

News Blast!

Friday, May 26, 2023
Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC



Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9 AM – 3 PM
The front door is unlocked during those hours.

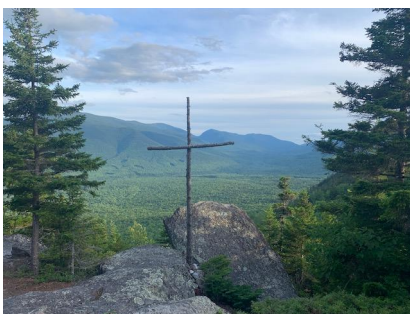


A Pentecost Invitation

You are cordially invited to a *Birthday Party for the Church* (almost 2,000 years old), this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. The party will begin in the Sanctuary with some celebratory readings and songs, and then adjourn to the Church Hall for Birthday Cake and refreshments. No RSVP necessary, but please wear something red (if possible). See you in church!

Campbell Lovett will be leading a Memorial Day worship at the Dana Hill Meeting House (288 Dana Hill Road) in New Hampton on Monday, May 29, at 10 a.m.

The Meeting House is on the National Register of Historic Places and is an excellent example of the simplicity of early New England houses of worship. There is no heat or electricity in this ancient edifice, nor are there any pews. Worshipers sit in what are described as "sheep pens," small enclosures with pine board seats and small doors to keep in the children and keep out the cold. For more information, check out their website: <https://danameetinghouse.org/>



OPEN HOUSE AT HORTON CENTER

Saturday, June 17 - 11 AM: 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.

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!

Congregational Church of Laconia 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



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 a Sunday study.

Aiming for "Zero Emissions"

We share the air - please keep it healthy and fragrance free! Please do not wear perfume, cologne, scented lotion, aftershave, and other fragrances to church. Be sensitive to those with allergies or other respiratory issues. Thank you for your consideration!

Book Recommendation

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. - *Campbell*

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

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.

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 with your ideas.

June Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, 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#:~:text=Why%20Fish%20Don't%20Exist%20begins%20with%20a%20mesmerizing%20account,struggle%2C%20of%20heartbreak%20and%20chaos.

SUMMER WALK/HIKE
FRANKLIN FALLS DAM AND
RECREATION AREA

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 11TH
MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 1 P.M.

**WE'LL LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF THIS
IMMENSE STRUCTURE HIDDEN AWAY IN OUR OWN BACK YARDS.**



**DESCRIPTION: 100 FEET OF ELEVATION LOSS AND GAIN
ALONG WIDE AND NICELY GRADED AND PAVED ROADS**

BRING A SNACK, WATER, AND STURDY FOOTWEAR!
CONTACT JOE SMATH IF YOU PLAN TO JOIN US.
TEL. 603.397.2399 OR JASMATH@COMCAST.NET (PREFERRED)

SPONSORED BY: EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Come and Worship

We welcome and invite you to worship with us in any of these ways.

!!! In Person !!! at 9:30 AM, or via Livestream

- Via livestream through YouTube Sundays starting at 9:25AM:
Go to **YouTube** and search for Congregational Church of Laconia
- On our website www.laconiaucc.org any day and any time.
- On Public Access TV Channel 25 Sundays at 4pm and 9:30pm or
Mondays at 5am.

If you are new to the church, please introduce yourself! Let the Church Office know if we can help you in any way! 603-524-0668. Seeking to be the church God desires for us to be.

Visit our website

Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC | 18 Veterans Square, Laconia, NH |
603.524.0668

Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC | 18 Veterans Square, Laconia, NH 03246

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