



Tower Tidings

Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ

18 Veterans Square, Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

603-524-0668 www.laconiaucc.org

JANUARY 2024

- Pastor's Message
- Moderator's Message
- Christmas Eve
- 200th Anniversary Potluck
- Book Discussion Group
- Men's Breakfast
- Church Service Award Nominations
- January Birthdays

Staff:

Interim Pastor:

Campbell Lovett

Director of Music:

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Communications

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Church Office

603-524-0668

Office hours

Mon. Wed. 9-3; Fri. 9-1

Interim Notes

From the Interim Pastor

Love God, Love Neighbor, Include Everyone

Dear Fellow Laborers in the Vineyard:

In Jesus' Parable about the Laborers in the Vineyard, workers began their work at different times of the day – and yet, the landowner paid everyone the same wage. All have been working in the vineyard – some for a long time, others just briefly, but we are all fellow disciples in this vibrant vineyard known as Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ.

On this page, I'd like to share a final Tower Tidings reflection with you regarding my time as *Interim, Pastor, and Community Member* – with many sincere thanks.

There are a variety of ways to understand the role of interim pastor. In some ways, I have worked in a few of those roles as *placeholder, bridge* and *transitional pastor*. I have been a “placeholder” in the pastoral office while the Search Committee did its work of seeking and calling. It has been a good fourteen months of being the pastoral cog in the mission and ministry operation of the church. Some call this a “bridge” time that connects one settled pastor to the next. Thus, I have bridged the time between Rev. Neil Wilson's retirement and Rev. Eliza Tweedy's arrival. From a wider perspective, I was also with you during a time when our world bridged from pandemic to endemic. Together, we have been a part of significant moments in the history of this church and nation. Others define the interim role as “transitional pastor.” In that role I have helped the church work through five phases of interim ministry – from grieving the departure of Rev. Wilson to helping generate excitement about the arrival of Rev. Tweedy – and all the many good efforts in between. Thank you for allowing me to be your interim.

I have also served in the role of Pastor in a mutual ministry in your midst. You have entrusted me with the pastoral care of this church, and I have been honored to serve in this way. We have experienced (and experimented) with a variety of worship styles; we have shared a few seasonal programs that have enriched our spirits; and I have engaged with many of you

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in times of illness, infirmity and grief. Thank you for trusting me to be your pastor.

One of the joys of a leadership position at Congregational Church of Laconia is the instant respect garnered by members of the community – far beyond anything I deserved. I engaged with civic leaders regarding challenges to the Laconia community by those who undermine the common good by acts of racism, bigotry and hate. Laconia civic and religious leaders have responded with unity, courage and strength. I found many good colleagues among ecumenical and interfaith partners in the Lakes Region and our clergy meetings were important for building a spirit of cooperation. And, as some of you know, I was a big supporter of Laconia enterprises that served coffee, made sandwiches (or burritos), fixed bicycles, sold books, framed prints, served lunch, cut hair (infrequently), and offered personal training. Thank you for encouraging me to be a member of the wider community.

Surely, I could expand each of these paragraphs with pages of examples. However, allow me simply to add some of my takeaways about this church:

- You are a lay-led church of very committed people. I have been impressed with the way that lay leaders open and close meetings in prayer; participate fully in programs and worship, and step up to serve on committees. This is an impressive feature of the church and will keep you in good stead in the future.
- You are hard workers! Fairs, Scarves in the Square, special music, bazaars, auctions, meal prep and serving, food pantry stocking, serving with the Association and Conference, watering flower buckets, leading Bible studies, visiting members and friends, writing devotionals, praying for the community. I truly believe that a strong work ethic is in the spiritual DNA of this congregation.
- You are willing to have fun and share your good humor. I have had many, many fun moments in your midst. We have worked hard together, but we have also had a great time together! I forgot how difficult full-time parish ministry was (after 10 years away in Conference Ministry), but your openness to change, your sense of humor, your grace, and your affirmation have made all the hard work and busy schedule wonderful. Thank you for being a vibrant, fun-loving, and spiritually deep congregation.
- You have a great blend of lay leaders and church staff. I have enjoyed working with such dedicated leaders. I have enjoyed being on the staff team with Bob, Carolyn, Chuck, Karen and Mike – as well as a number of office volunteers who assist in busy seasons. I have also appreciated the opportunities to serve with the officers of the church in visioning and planning. You are in good hands!

I do think that your best days are yet to come, Congregational Church of Laconia. Thank you for inviting me to join you on the journey in that direction! Peace be with you.

With you on the journey,
Campbell Lovett
Interim Pastor

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*By stroke of good fortune,
Rev. Eliza Tweedy will be starting
with us earlier than expected—
on February 12, 2024*

- Wayne Domin, Moderator

We had a
“full house”
for the
beautiful
Christmas
Eve
service.





Historic Potluck to kick off 200th Anniversary

2024 brings us to our 200th Anniversary of the Congregational Church of Laconia.

Following the annual meeting on January

28th, we will be having a 200th Anniversary pot luck. We have gathered together recipes from our church cookbooks dating back to the early 1900s. We will be making and serving these recipes at the pot luck.

Here is where your help is needed! After church on January 7, 14, and 21, we will have the recipes available for you to pick from so that you can make one for the meal. Just follow the recipe and bring it to church on the 28th and we will take care of the rest!



FAITH FORMATION

Second Sunday of the Month

January 14th

January & February Book Discussion Groups

TITLE CHANGE FOR JANUARY

The book title for January has been changed to "Wind in the Willows"

Re-read an old favorite or discover why it is a classic.

Wednesday, Jan. 17th, 12 p.m.

February 21st.: **Tom Lake** by Ann Patchett

<https://www.amazon.com/Tom-Lake-Novel-Ann-Patchett/dp/006332752X>

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Nomination Form for Church Service Award

This award is presented each year at the church's annual meeting to
"Honor and reward those persons or person whose service to the church is above the call of
duty."

Person(s) nominated:

Reasons why you are making this nomination:

Your Name (please print)

Date

PLEASE RETURN BY January 7, 2024

Mail to: The Congregational Church of Laconia UCC, 18 Veterans Square, Laconia, NH 03246
Attn: Wayne Domin - or email to: WDomin@metrocast.net



January Birthdays

1/2	Karen Anderson	1/16	Craig Shippee
1/2	C. Allen Gable	1/17	Richard Bastille
1/3	Haily McCarty	1/19	Erica Gilbert
1/4	Leah McCallum	1/21	Robby Cosgriff
1/4	Grace Vaillancourt	1/22	Tammy Emond
1/5	David Williams	1/26	Reid Vaillancourt
1/10	Angela Vaillancourt	1/27	Lyllah Anstey
1/11	Donna Wilson	1/29	Diane Lockwood
1/14	Carolyn Furber	2/01	Mary Hatfield
1/14	Margie Kreitler	2/02	Justin Piscopo
1/15	Avert Guldemon	2/03	Michelle Wein
1/16	Craig Shippee	2/04	Barbara Sweetser
1/17	Richard Bastille		
1/18	Berton Yeaton Jr.		

Lorraine Doyon shares cookies with Christmas carolers from Laconia Congregational Church.

