



Tower Tidings

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

July 2023

- Pastor's Letter
- Live & Silent Auction
- Bob Harrington honored
- One Life Africa
- Gift from AA Group
- Vacation Bible School
- July Hike
- Seacoast Mission Update
- Birthdays

Staff:

Interim Pastor:
Campbell Lovett

Director of Music:
K. Robert Bengtson

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carolyn@laconiaucc.org

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Sexton:
Chuck Laurent

Church Office
603-524-0668
Summer office hours
Mon. Wed. 9-3; Fri. 9-1

Interim Notes

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

You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world

Matthew 5: 13 - 14

"Who brought the onion pita bread?"

It was Communion Sunday at a church I once served, and the Deacons were cleaning up from the service. Someone had purchased onion pita bread instead of plain pita and people were complaining. The bread didn't taste like it usually did. I thought it was great. If the bread is supposed to be "the body of Christ" a little onion or maybe even some garlic might actually be more literal. But that wasn't the point. It was not the "right" bread.

That incident reminded me of the folks who went hunting and agreed that one person would keep cooking until someone complained - and then that person would take over. Everyone was so complimentary of all the meals that the same person was stuck with the cooking. He decided to oversalt everything so a complaint could relieve him of his duties. People began to eat. They looked at each other with pursed lips. Finally, someone said, "Wow that food is so salty," but then quickly added, "just the way I like it!"

In every church there are particular ways to do things. Inevitably someone is going to complain if things are not the way they have always been. However, it is okay to color outside the lines now and again. It's in trying new things that creativity is sparked. That can be the fun of the interim time.

Maybe churches should institute the complaining rule as well. If there is an objection about this, that or the other thing, it is the complainers turn to undertake the task. I'm not advocating for oversalted potlucks, or purposefully poor meetings, but I am curious to see what would happen if we became more affirming, more encouraging and more welcoming.

With you on the journey,
Campbell Lovett
Interim Pastor

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Karen McDowell, Communications Associate
Congregational Church of Laconia
603.524.0668
karen@laconiaucc.org



Laconia Congregational Church invites public to Live & Silent Auction on Saturday, July 15th

The Congregational Church of Laconia will host a Live & Silent Auction on Saturday, July 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Church Hall at 18 Veterans Square. The entire community is encouraged to attend. It's a wonderful way to support Laconia's Downtown Church and get a chance to bid on many unique items including specialty baskets, antiques, boat excursions, art, quilts, and more.

"We really can't say enough about how generous members and friends of our church have been with their talents, resources and creativity," said Beth Shehadi, a member of the auction committee. "Regardless of your personal taste and budget, there really is something for everyone."

At least three lake excursions will be up for bid, including a one-hour pontoon boat tour of Squam Lake highlighting points of interest from the movie, "On Golden Pond"; a sunset cruise on Lake Winnepesaukee; and a canoe trip on Newfound Lake. In addition, several themed baskets (wine & chocolate; breakfast; coffee; knitting essentials), household items and home décor; furniture; original photography and artwork; and gift cards to local businesses are among the many items auction-goers will have the opportunity to take home.

Warren Clement and Ed Darling will serve as auctioneers. Free snacks, baked goods, coffee, tea, and cold drinks will be served. Follow the auction's Facebook event <https://fb.me/e/7O4vtKu0B> for updates and information.

Proceeds will benefit this year's Maine Seacoast Mission trip and the church's planned 200th Anniversary Celebration.

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Sunrise Community buildings rededicated as Robert M. Harrington Campus

Congregational Church of Laconia member, Bob Harrington, was honored for his 50 years of service to the Laconia Housing Authority. The Sunrise Community buildings were dedicated on June 27 in honor of Bob. It will now be known as the Robert M. Harrington Campus. Pictured with Bob at the unveiling of the brass plaque are Laconia's mayor, Andrew Hosmer, and United States Representative, Chris Pappas. Many church members were in attendance to cheer for Bob.



https://www.laconiadailysun.com/news/local/robert-m-harrington-campus-dedicated-tuesday/collection_0330c4d6-1513-11ee-9368-0782d3524e6e.html

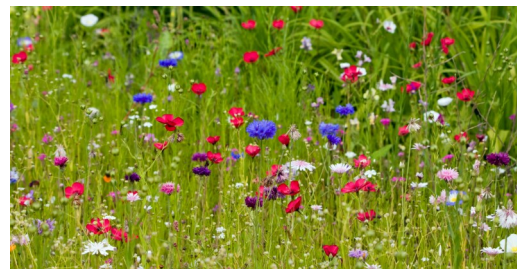


Many thanks to John Gill for photographing our 2023 office staff.

