



Tower Tidings

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

February 2023

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From the Interim Pastor

...Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

(Colossians 3:12 – 15)

In my ministry in your midst, I ask a lot of questions and listen carefully to a lot of answers. One thing I listen for is how individuals in the church have dealt with conflict, and how people respond when they don't feel heard. Unfortunately, some withdraw as active participants; others leave altogether. We can do better as a church – in the spirit of Colossians 3.

As we are early in a New Year, it may be helpful to list healthy ways to respect and resolve differences. Here are principles I learned from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, for working through disagreements and differences (at home and at church):

Acknowledge together that conflict is a normal part of our life together in the church.

Affirm that as God walks with us in conflict we can work through to growth.

Go directly to those with whom you disagree; avoid behind-the-back criticism.

Go in gentleness, patience and humility. Place the problem between us at neither doorstep and own our part in the conflict instead of pointing out the other's.

Listen carefully, summarize and check out what is heard before responding.

Suspend judgments, avoid labeling, end name calling, discard threats, and act in a non-defensive nonreactive way.

Work through the disagreements constructively: identify issues, generate a variety of options for meeting both parties' needs, evaluate options, and collaborate in working out a joint solution.

Be firm in our commitment to seek a mutual solution.

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Whether you experience a difference of opinion with your partner, or another family member, or you feel that an issue at church has been divisive, following these principles can help move you to a place of wholeness and peace. If you have withdrawn from or left Congregational Church of Laconia, may I have a conversation with you about resolving differences in church life? The interim time can be a helpful one for working through any unresolved conflicts and preparing to move forward, together.

With you on the journey,
Campbell Lovett
pastor@laconiaucc.org

Join in the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Challenge February 1-21

The Open and Affirming (ONA) Committee is inviting you to join us in furthering our commitment that we are a Church that is welcoming to all. Since we are a Just Peace Church, and February is Black History Month, it's a perfect time for us to challenge our understanding of what it means to be Black in America. We've discovered a great opportunity that anyone can do either at home or with others and we'd like to encourage you to take the Challenge!



The Privilege Institute has developed a 21 Day- Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge for individuals and groups to “move beyond dialogue and into action around issues of diversity, power, privilege, and leadership”.

Use this link to access the [21 Day- Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge](https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge/?fbclid=IwAR20KcAWMVXyOCZ1bstlrVqqxSPyN8kf9csDS3BhGLxIRi8JyYTgXcX6BU%23act)

<https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge/?fbclid=IwAR20KcAWMVXyOCZ1bstlrVqqxSPyN8kf9csDS3BhGLxIRi8JyYTgXcX6BU%23act>

It includes an enormous variety of resources to read, listen, do, or watch. Fill out a chart that we'll distribute at church (or you can make your own) and track your 21 days and what you did on each of those days. As the website states, this will enable us to “become a more effective player in the quest for equity and justice.”

There will be a notebook in the Pleasant St. foyer on Sundays and in the Church office during the week, with paper copies of articles for those not interested/able to use a computer. If you borrow an article, read it and return it to the notebook the following Sunday for someone else to borrow.

During Coffee Hours on the first three Sundays in February, we'll be presenting a few of the suggested short videos. We'll have a table set aside for anyone who is interested to watch and reflect and recommend other resource ideas.

- 1) Watch, listen, read or do something every day for 21 days.
- 2) Fill out your chart to keep track of your personal challenge activities.
- 3) Attend a Coffee Hour Video and Conversation.
- 4) Bring your completed chart to Coffee Hour on Feb. 26 and get a little reward!

This Challenge is brought to you by the ONA Committee: Kathy Giovani, Bob Harrington, Muff Kruse-Walker, Alida Millham, Beth Shehadi, Janet Simmon, Diane Tinkham, Diane Wells, Patrick Wood and Rev. Campbell Lovett.

Black History Month Resources from the United Church of Christ

Follow this link <https://www.ucc.org/becoming-freedom-schools-black-history-month-resources-invite-all-ages-toward-racial-justice/> for denominational resource to supplement your 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Challenge participation.

Ash Wednesday ~ February 22

There will be an Ash Wednesday service of worship at 7:00 p.m. on February 22. It will be a familiar service of Holy Communion and Ashes – with a twist. We will explore the artistry of pottery created on a wheel and woodwork created on a lathe. How does this turning create a thing of beauty? Can our ‘turning’ in Lent help our spirituality to become more beautiful? In person and livestream.



Lookin’ for Love in All the Wrong Places – A Worship Series for Lent



The Christian scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can really be found. And it is not in the “usual” places. Lent will be a reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. We’ll explore stories of Jesus to find out who offers the right places. We are grateful for this resource from Worship Design Studios and Marcia McFee.

February 26	Look for the Resistor – Matthew 4:1-11
March 5	Look for the Helper – Psalm 121
March 12	Look for the Thirst Quencher – John 4:13 – 14
March 19	Look for the Shepherd – Psalm 23
March 26	Look for the Liberator – John 11: 1 – 45
April 2	Look for the Unexpected – Matthew 21: 1 – 11
April 9	Love Wins! – John 20:1 - 18

“The New Testament You Never Knew”

A Bible Study Exploring the Context, Purpose, and Meaning of the Story of God.

Are you interested in a Bible Study about the new Testament? This unique 8-part series will be offered after worship/coffee hour beginning March 19. Using a unique blend of brief videos and a workbook, participants will discover more about the New Testament people, places and theologies than they every knew. Please contact Claudia Wright if you are interested, so that we may order you a workbook. Claudia.Wright2840@icloud.com.

CHURCH SERVICE & DEACON EMERITUS AWARDS

Our Congregation had the privilege of honoring some very special people during the 198th Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29th.



