



Tower Tidings

Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square, Laconia, New Hampshire 03246
603-524-0668 www.laconiaucc.org

June 2023

- Pastor’s Letter
- Live & Silent Auction
- Flags on the Square
- Pastoral Search Update
- Summer News & Announcements
- Mission Trip
- Hands Across the Table
- Action Items
- Birthdays
- Public Events at Taylor Community

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 few people at CCL have mentioned to me that they appreciate my ministry in your midst. They think I have some competencies that are helpful for this time of transition. I try to remind folks that any gifts for ministry that I do have were developed in “teaching parishes,” churches where the people were open to teaching me about the practice of ministry. It is because of people like Martha, Ruth, Dave, Bill, Dorothy, Eleanor, Alicia, Ernie and Catherine that I grew into my vocation. I can’t imagine that it was easy for them, but they were patient and encouraged me – especially when I didn’t have all the answers, or any answer!



I wonder about CCL. Do you think of yourselves as a teaching parish? Are you willing to call a minister who still has much to learn about ministry and will need a lot of encouragement to become the best minister that they can be? Do you have the grace and patience to give someone the room they need to experiment – and fail – and learn from their mistakes? This is not about telling someone what to do or how to do it, but about a willingness to journey with someone as they grow in ministry. You may not be the ones that have the most benefit from being a teaching parish – that may fall to a church twenty years from now. But your investment in the spirit of openness, grace, tolerance, encouragement and patience could help this parish to have a dynamic and vital ministry for years to come.

I hope that you will consider having the spirit of a teaching parish so that your names may be recalled in the future as the names that helped a pastor to serve ably and well to the glory of God.

With you on the journey,
Campbell Lovett
Interim Pastor

I invited interested church folk to read a book by Rev. Michael Mather, entitled, *Having Nothing, Possessing Everything, Finding Abundant Communities in Unexpected Places*. I referenced this briefly in my sermon on May 14th. Here is a link to an excerpt of the book and a few other related articles that are great reads for those who want to be part of a wider conversation.

<https://faithleadership.com/excerpt-having-nothing-possessing-everything>

Live & Silent Auction — Attention All Donors!

This is your chance to get creative!

We would love to include your donated item in our Live & Silent Auction on July 15, 2023. Stumped for ideas? The great news is you have lots of options!

Depending on your talents, skills, expertise, abilities, and access, the possibilities are almost endless.

Of course, items like tiki boat rides, Mt. Washington cruises, passes to amusement parks and tourist attractions, lift tickets, gift cards to locally-owned restaurants and businesses like book stores, boutiques, coffee shops, gift stores, salons, etc., are always welcomed. But here are some other ideas you may not have thought of:



- Do you have any valuable antiques at home you are willing to part with for a good cause?
- If you own a boat, you could offer an afternoon or sunset cruise on the lake.
- If you own a vacation home, you could offer a stay for a week or a weekend.
- Enjoy working in your yard? You could donate a few hours of your time getting someone else's grounds or gardens into shape.
- If you have a talent for cooking, baking, quilting, sewing, knitting, drawing, photography, gardening, cake decorating, singing, or some other passion you enjoy sharing with others, you could donate something you have made, or better yet — offer a few lessons, host a small dinner party, take a party of four on a guided hike, etc.
- Are there specialty items you love that you think others would love too? Donate a gift basket filled with wine, cheese, candy, jellies, jams, baked goods, or use your imagination to come up with your own original theme.

The human potential of our Congregation is limitless and we could go on with possibilities, but you get the idea! The committee thanks you and appreciates any and all donations of auction items. Please contact Warren, Ed, Louise, Hollis or Beth and tell us what you plan to donate. Thank you!



Thank you to all who volunteered to plant flags in Veterans Square in honor of Belknap County veterans. More than 3,000 flags are displayed.

Pastoral Search Committee Update from Kathy Giovanni, Chair

The Pastoral Search Committee has been meeting weekly since January. Over that time we have worked well as a team, with all bringing their own gifts to the table. We have been making good progress towards completing the Local Church Profile which provides information to prospective candidates about our church.

THANK YOU to all who responded to the congregational survey. We received in the neighborhood of 80 responses. We have been reviewing all of the responses to help us understand who God is calling to minister with us. The committee will create a report to share with the congregation in the coming months; our first priority is to complete the Local Church profile and to post the position.

In the meantime, here are some highlights of the survey:

Positive feedback – why people come and stay at our church

- Warm and welcoming people, social connections, sense of church family
- Outreach to our community and beyond, “inreach” to our members and friends
- Music programs
- Worship services and pastors
- Commitment to social justice

Opportunities – what can we do better

- More outreach to homeless and other marginalized communities
- Safety
- Bring in more youth and families

Desired characteristics of a new pastor

- Outgoing, working with the community
- Works to grow the church, attract younger people
- A spiritual guide
- Leadership skills
- Progressive minded, thinks out of the box

Thanks to Mike Marshall for helping to updating the website, updates are being made in conjunction with the Local Church Profile to present a current picture of who we are and how we are called to minister.

Please feel free to send me an e-mail at kagiovanni63@gmail.com if you have questions.

Blessings to Jenn Black, who recently graduated from Lakes Region Community College with an Accounting degree.



*At the Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, May 9, Downtown Gym staff demonstrated the nationally recognized Rock Steady Boxing program, which **helps individuals dealing with Parkinson's** cope with the physical, social and emotional challenges they face. Several members of our church are actively involved in this life changing program.*

OPEN HOUSE AT HORTON CENTER

Saturday, June 17 - 11:00 There will be a Worship Service on CHAPEL ROCK and lunch, games, tours and more! Did you help to build the Porch on the Taize Cabin? Come and see how good it looks!! Are you an alumni and want to meet with other campers for an earlier hike up to Chapel Rock? Click on this link [Hike The Hill at Horton Center](#) to learn more about the day or go to the [Horton Center Website](#) to see what's happening for the rest of the summer.

**Growing
Together
in Faith**

SAVE THE DATE for Vacation Bible Camp!

We're offering **Vacation Bible Camp** this summer on **August 15, 16, 17-** Tues, Wed, Thurs. Children going into grades 1-6 are invited to participate and older children and youth will be welcome to apply to be helpers. More info to come!

Important Announcements

SUMMER WORSHIP

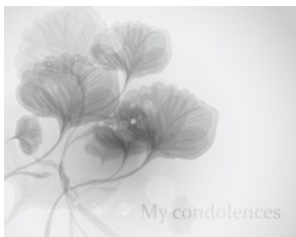
Our Summer Worship schedule is about to begin! From June 18th through September 3rd, please worship with us *LIVE* or via live stream at 9AM. You'll have a bit more of your Sundays to enjoy this lovely corner of the world we live in. See you at 9AM starting on June 18th!

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are changing for the summer months. Beginning the last week of June, the Church Office will be open Monday & Wednesday 9– 3 p.m. and Thursday, 9-1 p.m.

WE SHARE THE AIR!

Please keep it healthy and fragrance-free! Please do not wear perfume, cologne, scented lotion, aftershave or other fragrance to church. Be sensitive to others with allergies and respiratory issues. Thank you!



*Congregational Church members and friends extend their sympathies to **Janet Simmon** following the death of her brother, Rev. Paul Schoonmaker of Warwick, RI on May 22; and to **Elvena Anderson** following the death of her step-daughter, Samantha Green, in New York on May 20.*

A special thank you to Claudia Wright for her leadership of the spring Bible Study following worship. Claudia was a wonderful convener of the group that on some days numbered in the twenties! The series helped the Bible come alive, and CCL is grateful. Stay tuned for a possible weekday summer series and a September start for Sunday study.



Return to Maine Seacoast Mission Update

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. We are looking for volunteers with all sorts of skill levels and experience, such as painting, yard work, cleaning and carpentry. If you have any questions, call or email can Dave Emond at dave.emond57@gmail.com or 603-455-4839.