Front Row from Left to Right:
Karen McDowell and Carolyn Jorgenson

Back Row from Left to Right: Chuck Laurent, Bob Bengtson, Campbell Lovett and Mike Marshall

On Sunday, July 30, **please remember to bring a single flower from your garden to be combined to form a beautiful bouquet.** We all look and act differently. God loves us all the same and all are welcomed in our church. When you leave church, take a different flower than the one you brought to spread the joy of community. The flowers people bring for the vase, to put on the altar, will be in the narthex beginning at 8:30.



OneLife Africa Student

This is a summary of Margaret, a OneLife Africa student that the Bralliers and Tunncliffes helped pay tuition for High School in Kenya. She is now graduating from law school! We are so blessed that we attend Laconia UCC that has also helped make a difference for HS students in Kenya that have to pay for the privilege to be educated.

Andrew Onguka:

My heart has been brimming with joy and gratitude this month as we celebrate the remarkable achievements of Reagan and Margaret, two incredible individuals who have journeyed from complex contexts and emerged as distinguished graduates in their medical and Law professions. This momentous milestone not only reflects their unwavering determination and resilience but also stands as a testament to the transformative power of education and the profound impact of support and guidance.

It is my prayer that Reagan and Margaret will serve as beacons of hope, gratitude, and inspiration, using their knowledge and skills to make a lasting impact in their respective fields, bringing healing and justice to those in need.

I acknowledge the sacrificial giving by OneLife Africa donors. The impact of your tireless efforts and unwavering support cannot be overstated. Your belief in the potential of these individuals, your investment in their education and discipleship have paved the way for their success.

Through your generosity, you have given them wings to soar, and for that, we are eternally grateful. We give all the glory to God!





The Joyful Noise Music Series Presents



The Lakeview Chamber Players

Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 7 PM

The Lakeview Chamber Players - an ensemble of professional orchestral musicians from Washington DC and New York- members of the Kennedy Center/Washington National Opera Orchestra- in a special concert including chamber music masterworks by Beethoven & Brahms.

Tim **Maček**, violin; Sarah **Maček**, violin; Elizabeth **Field**, violin
Suzanne **Orban**, cello; Morrie **Sherry**, clarinet; Uri **Wassertzug**, viola

First Congregational Church Meredith
4 Highland St. Meredith, NH www.fccmeredith.com
All are welcome/ \$20 Suggested Donation

Congregational Church of Laconia's history of supporting sobriety recognized by AA group

The Laconia Original Group of Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in 1948 and has been meeting at the Laconia Congregational Church Parish House since 1958. On June 8, the group celebrated its 75th Anniversary and expressed their deepest gratitude "for the Church's 65-year history of loving care and support." As an expression of gratitude, the group gifted the church this rose bush for our Peace Garden.



The next **Men's Breakfast** will meet on Friday, July 7, at the Water Street Café.

Wear something patriotic!



Belknap House Shelter Assistants Needed

Are you interested in working with families who are experiencing homelessness? Consider applying for a job as a Shelter Assistant at Belknap House and join a team committed to helping families become independent and self-sufficient. The job of the Shelter Assistant ensures a safe environment and smooth operations of Belknap House, in compliance with the shelter's goals, mission and vision. The role includes working directly with families and assisting with the volunteer base to meet the needs of Belknap House. The Shelter Assistant provides support, encouragement and accountability to help families achieve their goals. Immediate part-time positions available. Hourly rate \$14 - \$16/hour. Weekend work is necessary. Interested applicants should contact Tom Sica: Housemgr@belknaphouse.org or call (603) 527-8097.





Join us for our *Vacation Bible School!*

**August 15, 16 & 17
(Tues, Wed, Thurs)
9 A.M. to 1 P.M.**

Children entering Grade 1 – Grade 6

Location: Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC

18 Veterans Square, Laconia, NH

Over this 3-day adventure we will travel the world as peacemakers! Your child will make new friends, sing fun songs, meet peacemakers in the Bible, do art projects and science explorations, and play active games. Your child will practice strategies for experiencing peace inside and learn how to live at peace with others.

We're offering this experience to all children in the
Merrimack Association, NH Conference, UCC.

There is no cost to participate.

Lunch, snacks and supplies will be provided by the church.

Older children and youth are welcome to apply to be volunteer helpers.

Contact the church office to receive registration forms
and volunteer applications.

Church Office: 603-524-0668 or email: carolyn@laconiaucc.org

Afternoon Hike to the Franklin Falls Dam

On Sunday June 11, a group of hikers from our church walked to the Franklin Falls Dam in Franklin NH. It was a rare sunny day in between so much rain and clouds. Diane L. showed that she was a true nature-woman by allowing a carpenter bee to land and hitch a ride on her arm. (Carpenter bees look like bumble bees and are not



aggressive). Joe S. was glad he had GPS to help navigate the group through the myriad intersecting mountain bike trails and the disc-golf course. Millie (the dog) had a great time walking her owners Gran & Lorraine B. along the way. And who can forget the lanky disc-golfer winding up and then unleashing his disc that sailed for what seemed like forever into the gaping maw of the field below the dam? We enjoyed companionship, views, sunshine, and marveling at a truly immense and historic structure. See the following page for information about our next hike this summer.



SUMMER WALK

AT PRESCOTT FARM, LACONIA

ROLLING TERRAIN ON WOODLAND TRAILS



SPONSORED BY: EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 16TH
1 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

MEET IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH PARISH HALL (OPPOSITE THE TRAIN STATION) AT 1 P.M. WE WILL CARPOOL OR CARAVAN 15 MINUTES TO PRESCOTT FARM.

**BRING A SNACK, WATER, & STURDY FOOTWEAR!
(2.5 MILE LOOP, SOME UPS AND DOWNS, FOREST TRAIL)**

**CONTACT JEAN CLARKE FOR MORE INFORMATION
TEL. 603.455.9702 OR JEANCLARKE56@GMAIL.COM**

Return to Maine Seacoast Mission Update

Our second Mission Trip to the Maine Seacoast Mission (MSM) in Cherryfield, Maine will take place the week of August 20-25.

The following volunteers are already on board.

- Beth Shehadi
- Diane Lockwood
- Kathy Giovanni
- Mary Ellen Azem
- Andy Giovanni
- John Intorico
- Dan Tinkham
- Dave Emond
- Neil & Donna Wilson



If you have any questions, call or email Dave Emond at dave.emond57@gmail.com or 603-455-4839.

The poster has a red background with a yellow dotted border. On the left, there is a logo for "WEIRS BEACH" featuring a blue shield with a white arrow pointing left, surrounded by fireworks. The text "2023 SUMMER FIREWORKS SCHEDULE" is written in large, bold, yellow letters at the top right. Below this, the schedule is listed in white text: "Monday, July 3, 2023: 11:59 pm", "Saturday, July 15, 2023: 9:30 pm", "Saturday, July 29, 2023: 9:30 pm", and "Saturday, August 12, 2023: 9:30 pm". Underneath the schedule, the word "RAINDATES:" is written in yellow, followed by three lines of white text: "*Saturday, July 22, 2023: 9:30 pm", "*Saturday, August 5, 2023: 9:30 pm", and "*Sunday, September 3, 2023: 9:30 pm". A final line of white text reads: "* These dates are tentative and will only occur if a previous show is cancelled." At the bottom left, there is a paragraph of white text: "Rain date and weather announcements will be posted on the Weirs Action Committee Facebook page. Please check Facebook for up-to-date information!"

WEIRS BEACH

2023 SUMMER FIREWORKS SCHEDULE

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Rain date and weather announcements will be posted on the Weirs Action Committee Facebook page.
Please check Facebook for up-to-date information!

July Birthdays



7/3	Sally Sessler	7/20	Vera Pierce
7/4	Susan Smith	7/21	Liana Gilbert-Crowell
7/6	Charlotte Landow	7/23	Roberta Neylon
7/6	Katharine Dade	7/24	Lucy Dow
7/7	Dee Laurent	7/26	Dawn Marcel
7/7	Dee Laurent	7/26	Emily Clement
7/8	Beth Shehadi	7/27	Eian Darling
7/8	Mark Liebl	7/29	Peter Dupak
7/9	Ted Tunncliffe	7/31	Karen McDowell
7/10	Katherine Phelps	8/2	Nicolas Austin
7/12	Jennifer Muzzey	8/2	Piper Wood
7/14	Dan Tinkham	8/3	John Cosgriff
7/15	Matthew Fink	8/4	Bea Lanning
7/16	Alex Prescott	8/4	Nicholas Oakes
7/17	Arthur Burbank	8/5	Eric Simmon
7/19	Russell Beane		

Timeless Textiles Exhibit

Saturday July 8, 2023

10 AM-3 PM



Quilts, wool and more!

Dana Meeting House

288 Dana Hill Road New Hampton, NH

Timeless Textiles Exhibit at the Meeting House will showcase early quilts, an antique sock machine, spinning wheels, natural dyeing & an historian's discussion.

2023 Featured quilter is Susan Goodwin



10:30 Quilting-Yesterday's ideas— Today's inspiration **Sue Goodwin & Eileen Lovett** (inside)

11:15 Socks! Antique Sock demo **Margaret Hoyle** (tent)

12:00 How to date fabrics and patterns. **Historian, Stephany Drake**

1:00 History of the Spinning Wheel **Elizabeth Humphrey** (tent)

2:00 Fiber dyeing **Elizabeth Humphrey** (tent)

2:45 Closing remarks **Thomas Smith, President DMHA**

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC