



# Tower Tidings

Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ

18 Veterans Square Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

603-524-0668 [www.laconiaucc.org](http://www.laconiaucc.org)

## April 2023

- Pastor's Letter
- Thank you
- Call to Special Meeting
- Vote for Us!
- Faith Formation'
- Holy Week Schedule
- Bible Study
- Easter Coffee Hour
- Historical Challenge
- One Life Africa
- Rummage Sale
- Search Committee Survey
- Book Discussion
- Birthdays

Staff:

Interim Pastor:  
Campbell Lovett

Director of Music:  
K. Robert Bengtson

Financial Sec.:  
Carolyn Jorgensen  
[carolyn@laconiaucc.org](mailto:carolyn@laconiaucc.org)

Communications  
Associate:  
Karen McDowell  
[karen@laconiaucc.org](mailto:karen@laconiaucc.org)

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

## *Peace is Possible*

*"God have mercy, we ask. Lord have mercy, we plead. But then we must act - to heal wounded hearts, to bear one another's burdens, and to address the terrible scourge of violence that scars our land."* David French

In these upcoming days of Holy Week, we will be confronted by both a joyful entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the horrors of state-sanctioned violence in torture and crucifixion. It is difficult to feel the joy of Palm Sunday when we know what is coming at Golgotha. It will be challenging to feel the hope of new life at Easter when we live in a world where war and mass shootings are so prevalent. However, Congregational Church of Laconia has a possible perspective for making sense of the senseless and finding hope amid pain.

CCL has been a Just Peace church for decades. I have not worked at a Just Peace church before, so I have been reading more about how one engages in mission and ministry following that affiliation. One aspect of Just Peace is that the church views current events through a lens that believes "peace is possible."

One example of how to use that Just Peace lens: When Russia invaded Ukraine, the response from the United States to the attack was swift. Billions of dollars have been spent sending armaments to Ukraine so they may defend themselves against this attack on their sovereignty. Sovereign nations have every right to defend themselves. Believing that "peace is possible," a Just Peace Church can ask for a commensurate level of peace-making and diplomacy to match the billions of dollars spent on military equipment. A Just Peace Church can call upon our national leaders and our state representatives in Congress to make a "billion-dollar effort for peace." During Holy Week, one reading features Jesus saying, "those who live by the sword will die by the sword." If we follow the Prince of Peace, let's call for more peace-making and diplomacy toward a peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine. It might be futile, but we believe that "peace is possible."

Another engaging of the Just Peace lens follows the 130<sup>th</sup> mass shooting of 2023. The Fellowship of Reconciliation, the oldest interfaith peace organization in the United States, shared this statement regarding the horrific shooting at The Covenant School in Nashville, TN: "It is sinful that guns receive more protection in our country and are considered more sacred than the safety of our children." The statement concludes, "All people, and especially children, whether they be Ukrainian or American deserve to live in a peaceful world, free from wars and gun violence. It is upon us all to take concrete steps to secure life." A Just Peace perspective that "peace is possible" invites us to reduce gun violence. A Just Peace church might convene a group to study the proliferation of guns in this country, interview politi-

*Continued on next page*

**Peace is Possible** — *Continued from page 1*

cal leaders and law enforcement officials about the challenges of enacting common sense gun violence prevention measures, and advocate for programs that keep guns out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves or others. A Just Peace Church in Springfield, MA sponsors both a gun buy-back program and the transformation of guns into garden tools.

Peace is possible. And, it takes a lot more work than the initial vote to be a Just Peace church. This Holy Week and Easter Season, let's look through the lens that "peace is possible," and then work to encourage places of hope, rebirth and new life where there is now only war, discord and violence.

With you on the journey,  
*Campbell Lovett*  
Interim Pastor



I wish to thank you for coming to my rescue once again during my recent illness. Your visits, kind words of encouragement, and prayers helped me through it all. I appreciate all of you who drove me to medical appointments and the daily trips to the hospital for IV therapy, no matter what the weather conditions were. We didn't miss a day!

In appreciation and gratitude,  
Barbara Sweetser



Faith Formation meets once a month on the second for all school age children.

Our multi-age group is a good opportunity to learn from each other and build relationships with other young people in the Church.



**It's that time of the year again!**

Hit the link to VOTE FOR US! Scroll down to "Things to Do", then Choose "PLACE OF WORSHIP" Then choose " The Congregational Church of Laconia " you can vote once per day PER DEVICE.

<https://www.votelakesbest.com/?>

fbclid=IwAR36u4cbuGe8Ebi1d4qt5KIYL2BYuPCWXC650skV0  
25g7AaSIBZibGUOmAg

**A CALL TO SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF LACONIA, UCC**

A Special Meeting of the Church will be held immediately following worship service in the Church sanctuary, for the purpose of the presentation of, and action upon, the proposed Amendments to the Church's bylaws.