More details will follow, but to learn more about the MSM, go to: <https://seacoastmission.org/>. You can also check out Dave's first person account of his experiences on last year's trip <https://www.lrcs.org/vp-of-operations-dave-emond-gives-back-through-volunteer-work/>

June Coffee Hour Schedule

June 4th—Parish Activities

***June 11th— Property & Finance**

June 19th — Worship & Music

June 25th — Diaconate

*Beverages & Refreshments



\$\$\$ It's Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy. . . but not Free! \$\$\$

As a teacher, I looked forward to summer vacation as much as anyone. I was happy to set aside lesson planning and faculty meetings for lawn mowing, weeding, raking, watering, and stacking firewood for the winter. It was a time to get back in touch with the earth and enjoy the sense of freedom that summer brings, even though I labored harder maintaining my property than I did staying one step ahead of the demands of teaching through fall, winter, and spring.

As July turned to August, however, I began to count the weeks until school started again - not so much because I wanted to hang up my farm girl overalls, but because my paychecks would start coming in again. Summer's freedom did not change my budget in anyway, and the mortgage, electric bill, car expenses, and grocery receipts did not take a vacation. I managed to make it through each summer without dipping into my reserves, but one unexpected expense could have upset that balance.

On a much grander scale, the church's expenses continue through the summer as well. Like me, the church operates on a budget to avoid dipping into its reserves. Our church counts on our pledges and other offerings to maintain its buildings, pay its staff, support our ministries, and take care of countless other expenses that we have committed to as a community of faith.

Let's make sure that our church can stick to its budget through the summer - even if we are on vacation. We can achieve this goal by keeping current with our pledges and other forms of offering. The easiest way to keep your pledging current is through an automatic withdrawal plan. Donating online is another method. Or the old fashion approach of mailing a check works great, too. So as you pack your bag for a vacation, know that your ongoing and regular support is vital to our church, whether you are in the pews, participating online, or taking some time away.

~~~~ With Gratitude, Muff Kruse for Your Stewardship Committee ~~~~

# HANDS ACROSS THE TABLE, June 14th

The Congregational Church is responsible for putting on the Hands Across the Table meal on Wednesday, June 14. Starting this Sunday, Hollis will have “hands” to give out with items needed to prepare our Spaghetti Pie. Let her know if you can help.

**Flower Barrel Donations:** If you would like to donate towards flowers for the outdoor barrels, there is a sign-up sheet in the Church Office.

## UCC Webinar—Seizing an Opportunity: Strengthening EPA Protections in 2023



As UCC congregations across the country embark upon collecting thousands of signed postcards for the Environmental Protection Agency as part of the [Climate Hope Cards](#) campaign, this webinar will cover how the coming months at the EPA present a significant opportunity to save thousands of lives, address societal inequalities, and put the United States on a path to achieve 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2035.

Even if you cannot make the webinar at its scheduled time on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm ET, still sign-up, and we will send you a link to a recording of it. [Register now!](#)

[Hyperlink: [https://UCC.zoom.us/webinar/register/4916782911066/WN\\_sIRFO7M4T1WFa\\_tM-zUDyQ](https://UCC.zoom.us/webinar/register/4916782911066/WN_sIRFO7M4T1WFa_tM-zUDyQ) ]

## Merrimack Association UCC Initiative in Medical Debt Reduction

At the spring meeting of the Merrimack Association, church delegates affirmed an effort to reduce the burden of medical debt for hundreds of residents of New Hampshire.

More than 100 million U.S. adults struggle with healthcare debt. There is more than \$195 billion owed nationwide. Medical debt is woven into our health care financing system and our economy. Our mission is to end medical debt. We have a unique model in that it combines the generosity of donors with debt industry expertise to produce a high volume of medical debt relief. The debt relief we provide reduces mental and financial distress for millions of people, removing a barrier to accessing the health care they need.

Every dollar you donate generates \$100 in medical debt reduction. If you would like to donate to this important initiative led by the Merrimack Association and RIP Medical Debt ([ripmedicaldebt.org/](http://ripmedicaldebt.org/)), please make your check out to Congregational Church of Laconia and put “Medical Debt” on the MEMO line. Together, we can make a difference.



# June Birthdays



|      |                   |      |                          |
|------|-------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 6/1  | Michael Mussen    | 6/23 | Megan Crawford           |
| 6/1  | Cassie Prescott   | 6/24 | Jacqueline Shoemaker     |
| 6/2  | Zachary Nelson    | 6/24 | Kieran Coraccio-Prescott |
| 6/4  | Jerilyn O'Hearn   | 6/25 | Stephen Lanning          |
| 6/4  | Melissa Sessler   | 6/26 | Charlotte Cilley         |
| 6/4  | Michelle Piscopo  | 6/28 | Patricia Gould           |
| 6/8  | Kisten Stanton    | 6/28 | David Shaw               |
| 6/10 | Donald Nugent     | 6/28 | Jean Clarke              |
| 6/12 | David Smith       | 6/29 | Barbara Oakes            |
| 6/13 | Hannah Marcel     | 6/30 | John Gauthier            |
| 6/14 | Carole Domin      | 6/30 | Mitzi Tucker             |
| 6/16 | Paul Dupont       | 6/30 | Lisa Marshall            |
| 6/17 | Daniel McLaughlin | 6/30 | Alyson Lines             |
| 6/18 | Brian Davis       | 7/3  | Sally Sessler            |
| 6/18 | Kyle Tibbetts     | 7/4  | Susan Smith              |
| 6/20 | Ronald Baker, III | 7/6  | Charlotte Landow         |
| 6/20 | Amy O'Hearn       | 7/6  | Katharine Dade           |



## Public Events at Taylor Community - Laconia, NH

*\*All events listed are free and open to the public\**

### **Bank of New Hampshire Music Series**

Thank you to the Bank of New Hampshire for sponsoring the 2023 Taylor Community Music Series.

**Erin Harpe and the Delta Swingers - June 5th at 6:30 p.m.**

Blues singer Erin Harpe has toured all over the US and Europe, opened for ZZ Top, Buddy Guy, James Cotton, Honeyboy Edwards and more, headlined festivals, and released three critically-acclaimed albums. Join us for what promises to be a great show. This event will be held at Woodside Pavilion.

**Cat Faulkner Trio - June 8th at 6:30 p.m.**

Bringing new life and passion to the Jazz standards and doing it with grace, Cat Faulkner is on a mission to help audiences rediscover the Great American Songbook. This event will be held at Woodside.

**Carter Mountain Brass Band - June 11th at 2:00 p.m.**

The Carter Mountain Brass Band, under the direction of Debbi Gibson, presents "How Low Can You Go?," a concert featuring the low brass section.. This event will be held at Woodside Pavilion.

**Freese Brothers Big Band Combo - June 12th at 6:30 p.m.**

The Freese Brothers Big Band Combo offers classic sounds from the Duke, the King, the Count, the Chairman of the Board and the Sentimental Gentleman of Swing. This event will be held at Woodside Pavilion.

**Doghhouse Allstars - June 19th at 6:30 p.m.**

Monday Blues under the Pavilion is back! Join us for the return of the Doghouse Allstars and what promises to be an exceptional outdoor performance. This event will be held at the Woodside Pavilion.

**Dr. Sax's Bop Shop - June 25th at 3:00 p.m.**

The Bop Shop plays modern jazz, well inspired by the jazz of the 40s, 50s and 60s. The band is led by NYC-trained tenor saxophonist Jonathan Lorentz. This event will be held at Woodside Pavilion.

**The Funky Divas - June 26th at 6:30 p.m.**

The Funky Divas of Gospel have been a fixture on the seacoast of New Hampshire for over 30 years. The Diva sound is based on harmony. It is toe-tapping, it is hand-clapping. It can, and does, move audiences to their feet and onto the floor to dance. This event will be held at the Woodside.

**The Wholly Rollers - June 28th at 6:30 p.m.**

The Wholly Rollers is a Concord-based band performing bluegrass, old time, string band, and gospel music. Join us for what is guaranteed to be a "toe-tapping" good time! This event will be held at the Woodside Pavilion.

**taylorcommunity.org**  
A Nonprofit Since 1907

For more information on Taylor Community please call us at 603-524-5600