canada. After graduating from the University of British Columbia, (B.A Fine Arts 1973) she moved to Toronto and worked for 8 years as an Interior Designer for a major department store. Peter is a native of Toronto, Canada (University of Toronto, B.A.Sc, Civil Engineering 1969, M.Eng., Mining Engineering, McGill University, 1971) and began his professional career with International Nickel Co. of Canada at their mines in northern Ontario.

Along the way Dawn and Peter met in Montreal in 1970 and were married in 1974, which dovetailed nicely with Peter's transfer to INCO's head office in Toronto to work on the development of INCO's international assets in Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, and New Caledonia. During this time they started a life-long love of travel, discovering the deep enjoyment of experiencing diverse cultures.

Their first daughter, Erin, arrived in 1981. In 1982 they moved to Chatham, NJ when Peter joined Morgan Guaranty Trust as their VP/Mining Engineer. Kim, daughter #2, arrived in 1984.

As well as being Team Mom Extraordinaire, Dawn was a "professional" volunteer while the girls were growing up and served on the boards of The Arts Council of the Morris Area (now Morris Arts), The Friends of Florham, The Marionette Players, The Municipal Alliance Committee of the Chathams, The Youth Inter-faith Council of the Chathams, Chatham High School PTO, Chatham Middle School PTO, Washington Avenue School PTO, Stanley Congregational Church, and the Junior League of Morristown. She also ran her own business as an independent contractor for a major women's ready to wear direct marketing firm for 26 years.

While Dawn kept the home fires burning during the week, Peter trotted the globe. In his 40 years (and still counting) with Morgan Guaranty Trust, JP Morgan, Chase and JPMorgan/Chase he has visited over 165 countries and accumulated over 9 million air miles, but rarely missed a weekend game or meet in which the girls were involved. They have never located a mine anywhere near a resort and Peter's business travel has taken him, on multiple occasions, to the most remote areas of the globe: Siberia, Russia; Amazonia, Brazil; Irian Jaya, Indonesia; the Canadian and Russian Arctic; Atacama Desert, Chile; the steppes of Kazakhstan and Mongolia; and the outback of Australia. These experiences have allowed him to become an avid collector of folk art. He prizes his Australian digeridoo, Brazilian poison blow-darts, Argentinian cowboy bolas, and Indian sitar in his diverse collection. Peter has also collected over 150 folk art dolls for his two daughters, representing about 70 countries.

In 2009 the Dupaks purchased a vacation home on Lake Winnisquam to be near Erin (BSc Bio-Medical Engineering, WPI, 2004, M.Eng., Bio-Engineering, UCSD 2005) and her husband Tom Daly. Kim (BA, International Relations, GWU 2007, Capt. USMC) and her husband, James Spears, moved to NH at the end of their

military service in 2014. Laconia became Dawn and Peter's permanent residence in 2019. Having the whole family in one state is a blessing for which they are very grateful.

Together, their other interests include downhill skiing, sailing, bridge, gourmet cooking, gardening and travel. Their newest volunteer experience is with Winnisquam Watershed Network. Dawn also enjoys a variety of needle arts including quilting with The Belknap Quilters Guild and Peter is a skilled stained glass craftsman. But **most importantly**, they enjoy their 4 grandchildren.

They feel blessed to be living in NH and are very grateful for the warm welcome they have received from their neighbors, the WWN, the BMQG, and Laconia UCC.



HAMLIN CONSERVATION AREA WALK/SNOWSHOE



SPONSORED BY: EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

**HAMLIN-EAMES-SMYTH CONSERVATION AREA
ROLLING TERRAIN TO QUIET PONDS**

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, FEB 27TH

**BRING A SNACK, WATER, WINTER FOOTWEAR OR SNOWSHOES!
(3 MILE LOOP, MINIMAL ELEVATION GAIN, FOREST TRAIL)**

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

BONUS: HOT CHOCOLATE AND A SWEET TREAT

February Birthdays

- 1 Mary Hatfield
- 2 Justin Piscopo
- 3 Michelle Wein
- 4 Barbara Sweetser
- 6 Lorraine Doyon
- 8 Cindy Guldemon
- 8 Claudia Wright
- 10 Gretta Smith
- 11 M. Paul Guldemon
- 14 Ruth Stuart
- 17 Rev. Janet Heslam
- 18 Annie Lund
- 21 Philip Bragg
- 22 Michael Muzzy
- 26 Phyllis MacDonald



Early March Birthdays

- 1 Linda Tunncliffe
- 5 Nith Outhoummontry

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

