

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service of Worship ~ March 12, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.
Livestream: laconiaucc.org

Morning Meditation

The Samaritan woman at the well found out that the water she came for was not really the water she needed so desperately. This woman had looked for love in many places, in many faces, and when finally offered a soul-quenching love by Jesus, she became a powerful messenger of Good News. Just as the water given by God that flowed in the desert for the Israelites offered new life, the desert of our lives can be refreshed if we look for love regularly at the well of living water and offer life-giving water to others.

Marcia McFee

*Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places
Look for the Thirst-Quencher*

GATHERING MUSIC

Welcome to those worshipping online. Please list any prayer requests in the "chat" before the end of the second Vignette

WELCOME AND GREETING

THRESHOLD MOMENT *Setting the Stage for Worship*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

***HYMN OF PRAISE #18** Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

WORD FOR ALL AGES *Water, Water Everywhere*
After this Word, young people may depart for Faith Formation

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us join together in opening our hearts to the love of God. Before we even utter a word, we can be assured God will offer us grace and a way forward. For this reason, we can be honest with what pains us most about our own thoughts and actions. Let us pray:

Holy and Merciful One, in this season of discernment we come bringing our deepest longings, and our failed attempts at satisfying them. We have often looked for love, for acceptance and security, in the approval of others, giving away the power to claim for ourselves that we are inherently beloved, created by

God. We yearn for lives that matter, we desire relationships that thrive, we want less regret.

At times we fail to see that you have already given us what really matters: your love and acceptance. You provide opportunities all around us to make a difference in the lives of others by affirming their worth and dignity. You give us a fresh start each day, inviting us to do better. During this musical interlude, let us reflect on our openness to a different way of living.

“Arioso” from Cantata 156 by J.S. Bach

John Cosgriff, Cello

My friends, be assured by the Psalmist who reminds us that our God is the “rock of our salvation” in whose hand is the “depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains.”

Let us respond together:

We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision to the ways of love created by God, embodied in Jesus, and already moving in us by the Spirit. We are forgiven, loved, and freed! Amen!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST *“May the peace and love of Christ be with you”*

(Holy Spirit Fist Bump!)

READING OF SCRIPTURE

- Exodus 17:3 – 7 *Moses brings water from a rock at Masah*
- John 4:5 – 26 *A woman of Samaria meets Jesus at Jacob’s well.*

THREE VIGNETTES

Campbell Lovett

The Samaritan Woman at the Well
The Samaritans in the Sonoran Desert
Social Media & Depression

MUSICAL REFLECTION “Lonesome

Valley” *Spiritual arr. by Jay Althouse*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Leaning In: A Prayer of Intention

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR *(Using “sins” and “those who sin against us) NCH p.9*

NURTURING LOVE

***HYMN #522**

I Love to Tell the Story

***BENEDICTION**

CHORAL RESPONSE

Grace”

“Hold Us in Your

Harding & Wehlander

POSTLUDE

The Light of the Christ Candle leads us into the world to serve.



TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Helen Watson Joyal, *In Memory of My Mother, Viola Watson and my Father, James Watson.*

*Rev. Campbell Lovett, Interim Pastor
Mr. Bob Bengtson, Organist & Choir Director
Dan & Diane Tinkham, Ushers
Mr. Mike Marshall, Technology Associate*

St. Patrick's Eve Soup and Supper

Thursday, March 16th at 5:30 p.m. in the Church Hall.
Great Food, Songs, Games, and a Presentation about St. Patrick (like you've never heard!)

Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, March 15th, 12 PM

The Book Discussion Group meets the third Wednesday of the month at noon in the Parish House Library. This month’s title is *Leaving Church* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

200th Anniversary Steering Committee: We would love to hear your ideas as we explore how to have a fabulous 200th! Please submit your ideas by March 15th to Beth Shehadi (bethshehadi@gmail.com) or Hollis Thompson (hollisandgreg@yahoo.com) or speak to anyone on the committee (Martha Clement, Maurine Bastille, Diane Wells, Bob Harrington, Jerilyn O’Hearn, Margie Kreitler, and Carolyn Jorgenson.

MEN’S BREAKFAST: The next Men’s Breakfast will be held on St. Patrick’s Day, Friday, March 17. Same place (Water Street Café), Same Time, (8:00 a.m.) and expect a morning of pleasant conversation and interaction. Please consider joining us!

LITTLE FREE FOOD PANTRY: Thanks to all of the donors during the last two years! We hope others will join in continuing this important outreach to our community. How can you help? Giving is simple. Food donations can be brought to church each Sunday and placed in a labeled box at each entrance. Food can also be placed directly in the pantry or brought to the church office Monday, Wednesday, or Friday during office hours. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the office or mailed directly to Carolyn. We are happy to do the shopping for you! We even have a glass jar in the office to accept smaller cash donations, which are often used to purchase bread. No gift is too small! Thank you in advance for your support.

IT'S TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS: The Altar Guild adorns the altar and chancel with flowers on Easter Sunday. Easter comes early this year, April 9. A sign-up sheet is now in the office to place a lily or Easter flower in honor of or in memory of a loved one, or with another message. A donation of \$20 will allow us to buy a plant. If you write a check, make it out to Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC and write "Easter Flowers" in the memo section. Please indicate whether you wish to take the flower home or have it delivered to a shut-in by our Caring Connections team. **The deadline for ordering and giving a message for the Easter bulletin is Monday, March 31.**

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: The Laconia Rotary Club will hold a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 19, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Belknap Mill. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$5 for children. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea and juice. Proceeds to benefit Rotary Park Bandstand Repair.

NH SAVES BUTTON UP WORKSHOP: Learn about saving electricity and controlling heating costs by making your house more energy efficient. Monday, March 20, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Laconia Public Library.