



# Tower Tidings

Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ  
18 Veterans Square Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

## December 2022

- Pastor's Letter
- Christmas Pageant
- Our Church Family
- End Hunger Mission Opportunity
- Advent & Christmas Events & Services
- Stewardship News
- Birthdays
- Coffee Hour Calendar
- Book Discussion
- Church Service Award nominations

### Staff:

Interim Pastor:  
Campbell Lovett

Director of Music:  
K. Robert Bengtson

Financial Sec.:  
Carolyn Jorgensen  
carolyn@laconiaucc.org

Communications Associate:  
Karen McDowell  
karen@laconiaucc.org

Sexton:  
Chuck Laurent  
**Church Office**  
603-524-0668

Office hours



Mon. Wed. Fri.  
9am-3pm

## *Happy New Year!*

No, I have not misplaced my calendar. The Season of Advent marks the beginning of a new cycle in the church year. In this cycle, we journey together from messianic anticipation to birth to ministry to death to resurrection to mission. Thus, in one sense with Advent, we are beginning again. So, Happy New Year!

We are also beginning again in the life cycle of the Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ. The rotation of time leads from welcoming new members to celebrating those who have been here for decades, from seasons of "settled" ministers to periods of pastoral transition. We are beginning again in that time of transition with interim ministry leading toward a new settled minister in our midst.

The writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes reflected on these shifts when they wrote: *"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."* Our featured Advent prophet, Isaiah, envisioned new times of peace, hope, joy and Immanuel breaking forth:

- And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (2:4)
- The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. (11:6)
- The ransomed of God shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; joy and gladness shall encompass them, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (35:10)
- Therefore God will give you a sign: a young woman shall conceive and bear a child, whom she shall call Immanuel. (7:14)

As a Just Peace Church, in a new season that anticipates the Prince of Peace, I invite you to consider participating in these efforts of peace with justice. In these Advent efforts, may hope, peace, love and joy prevail.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is leading an effort to declare a **Christmas Truce in Ukraine**. <https://forusa.org/ukraine/>

**Christians against Christian Nationalism** is inviting people of faith to consider signing onto a statement in support of religious freedom and against nationalism and bigotry: <https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/statement>

*Continued on next page*

## Happy New Year! (continued from page 1)

We care about the wider world, and we care for our church community. If you are Christmas shopping for special caregivers whom you know, check out these resources from Pilgrim Press:

The first resource is a beautiful **devotional book to support and sustain those who provide care:**

[https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/caring-for-ourselves-while-caring-for-our-elders-tirabassi-tirasbassi-tigert?mc\\_cid=65d4c822af&mc\\_eid=476f3d0b4b](https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/caring-for-ourselves-while-caring-for-our-elders-tirabassi-tirasbassi-tigert?mc_cid=65d4c822af&mc_eid=476f3d0b4b)

The second resource is especially for those suddenly immersed in **caregiving for a family member** or friend and more information is needed about how best to serve: [https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/caregiving-101-cannon?mc\\_cid=65d4c822af&mc\\_eid=476f3d0b4b](https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/caregiving-101-cannon?mc_cid=65d4c822af&mc_eid=476f3d0b4b)

## Christmas Pageant Preparations Have Begun!

The Educational Ministry Committee and a host of helpers have begun planning for our annual Christmas Pageant. The pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> as part of the regular worship service beginning at 9:30 a.m. The casting call is going out to all sheep, shepherds, angels and wisemen! Sign-ups will take place during coffee hour on Sunday mornings. See Diane Tinkham or give her a call at 603-455-2427 or email: [tinkhams@metrocast.net](mailto:tinkhams@metrocast.net) for more information. Lorraine Valovane, Pageant Director, will coordinate a rehearsal with more details to follow. So mark the date – Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – bring a “white gift” (a canned good wrapped in white tissue paper) and join us for a traditional pageant celebrated in song, scripture and a sprinkle of magic!



### IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

There will be a memorial service for **Bernie Chapman** here at the Laconia Congregational Church on Saturday, December 10, at 11 a.m. All are invited to a gathering of Bernie's friends, family members and fellow parishioners, downstairs in the Church Hall, following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to the Congregational Church of Laconia in Bernie's memory.

Our condolences and prayers go out to Diane Tinkham and her family following the death of her father, Robert Thomas McCone in Connecticut.

Follow this link for obituary information. <https://www.sheehanhilbornbreen.com/memorials/robert-thomas-mckone/5081971/index.php>

# Congregational Church of Laconia

## Advent Mission Opportunity

On Sunday, December 11th at 1:00 p.m., our church will host the UCC's Regional Youth Group food packaging event! We are coordinating this with The Outreach Project and UCC churches from Plymouth and Meredith. If all goes as planned, 10,000 meals will be packaged. This is an intergenerational service opportunity and church members are invited to participate in a variety of ways.

- Help with set-up is needed following coffee hour in the Church Hall. This will consist of moving the round tables and chairs and setting up rows of long tables.
- At 1:00 p.m. volunteers will work on the "assembly line" packaging the non-perishable meal packets that will be distributed to pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and food banks in the area and beyond..
- At 4:00 p.m. volunteers will clean-up and return the Hall to Coffee Hour shape.



Please contact Karen in the Church Office at 603-524-0668, ext. 221 if you can participate on Dec. 11th.