The Ad hoc Bylaws Committee will be presenting an overview of the 2023 Draft Bylaws and the changes made from our current Bylaws during Coffee Hour on April 2nd. Anyone who would like a hardcopy of the Amended Bylaws and/or the Amended Bylaws with Changes Noted before the April 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation can contact the Church Office.

- Wayne Domin, Moderator



# Holy Week Services

**Palm Sunday, April 2 at 9:30 am**  
**Maunday Thursday, April 6 at 7:00pm**  
**Easter Sunday, April 9 at 9:30 am**  
**w/ Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30 am**

Congregational Church of Laconia  
United Church of Christ  
18 Veterans Square, Laconia  
Online @ laconiaucc.org

## Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil sponsored by the Deacons will begin Friday, April 7, at 7 p.m. and conclude Easter morning, April 9, at 6 a.m.

## “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 is being offered after worship/coffee hour until May 14. The group will not meet Easter Sunday. Using a unique blend of brief videos and a workbook, participants are discovering more about the New Testament people, places and theologies than they every knew. Please contact Claudia Wright if you would like to participate. [Claudia.Wright2840@icloud.com](mailto:Claudia.Wright2840@icloud.com).

## Easter Sunday Coffee Hour

Let's make our Easter Sunday Coffee Hour a celebration worthy of our Risen Lord! You are invited to bring something special to share on that day. No committee has been assigned refreshments. So we are counting on YOU! Leave your treats on the table or in the kitchen as you arrive Easter morning, and we will serve them alongside the usual beverages. We can't wait to see what you bring!





## **Challenge Accepted!**

John Intorcio and his pup accepted last Sundays challenge and found the doorstep! He has kindly shared his photos with us!

The Challenge came from sharing a Historical moment in the church service. In the early 1800s there was a meeting house located on Province Road, which we now know as Parade Road.

It was set on fire at the instigation of a Mrs. Morgan who was frustrated that between services people came to her house with their foot stoves to warm themselves. She gave a boy some live coals and induced to start the fire which burned down the meeting house. Her husband had to pay for the loss. The Doorstep for this meeting house was preserved and can be seen at the southwest corner of the United Baptist Church Lawn in Lakeport.



*(This historical note is from the CCL Sesquicentennial 1824 – 1974 history book).*

**OneLife Africa** students are so grateful to Lucc "Stitches of Love" for all the lovely warm hats and scarves that they sent to Kenya.



They were attending a Christian camp break this past week to study Bible scripture. The students came together from schools that they attend all over Kenya. They were given the beautiful hats and scarves before they returned to their schools. Winter is coming soon even though they are on the Equator they do feel the difference in temperature. They can feel the love

and prayers of all the wonderful "Stitches of Love" members.

For those that may not know students are required to pay for High School. These students come from some of the poorest areas of Kenya and are unable to pay for school. "OneLife Africa" was started by our daughter Dr. Stephanie and her husband Andrew Onguka to help these students with sponsors help paying for their tuition. Ted and I are very blessed to be part of a church family that chose to sponsor several students and we thank you all.



If you would like to learn more about this program check out "OneLife Africa" at [onelifeafrica.org](http://onelifeafrica.org)

Blessings,  
Linda and Ted Tunnicliffe

---

**April Coffee Hours:** 4/2: Educational Ministries; 4/9: Easter Sunday All Church CH; 4/16: Outreach; 4/23: Parish Activities; 4/30: Property & Finance.

**April Book Discussion—Seeking Peace by Pipher**

The Book Discussion Group meets the third Wednesday of the month at noon in the Parish House Library.



# Spring Rummage Sale!

It's Happening!  
May 18th-20th



We will be going back to our old schedule

Thursday May 18th we will open for selling from 5 to 7 p.m.

Friday hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Then Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with \$3 bags and \$5 boxes

Donations can be brought in after church starting now. Also any Tuesday afternoon 2-5 p.m. Hollis will be in the church hall to accept the donations.

## Congregational Survey from the Pastoral Search Committee - Your input is valued

To all members and friends of the Congregational Church of Laconia - a survey has been created by the Pastoral Search Committee to give us direction in creating the profile of our church and defining the desired attributes and skills of our future pastor. Please share your insights with us so we are able to attract candidates who are well suited for the church we have become and who will guide us in our future spiritual journey.

Your answers should reflect what is important to you as an individual. If there is more than one individual in your household who is a member or friend, please complete individual surveys. Your answers can be as brief as you wish. You will receive the survey as an email with a link to the electronic survey and a PDF file that can be printed and filled out on paper, if you prefer. Paper copies will also be available in the sanctuary during services or in the church office during office hours (Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-3). Please return your completed survey no later than Sunday, April 30. Paper surveys can be deposited in the baskets provided in the sanctuary and office or mailed to the office. The surveys will remain anonymous, so please mark the envelope with the word "SURVEY" before you drop it off or mail it.

We thank you for thoughtfully addressing these questions and giving us the opportunity to truly represent the strengths, desires and views of the congregation.

If you have any questions or issues, you can send an email to the members of the Pastoral Search Committee as a group at [LCCSearch2023@GoogleGroups.com](mailto:LCCSearch2023@GoogleGroups.com). **Thank you!**

Kathy Giovanni, Chair  
Lorraine Barrows  
Richard Bastille  
Jaylene Bengtson  
Dave Emond  
Bob Hunt  
John Intorcio  
Diane Tinkham  
Ted Tunnicliffe

# April Birthdays



4/2	Caden Tucker	4/22	Charles Guldemon
4/2	Joey Bryant	4/23	Alida Millham
4/3	Gail Glines	4/23	Nancy Baker
4/4	Tyler Emond	4/25	Jane Ross
4/4	Lydia Tucker	4/25	Catherine Austin
4/5	Allison Marshall	4/30	Ray Vercoe
4/5	Tessa McCallum	4/30	Shirley Clough
4/6	Carolyn Hunt	5/1	Somchit Outhoummontry
4/7	Rodney Dyer	5/2	Edward Darling
4/7	Sophie Prescott	5/3	Jessica Dade
4/8	Deborah Nelson	5/5	Diane Wells
4/9	Betsy Kelly	5/5	Thomas Southworth
4/12	Cindy Nutter		
4/15	Joan Bell		
4/15	Patrick Wood		
4/17	Grace Therrien		



# Save the date!

*upcoming mobile food pantry*



**Thurs., April 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-2:00**

*(while supplies last)*

**The Polar Caves parking lot  
705 Rumney Rte. 25 in Rumney**

**The NH Food Bank will bring truckloads of food to distribute to families and individuals.**

*This event is open to all. No proof of residency or income needed.  
This is a drive thru event. All items will be distributed to you in your vehicles.*

Sponsored by:

*your*  
**NHEC**  
Foundation

**FEEDING**  
**AMERICA**





STARTS IN APRIL

## Lakes Region Memory Cafe

Laconia Public Library  
695 North Main Street

Second Thursday of Each Month  
1:30 - 3 p.m.

The Memory Cafe is a joyful and creative social experience for people with memory loss and their caregivers to gather with others in a positive and engaging environment.

*In Collaboration With:*



For more information, call (603) 224-4093, ext. 85815 or visit [www.granitevna.org](http://www.granitevna.org).

This program is offered at no charge. Registration is not required.  
Masks are strongly encouraged.  
Please note this gathering does not serve as a support or respite group.

**Inclement Weather:** Lakes Region Memory Cafe will be cancelled if Laconia schools are closed.

Offices in Concord, Laconia & Wolfeboro • (603) 224-4093 | (800) 924-8620 • [www.granitevna.org](http://www.granitevna.org)

Granite VNA complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate in services and access to treatment, appropriate care or employment in its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, sex (pregnancy, sexual orientation, or gender identity), national origin, religion, disability, age, genetic information, marital status, source of payment, or the absence of advance directives.

# HORTON CENTER SUMMER CAMP 2023 CHALLENGE

"Pastor, how can we get these bats out of our belfry?" asked the church trustee.

"Confirm'em," quipped the pastor.

How do we get kids *into* the church family? *Send them to camp!*



The Educational Ministries Committee, inspired by Rev. Janet Heslam, wants to do just that - send kids to Horton Center, the NH United Church of Christ's camp on Pine Mountain.

Many of you may have been to Horton Center and have undoubtedly been moved by the experience. Maybe some others among us have longed to participate, but just couldn't make it happen. The Ed Min Committee wants to inspire you - that's all y'all - to join in a challenge to make a Horton Center experience possible for any young person in our church, regardless of their ability to pay. Yes, you read that right. The committee has determined that part of its mission is to provide this faith experience for any young person and is calling upon the congregation to help make that happen. Thanks to the past generosity of many in our congregation, the Campership Fund has some seed money to launch the project.

The challenge clock starts now!! Please give generously to the Horton Center Campership Fund. A check to "Congregational Church of Laconia" with "Campership Fund" in the memo line is all it takes! And send your donation to the church office **before May 15<sup>th</sup>**.