Hollis and Greg Thompson received the **Church Service Award**, in recognition of the extraordinary time, effort and expertise they dedicate, enhancing our ministry as the “Downtown Church.”

Don Clarke was presented with this year’s **Deacon Emeritus Award** by Margie Kreitler.

“The way Don lives out his life each day embodies the attributes of a true Deacon. Don’s ‘*what can I do for you?*’ has touched many lives in the church and community.”



History Quiz!

The answers as promised!

1. The B Grand piano in the Sanctuary was once owned by:

C: Harry Belafonte



2. The portrait of our second full-time pastor, Dr. John Kimball Young, hangs where on church property. Answer: **Pastor Lovett’s office.**



3. How many operettas did Beth Ides write? **Answer: 4. Joseph in 1959, Moses (date unknown), David 1962 and Peter 1964.**

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SAVE THE DATES

PREPARED TO SERVE: Each year the New Hampshire Conference hosts a day of workshops and training. "This year, Prepared to Serve: A Training Event for All of God's People" will be held in person at the Pembroke Academy in Pembroke, NH. The event is on **February 25 from 8:30 - 2:00** followed by a Service of Installation for the new Associate Conference Minister. Please go to the Conference website: nhcucc.org click on the "Events & Classified" tab and the first item will be Prepared to Serve. There will be links to see the Brochure and to Register. What a variety of workshops. There truly is something for everyone. If people sign-up, let's carpool from the Parish House!

LUNCH and LEARN: Thursday, Feb. 9, 12 PM

Please join the Educational Ministries Committee for an interesting conversation with Corey Gately, MLADC. Corey is the Director of Substance Use Services at Concord Hospital, Laconia. The Recovery Clinic's goal is to help people achieve long-term recovery through substance abuse treatment services. This involves a commitment to participate in professional counseling and appropriate use of medications. Do you want to better understand the problems of addiction that impact our local community and families? If you're available, please join us at noon on February 9, in the Church Hall.

THINK SUMMER! That may be hard to do right now, but summer is closer than you think. Visit the Horton Center website to see what camps are being offered this year. There are options for ALL AGES. Some a short camps but most are week-long programs. Whenever you go, Horton Center on Pine Mountain is awesome! <http://hortoncenter.org>.



CHAMBERLAIN-REYNOLDS FOREST WALK/SNOWSHOE: Sunday, February 5th. Meet at 1 PM in front of the Parish Hall. Bring a snack, water, winter footwear or snowshoes! Three-mile loop, no elevation gain, forest trail. Contact Jean Clarke for more information, 603-455-9702 or jeanclarke56@gmail.com Sponsored by the Educational Ministries Committee.

CELEBRATION XI FOR WOMEN — MARCH 17-19

Celebration XI will be held in Manchester, NH this year! What an opportunity to have more than 200 women come together to worship, sing and learn for three days. It is truly an empowering and amazing experience. Please register by March 10. Some scholarships are available. It is possible to attend one day or all three. For questions, call or talk with NHCUCC Women's Fellowship Board members: Elvena Anderson, Margie Kreitler, Hollis Thompson or Diane Wells. We hope to see you there!

FYI

Carolyn, our Financial Secretary, is a Notary and a Justice of the Peace. If you need help with documents, she can assist you free of charge. Carolyn is available during the week. Give her a call at 603-524-0668.

HELP WANTED — Volunteer Opportunity

Recording Secretary (officer) needed for this very important role, taking minutes at Annual, Special, Executive Committee and Council meetings. Individual needs to be present to take notes and then prepare and submit meeting minutes. Time commitment is a few hours each month. If you can help, please send an email expressing your interest to churchoffice@laconiaucc.org.

- Wayne Domin, Moderator

Congregational Church of Laconia-UCC Coffee Hours

February 5	Diaconate
February 12	Property & Finance*
February 19	Educational Ministries
February 26	Outreach



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

FEBRUARY BOOK DISCUSSION

Leaving Cold Sassy by Olive Ann Burns

<https://www.amazon.com/Leaving-Cold-Sassy-Unfinished-Sequel/dp/0385312202>

*The Book Discussion group meets the third Wednesday of each month
at 12 PM in the Parish House Library*

February Birthdays



2/1	Mary Hatfield	2/12	Grayson Wood
2/3	Michelle Wein	2/14	Ruth Stuart
2/4	Barbara Sweetser	2/17	Rev. Janet Heslam
2/6	Lorraine Doyon	2/18	Annie Lund
2/8	Claudia Guldemon	2/22	Michael Muzzey
2/10	Gretta Smith	2/26	Phyllis MacDonald
2/10	Maximus Lovisek	3/1	Linda Tunncliffe
2/11	M. Paul Guldemon	3/5	Nith Outhoummontry
2/12	Ethan Wood		



FAITH FORMATION

See you on February 12th for (second Sunday) Faith Formation! It's Super Bowl Sunday, so we'll definitely play our bowling game and learning more about Social Justice at the same time!



"Dreams of the Many"

Jaylene K. Bengtson

16x20 Mixed Media

Using drafting film over a musically focused collage, this piece first illustrates the layers of our country's rich cultural history. The lyrics were specifically chosen to underscore themes of equality, compassion, and freedom. Drawn on the drafting film are the images of the Statue of Liberty torch and Martin Luther King. They communicate their message of liberty as they lean toward each other, King's eyes fixed on the symbolic strong hand of freedom. Portions of his iconic speech emanate from the torch's flame, symbolic of King's dream of transformation for a country plagued by the evils of prejudice and hate. Finally, the piece speaks to unity and the underlying commonalities that are unique to our country's cultural expressions. Although Martin Luther King's was a dream of one, I believe that the dreams of the many remain strong within our borders.

Thank you Jaylene Bengtson for allowing us to display your original artwork in the Church Office during Black History Month.