## Poinsettias for Christmas

It is tradition to adorn the Christmas Altar with poinsettias. A donation of \$20 is suggested per plant. If you would like to help in this way, fill out and return a form to the church office or place in the offering box in the sanctuary, no later than Sunday, Dec. 11. Forms are available in the Church Office and in the sanctuary.

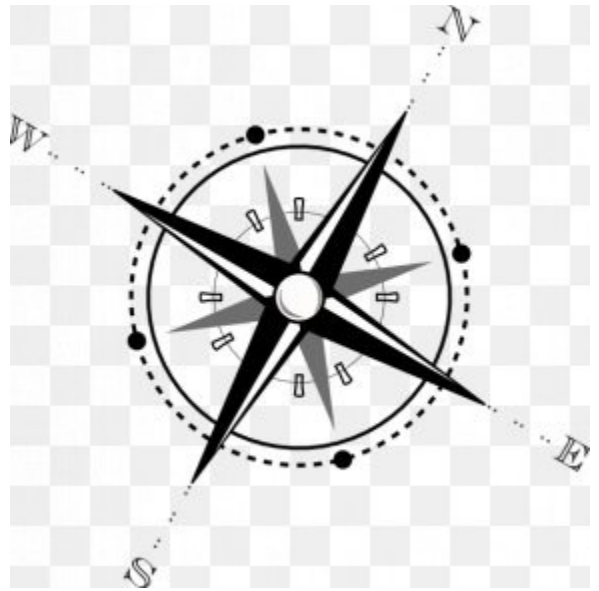
Advent Blessings! — The Altar Guild

## Upcoming Advent and Christmas Events and Services

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Thursday, 12/8 | 5:30 p.m. <b>Advent Event</b> in the Church Hall. Soup Supper followed by a program led by Rev. Campbell Lovett.   |
| Sunday, 12/11  | 9:30 a.m. <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Worship Service. Love  |
| Sunday 12/18   | 9:30 a.m. <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> . Christmas Pageant will take place as a part of the worship service. Joy |
| Saturday 12/24 | 7:00 p.m. <b>Christmas Eve</b> Intergenerational Service. Preludes begin at 6:30 p.m.                              |
| Sunday 12/25   | 9:30 a.m. <b>Christmas Sunday!</b> Informal worship with a participatory event: Hay, Hearts and Stars.             |

# Stewardship News

In November, Congregational Church of Laconia held its Consecration Sunday. The celebratory service concluded a campaign that featured three “witnessing stewards”: Diane Wells, Bob Harrington and Alida Millham spoke about the various ways that they serve in and through the church, and about the importance of giving in their lives.



The Stewardship Committee thanks all those who made a financial pledge as a part of the campaign.

To date, the church has received about 75% of what was received last year — including pledges from 12 new givers. Thank you all!

There is still time to make your financial commitment to the church for 2023. If you have misplaced your pledge card and need another one, please contact Carolyn at the Church Office. If you have questions about how best to make a financial commitment (i.e. online giving, weekly offering, donation of equities, planned giving), please reach out to a member of the Stewardship Committee.

Thank you all for the many ways that you serve the church and the community through the sharing of your gifts of time, talent and treasure. What we are doing together is making a difference.

Thank you,  
The Stewardship Committee  
Dan Tinkham, Chairperson

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



12/02	Patricia Williams	12/11	Delano Kennard
12/03	David Frost	12/14	Stephen Austin
12/03	Mary Ellen-Azem	12/16	Noah Marshall
12/03	Andy Hazelton	12/19	Carson Tucker
12/05	Gini Wakeman	12/23	Sylvia Quackenbush
12/05	Stephen Tucker	12/25	Rita Krupp
12/06	Mike Colcord, Jr.	12/25	Betsey Wilder
12/07	Jack Weeks	12/27	Jean Davie
12/07	Robert Durfee	12/27	Matthew Wood
12/09	Diane Maher	12/28	William Birch
12/10	Marilyn Lynch	12/30	Martha (Muff) Kruse
12/10	Rev. Paula Gile	12/30	Brenda Tokarz



# Congregational Church of Laconia-UCC

## Coffee Hours

December 4	Diaconate
December 11	Outreach*
December 18	Educational Ministries
December 25	Merry Christmas!
	<u>No Coffee Hour</u>

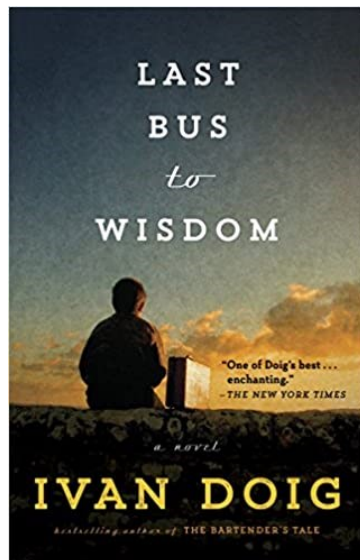


\* Full coffee hour with beverages & refreshments.

## Book Discussion News

There will be no book discussion group in December.

If you want to get a head start on your reading for 2023, January's book is *Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig.



*From the 10 people at Lake Village Apartments who had a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner because of you!*

*Thank you  
Linda Moulton*

## Nomination Form for Church Service Award

This award is presented each year at the church's annual meeting to "honor and reward those persons or person whose service to the church is above the call of duty."

Person(s) nominated:

Reasons why you are making this nomination: