



Tower Tidings

Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square, Laconia, New Hampshire 03246
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August 2023

- Pastor's Letter
- All Church Picnic
- Don't be scammed!
- Free Veggie Thursdays
- Vacation Bible School
- Book Discussion
- Multicultural Festival
- Auction Report
- Birthdays
- Coffee Hours
- National Night Out

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Campbell Lovett

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Interim Notes

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

In early July, Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber was one of the keynote speakers at the UCC's General Synod. Rev. Bolz-Weber is best known for her candor and irreverence regarding the life of the local church. In her book, [Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint](#), she shares a story about new member orientation. She is always the last one to share words of welcome to the group. This is how she reflects on that opportunity:

"This community will disappoint them. It's a matter of when, not if. We will let them down or I'll say something stupid and hurt their feelings. I then invite them on this side of their inevitable disappointment to decide if they'll stick around after it happens. If they choose to leave when we don't meet their expectations, they won't get to see how the grace of God can come in and fill the holes left by our community's failure, and that's just too beautiful and too real to miss."

I love the honesty of this reflection. The church will disappoint you. Something will make you want to stop attending worship, or drop off a committee, or withhold your pledge. However, Bolz-Weber invites us to consider that the grace of God "can come in and fill the holes left by our community's failure." This grace can be a beautiful thing!

During my time as your interim pastor, I have heard many joys about the life of this church. I have also heard about disappointments - something someone said, a remark that sounded mean or bigoted, a perceived slight.

May I invite all of us - whether we have experienced disappointment or not - to think anew about Bolz-Weber's invitation? In the midst of all that is good at Congregational Church of Laconia, there is disappointment as well. How will we react? Is this an opportunity to cash in our chips, or are we open to seeing how God's grace might fill the holes in our hearts and lives?

With you on the Journey,
Campbell Lovett
Interim Pastor

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