



Tower Tidings

Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ

18 Veterans Square Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

603-524-0668 www.laconiaucc.org

May 2023

- Pastor's Letter
- Mission Trip
- National Day of Prayer Breakfast
- Rummage Sale
- Men's Breakfast
- Lunch & Learn
- Holocaust Remembrance
- Moderator Moment
- Auction
- TBI We Care Concert
- Book Discussion
- Birthdays

Staff:

Interim Pastor:

Campbell Lovett

Director of Music:

K. Robert Bengtson

Financial Secretary:

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

Interim Notes

(Occasional "Food for Thought" in Less than 350 Words)

A "task" of interim ministry is allowing for natural shifts of congregational leadership to take place. The interim season can be a time when some people increase their leadership efforts to help "bridge the gap," while others want to adopt more of a "wait-and-see" attitude about what the future will bring.

When I was a part of community organizing ventures, the organizers spoke about the "iron clad rule" of organizing: "Never do for someone else what they can do for themselves." This was an important rule because it meant that leadership development was a continuous process, and constituents could not sit back and rely on the organizer to do all the work. From this leadership rule came another: "Replace yourself." As leaders, we were encouraged to identify and recruit new leaders for the organization and then help mentor them.

I like both "rules" for Congregational Church of Laconia. The work of church leaders is not to do all the work by themselves, but instead to encourage a spirit of service by all. Additionally, leaders can always be "replacing" themselves by helping to identify, recruit and mentor new leaders. No one should be indispensable – well except for Jesus. What might this look like?

- If you are in a leadership role, who can you invite to help with the tasks at hand? Recent research shows that people love to help on short term projects or activities (as opposed to serving on a committee for two or three years).
- If you are feeling overwhelmed, overworked, or out of gas – have conversations with others about sharing the load. We are in this together. When church leaders burn out they may also "tune-out" from the life of the church. Let's avoid this by pitching in when possible.
- If you are interested in getting more involved, feel free to attend any committee meeting at the church. The weekly worship bulletin usually lists upcoming meetings. Look for other ways to participate as well.

With you on the journey,

Campbell Lovett

Interim Pastor



Return to Maine Seacoast Mission

Arrangements are being made for our Church to once again offer a Mission Trip to the Maine Seacoast Mission (MSM) in Cherryfield, Maine.

They will be expecting us for the week of August 20-25, so put it on your calendar! We will work with their housing program and may do any number of things while learning about Downeast culture and how we can help.

More details will follow, but to learn more about the MSM, go to: <https://seacoastmission.org/>. Better yet, ask somebody who went the first two times we helped out!



The next two Men's Breakfasts will be held on May 5th and May 19th. The group gathers at 8 a.m. at the Water Street Café.

*"Many Voices,
United in Prayer"*

9th Annual Lakes Region Interfaith National Day of Prayer Breakfast

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Faith, Forgiveness and Restoration

Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Scott Jamieson Pastor, Church of Another Chance

Program Topic:

Transformed by Faith

Thursday, May 4th, 2023

7:30am to 9:30am

St. Andre Bessette Parish Hall

31 Gilford Ave, Laconia, NH

7:30am • Buffet Breakfast Begins

8:15am • Program Commences

9:30am • Program Concludes

Proceeds from
the breakfast will be
donated to the Church
of Another Chance
to help support the
members return to
wholeness.

TICKETS ARE \$15 EACH

To purchase your tickets: please contact your faith community, Chris Ray by phone: (603) 528-2920 or by email: crayjr@gmail.com, or stop by St. Andre Bessette Parish Office at 277 Union Ave., Laconia



I would like to thank the many, many people who made the Lenten Season and Easter Sunday go so smoothly. Readers, greeters, ushers, technicians, music directors, choir members, trumpet players, soup makers, bread bakers, worshipers, visitors, participants, Vigil sitters, bulletin folders, check writers, pantry stockers, offering depositors, planners, dishwashers, moppers, meal cookers, online greeters, egg fillers, egg hiders, egg finders, dinner servers, card writers, committee members, coffee makers, tea drinkers, communion servers, cup cleaner-upper, book readers, knitters, postcard senders, devotion creators, candle lighters, cookie donators, Bible Study leaders, Altar decorators, quilters, committee members, program leaders, cash counters, brush puller, coffee hour hosters, breakfast eaters, prayer prayers, survey respondents, conversation moderator, and everyone I neglected to mention but who is equally appreciated! It takes a village.

Thank You

With you on the journey,
Campbell

Spring Rummage Sale!

Thursday May 18th, 5-7 p.m.

Friday, May 19th, 9-3 p.m.

Saturday, May 20th, 9-1 p.m.

Set up for the Spring Rummage Sale will begin on Sunday, May 14th. Volunteers are needed!

Hours are available every day May 14-18 to help with sorting and pricing donations. If you are able to help, contact Hollis (512) 970-6592

or show up between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. any day that week to help.



LUNCH AND LEARN

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023

12 NOON TO 1 PM

This interactive workshop will have you on your feet!

Downtown Gym staff, volunteers, and members will demonstrate the nationally recognized "Rock, Steady, Boxing" program. Not just about boxing, this program helps individuals with Parkinson's deal with the physical, social, and emotional challenges that they face. Several members of our church are actively involved on a weekly basis in this life changing program, including Muff, Catherine, and Don.

Note that this workshop is on **Tuesday**, not the usual Thursday!

Community Holocaust Remembrance Program

Restoring Faith in Humanity

Remember and ensure
that such a tragedy never happens again

**"There may be times when we
are powerless to prevent
injustice, but there must never be
a time when we fail to protest."**

-Elie Wiesel

Saturday, May 6th

4:00 to 6:00 pm

**The Congregational Church of Laconia
18 Veterans Square**

Special Presentation by

BONNIE ABRAMS

Award winning singer-songwriter

"VOICE OF THE SECOND GENERATION"

A program that tells the stories of her Holocaust survivor parents through music.

Presented by Temple B'nai Israel in collaboration with
the Laconia Human Relations Committee

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Moderator Moment

In November 2022, an ad hoc Safety Team of Church Council was formed for the purpose of engaging the church community in conversation about the *balance* between safety and welcome in actions taken by the church. Interactive listening sessions were held on February 26th and March 12th, 2023. These sessions were well-attended and resulted in a wide range of opinions being shared. On an ongoing basis, church staff, leadership, and members may bring forward areas of concern for consideration by the Property and Finance Committee. Church members are also encouraged to share their concerns with Council. Decisions made around safety and security will include reflection upon maintaining a balance between safety and welcome.

This Statement of Purpose was recommended by the ad hoc Safety Team and adopted by the Church Council at their April, 2023 meeting:

The Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ, seeks to create a safe and secure environment for worship where all are welcome. Toward that end, the Property and Finance Committee, in conjunction with staff, leadership, and members, will prioritize and undertake projects based on heightened awareness of potential risks on church property before, during, and after church services, meetings, and events with a goal of minimizing risks through moderate actions. The church desires to be proactive rather than reactive in addressing needs on an ongoing basis in the following realms:

- ❖ *Buildings and Grounds*
- ❖ *Physical Well-being*
- ❖ *Medical Well-being*
- ❖ *Emergency Evacuation*
- ❖ *Severe Weather Events*

Our prayer is that we can minimize risks to our church community and continue to be a place where all are welcome.

Faithfully,

Wayne Domin, Moderator

Live Auction & Silent Auction

July 15th, 2023

Proceeds will be used to sponsor attendees to the Maine Seacoast Mission trip and to help promote the 200th Anniversary of our Church.

We are actively seeking donations of auction items.
Please Donate by May 20th to allow for advertising!

Looking for Auction items! Such As.....

Furniture
Collectibles
Canoe Trip
Boat Trip
Picnic Dinner for 2 or family
Furnish 10 Desserts (one a month for ten months).
Master Gardener Consultation
Cook a Meal for a Family
Provide a Guided Hike with a Picnic
Sports Memorabilia
Quilts
Gift Cards



....And Any Other Great Ideas

Speak to anyone of the Auction Team: Hollis Thompson, Beth Shehadi, Ed Darling, Warren Clement, or Louise Bastille

Covid-19 Update

The President plans to let the Public Health Emergency status of Covid-19 expire on May 11th. This in no way means that Covid is gone, but signals a return to the way many things operated previously. We at the Congregational Church of Laconia-UCC are thus returning to "normal" in a number of ways too. Perhaps you've noticed that the masking signs are no longer posted on the church doors. (Facemasks will continue to be available upon request.) Weekly updates of the Covid-19 Community Levels via our Covid signal have also ended. (If you choose, you may check NH's status yourself by following this link: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>.)

Some things, however, will NOT change: *(continued on page 9)*



We Care Proudly Presents
The National Award-winning Recording Artist

Michelle Brooks-Thompson

Starring in a Tribute to the Iconic Female Voices

Aretha Whitney Tina
and more!



Tix & more info
www.tbinh.org



As seen on 

To Benefit



ONE NIGHT ONLY! May 27th in Meredith

Thank you to our We Care event sponsors

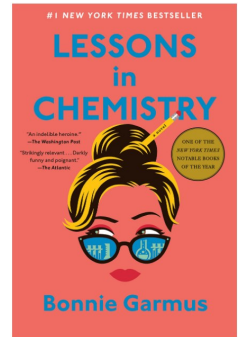


Official media sponsor
of Temple B'nai Israel



May Book Discussion—Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

<https://www.amazon.com/Lessons-Chemistry-Novel-Bonnie-Garmus/dp/038554734X>



June 21 - **Why Fish Don't Exist** by Lulu Miller (meet at Marilyn Lynch's neighborhood beach)

<https://www.amazon.com/Why-Fish-Dont-Exist-Hidden/dp/1501160273>

July – we will NOT be meeting

August 23 - **Daring Greatly** by Brene Brown

[https://www.amazon.com/Daring-Greatly-Courage-Vulnerable-Transforms/dp/1592408419/ref=sr_1_1?](https://www.amazon.com/Daring-Greatly-Courage-Vulnerable-Transforms/dp/1592408419/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3G05132RQE6R5&keywords=daring+greatly+brene+brown&qid=1682521821&s=book&s&prefix=Daring+Gr%2Cstripbooks%2C76&sr=1-1)

[crid=3G05132RQE6R5&keywords=daring+greatly+brene+brown&qid=1682521821&s=book&s&prefix=Daring+Gr%2Cstripbooks%2C76&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Daring-Greatly-Courage-Vulnerable-Transforms/dp/1592408419/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3G05132RQE6R5&keywords=daring+greatly+brene+brown&qid=1682521821&s=book&s&prefix=Daring+Gr%2Cstripbooks%2C76&sr=1-1)

September 20 – **Lincoln in the Bardo** by George Saunders

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/231506/lincoln-in-the-bardo-by-george-saunders/>

Third Wednesday of the month, usually upstairs in the Parish House.

Anyone is invited, everyone welcome whether you've read the book or not. Please join in. Would love to see some new faces!

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



We hope to see your children or grandchildren on Sunday, May 14 during the Sunday service for our monthly time with Faith Formation. We have some questions that need answers! What does the Bible say about spring or about rebirth? Have you signed up for Horton Center? Do you have any interesting (challenging) questions that we should write down to ask Pastor Lovett? What would like to do at Church this summer? See you on May 14 and please arrive with more questions!

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If you are ill, we urge you to stay home and test for Covid.

If you are unvaccinated or have not yet had your bivalent booster, we encourage you to get the bivalent vaccine which is now recommended as the best way to protect yourself and others from the viral strain still circulating. If you are over 65 or immunocompromised, a second bivalent vaccine is now also recommended. If you get Covid, we hope you will contact your doctor ASAP so that you can be treated to prevent a more severe case.

Covid is *not* a cold or the flu. It still kills an average of about 250 people every day in America. As Christians who are charged with loving our neighbors, we pray that each and every one of us will do what we can in this endemic phase of Covid to prevent the continued spread of this disease.

May Birthdays



5/6 Chandra Hazelton
5/7 Allen J. Gauthier
5/7 Robert Simmon
5/7 Ellen Valovanie
5/8 Granville Barrows
5/8 Gregory Thompson
5/12 Kathy Moulton
5/13 Florence Merrill
5/14 Valerie Sargent
5/14 Caleb McCarty
5/17 Paul Durfee
5/18 Ralph Sellars, Jr.
5/20 Karen Kurz
5/20 James Frost
5/21 Donald Clark
5/23 Andrew Giovanni

5/23 Jennifer Black
5/23 Daniel Smith
5/24 Cole Howard
5/25 Olie Anderson
5/25 Hannah Glines
5/26 Rev. Louise Bastille
5/27 Sheryl Weeks
5/28 Kelly Dow
5/29 Bobbie Morin
5/30 Kenneth Oakes
5/30 Grace McLaughlin
5/31 Jennah Valovanie



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!*



Pictured above: Horton Center's 2022 High School Week participants see if you can find one of "our" campers Jennah Valovanie.

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

Ed Min's goal is to provide this faith experience for any young person and is calling upon the congregation to help make it happen. Please give generously to the Horton Center Campership Fund. A donation to "Congregational Church of Laconia" with "Campership Fund" in the memo line mailed or dropped off at the church office **before May 15th** is all it takes!