



Tower Tidings

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

January 2023

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See, I am making all things new.

Rev. 21:5

During this first week of the New Year, I am aware of all the hope that we put in a new beginning. Many of the New Year rituals are about putting away that which has gone before and being open to what is ahead.

- The making of New Year's resolutions is about getting a new start and putting away what some call "bad habits." We resolve to quit smoking, lose weight, exercise, and be more kind - assuming that we smoked, ate in excess, didn't exercise, and were usually abrupt and rude.

- Some traditions have evolved from literally getting rid of the old. Fire pits and bonfires are opportunities to burn up the old. I have heard tell of people writing words on paper about habits or hindrances that they want to leave behind, and then burning the paper in a symbolic action. "Out with the old and in with the new" must be the rationale.

- In more ancient cultures, New Year's was a time to get started on the right foot. Farming tools or cooking utensils were returned to those from whom they had been borrowed; and oftentimes debts were repaid.

The Apostle Paul, though not writing about New Year's, did write about becoming new. In II Corinthians, Paul wrote: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (5:17) Our new identity then is that we are in Christ, and because of that we can live more freely, more lovingly and more courageously! All good things - especially for a New Year - don't you agree?

Therefore, can we spend time reflecting about making a New Year's resolution that is about more than self-improvement or breaking bad habits? What might a resolution look like that demonstrates new life in Christ: showing more love, acting more courageously? Is there a new beginning we can make in 2023 that is about others, for others, with others?

As we begin this New Year, I cheer you on in any resolutions you have made, any habits you seek to change, and any way that you want to begin again. I especially encourage us in our discipleship that can make a difference for those in any need. May we be bolstered by our God who in Christ fashions us as new creations, and who in fact is forever "making all things new."

And, if anyone has my hay rake, could you please return it?!

With you on the journey.

Campbell Lovett

Interim Pastor

**A Call to the 198th Annual Meeting
of the
Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ
January 29, 2023**

The Annual Meeting of the Church will be held following the morning service of worship at 10:40 a.m. and shared via livestream.

The Annual Meeting is for the purpose of:

1. Presentation of, and action on, the budget proposed for 2023;
2. The election of Officers, Committee members, and Standing Delegates;
3. The presentation of reports by Officers and Committees of the Church;
4. The presentation of the annual Church Service Award;
5. Any other business that any member may wish to place before the Church for consideration or action.

Don Clarke, Moderator



Dear Pastor Lovett,

On behalf of all the residents of Belknap House, I want to thank you and your parishioners for their faithful service to Belknap House.

Throughout the year, families experience the kindness and generosity of all volunteers who make weekly meals for them. Please know how very full our hearts are with gratitude.

Dear Pastor and Church Members:

This year you shared your time, talents, kindness and more with our families. Your generous presence has been priceless.

Thank you!



Church Service Award 2023 — Get your nominations in!

This is a reminder to submit nominations for the 2023 Church Service Award. The deadline is Friday, January 13.

The Church Service Award is presented each year to honor and reward those who have served the church in a manner that is “above the call of duty.”

Once again, we are looking to the Congregation and encourage you to nominate anyone you feel worthy of this recognition.

You may fill out this form (use an additional sheet if needed) and email it back to churchoffice@laconiaucc.org, or bring it to the church office Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Don Clarke, Moderator

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Laconia, NH 03246
603-524-0668
www.laconiaucc.org

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:

Growing Together in Faith

FAITH FORMATION

This Sunday, January 8, is the second Sunday of the month, so we'll be meeting for Faith Formation. Anyone of school age is welcome to be a part of this multi-age group.

High schoolers are particularly helpful as we try to bring faith alive in our lives!

Just a Reminder

Colds, flu, and Covid-19 are more likely to spread when people gather indoors as they do in winter. We will continue to let you know what the Covid-19 Community Level is via our Covid signal so you can take the action that is right for you.

What people can do to protect themselves

Low Limited impact on healthcare system, low levels of severe disease	Medium Some impact on healthcare system, more people with severe disease	High High potential for healthcare system strain; high level of severe disease
Get vaccinated, boosted	Get vaccinated, boosted	Get vaccinated, boosted
Get tested if sick	Get tested if sick	Get tested if sick
	If at potential <u>increased risk</u> , talk to your healthcare provider about wearing a mask	Wear a mask in public indoor settings including schools
People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.		

As always, stay home if you are sick...and thank God for our live stream ministry!

Congregational Church of Laconia-UCC

Coffee Hours

January 8	Parish Activities*
January 15	Property & Finance
January 22	Worship & Music
January 29	Parish Activities

*** Full coffee hour with beverages & refreshments.**



JANUARY BOOK DISCUSSION

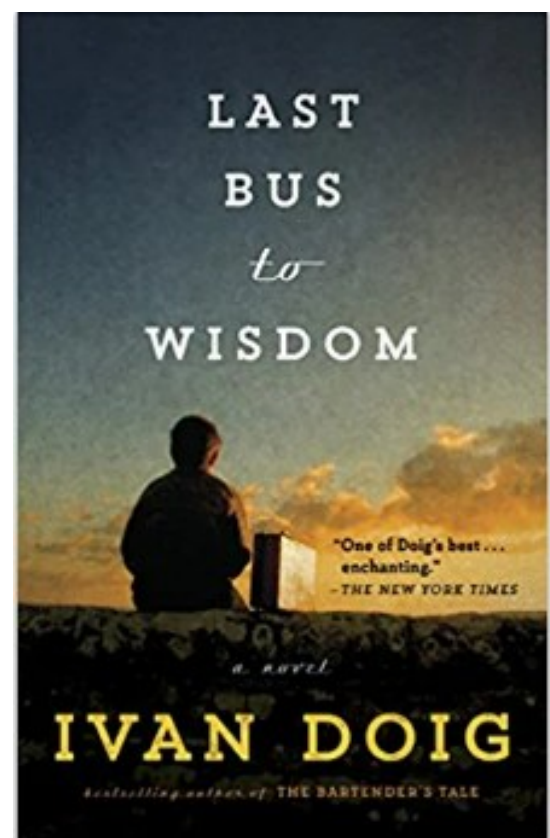
Wednesday, January 18, 12 PM—Parish House Library

Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig

Named a Best Book of the Year by the Seattle Times and Kirkus Review.

The final novel from a great American storyteller, *Last Bus to Wisdom* is charming, wise and slyly funny. It is a last sweet gift from a writer whose books have bestowed untold pleasure on countless readers.

All Are Welcome!





Our church was one of many community organizations that benefitted from a donation of clothing from a Tanger Outlet retail store to the NH Children's Auction. Now those who utilize the Little Free Food Pantry will also have access to new, warm clothing.



Members of our church spread the Christmas spirit by caroling at Forest View Manor and St. Francis Rehabilitation Center on December 23rd. Thank you Hollis for welcoming everyone back with hot cocoa and homemade Christmas cookies!

January Birthdays



1/02	C. Allen Gable	1/16	Craig Shippee
1/02	Karen Anderson	1/17	Richard Bastille
1/03	Haily McCarty	1/18	Berton Yeaton Jr.
1/04	Leah McCallum	1/19	Erica Gilbert
1/04	Grace Vaillancourt	1/21	Robby Cosgriff
1/05	David Williams	1/22	Tammy Emond
1/10	Angela Vaillancourt	1/26	Reid Vaillancourt
1/11	Donna Wilson	1/27	Lyllah Anstey
1/14	Carolyn Furber	1/29	Diane Lockwood
1/14	Margie Kreidler		

