

March 2014 Circuit Rider

First Congregational Church of Lebanon, UCC
588 Exeter Road ~ P. O. Box 125
Lebanon, CT 06249

"We seek to demonstrate God's Spirit through worship, witness, and ministry to the needs of the people in the church and the community."

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Our Prayer List

George Markow

Bill Jahoda

Judi Bergeron

Ruth Dillon

Leona Wood

Stan Fuller

Jean Souter

Barbara Rodman

Barbara Pitcher

Dave Foley

Marion Fields

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. ~Psalm 51:10-12

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

This year Easter is later than usual...April 20th. On March 5th which is Ash Wednesday, we will begin our Lenten season with a service at 7 p.m. Lent is a time for reflection and a time for exploring our relationship with God and Jesus Christ. For some it is a time to sacrifice something as a way of identifying with the sacrifice that Christ made, like giving up a certain food or bad habit. For others it is a time to intentionally add something to a daily routine like prayer, meditation, little acts of kindness or special family time.

In addition to our regular Sunday morning services at 10 a.m., we will have a special Lenten opportunity on the Sunday evenings during Lent. This is hosted by your staff and it is an "Invitation to Christ's Table." You are invited to come to the fellowship hall and join in a simple soup and bread meal which will include singing, prayer, scripture and reflection. We will be sharing some of the stories that Jesus shared as he ate with his followers as recorded in the gospels. All are welcomed. Again those dates are March 16th, 23rd, 30th and April 6th at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

*Another opportunity to worship with our Lebanon community churches in a combined Lenten service will be on April 9th at the Baptist Church at 7 p.m. Instead of having joint Lenten services every Wednesday evening during Lent as we have had in past years, we have decided to have **one** combined service.*

As I said, Lent is a time of exploring our relationship with God and I look forward to seeing you during this time.

*Love and joy,
Pastor Sharon*

From the Lofty Thoughts Archives

"The Well On The Green"

"There is a well on the green.
Most don't see it.
It has an unusual shape.
It is made of
 brick and
 stone and
 glass
to let the sun, moon and stars
 shine through.
The weary souls who gather there
 to quench their thirst
keep dipping pails into its depths...
They seek the Jordan River
 or
the woman of Samaria...
Never quite believing
they are
 The LIVING WATERS".

A short message this month, but one I think about often. Right now, my view from the "loft" has dimmed, temporarily. My hours are spent looking out from my third floor windows, watching "gulls" swooping, puffy white clouds scurrying across the tops of the trees. I feel secure in this my "nest", my "aerie". It comforts me. Between the "well-on-the-green" and my "aerie", I feel the peace that quiets my being and says "All is well with my soul."

Just a note,
Jean Souter

Board of Christian Education & Director of Christian Education Report

As our Board says *GOODBYE* to our exiting members, we are also saying *HELLO* to our new ones. Many thanks go out to Carla Dias, Audra Holmes, and Nancy Magnuson for all you have given over the past three years. We also thank our new members, Bryce Johnson, Kimberley Johnson, and Jamie Volle for their desire to become more involved with our church children. We are excited to begin working with them and share in new ideas and new energy! **WELCOME!**

Weekly Emails

Rev. Mary sends her weekly email to the Sunday school families and those in the congregation who are interested in receiving it. The emails include the schedule and the scripture for the upcoming week. If you would like to receive this email, please contact either Mary or the church office.

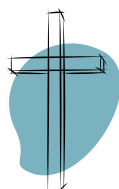
The flower committee invites anyone who would like to share flowers from their yard for our church's communion table on any Sunday to please do so. It never has to be for a specific occasion or event. If you feel inspired, and we hope that you will, just let Sylvia Ryan, Tracy Kelley or Ginger McGuire know by Saturday each week or sign up on the calendar in the foyer. Thank you.

Bread feeds the body indeed, but flowers feed also the soul. - The Koran



Lay Down Your Burdens at the Foot of the Cross...

The deacons will place the Lenten cross in the church foyer beginning Ash Wednesday, where it will remain throughout the Lenten season. A basket of stones will be located alongside it. You are invited during this season of reflection to take a stone, as a symbol of your burdens, and lay it down at the foot of the cross.



Daily Dose of Derek

Ever feel like God is using music to speak to you? Sometimes all we need is a little music to get us through dark places and bring a smile to our face when we need it most. The messages behind the songs can lift us up and encourage us. Let **Your Daily Dose of Derek** give you that extra lift that you need today! You can get your daily dose by either going to the "ministries" section of the church website or going to youtube.com and search on YourDailyDoseOfDerek.

2014 Silver Lake Summer Calendar

The Silver Lake 2014 summer conference calendar is here! They are located on the desk in the church foyer. Scholarships to Silver Lake are available; please see their website or Rev. Mary.



Lenten Bible Study

A special Lenten Bible study will begin on March 5th. Please bring your Bible and join us in the Memorial Room Wednesday mornings at 9:30.



Give Squared is our Lebanon CORPS of middle and high school youth **GIVING** back to our community in response to the **GIFTS** of God. Our name, "Give Squared," reflects the simple reality that faithful people have known for centuries: when we give, we also receive. We give our time and labor in the service of others, and in return we are blessed with gifts of gratitude, compassion, and wisdom. Our gifts of hospitality multiply exponentially when we work together to heal the world!

The Give Squared Youth Group is open to all youth in the community in Grades 5-12. In addition to our Give Squared projects (see below), we meet the first Friday of each month from 6:00 to 9:00 and explore media looking for Christian themes and lessons, teaching us what it means to be a Christian and how to follow in Christ's example.

Upcoming 2013-2014 School Year Schedule of Events:

Friday, March 7th ~ 6-9 pm Star Wars III: Revenge of the Sith

Saturday, March 8th ~ Special Olympics swim meet

Friday, April 4th ~ 6-9 pm Star Wars IV: A New Hope

April 14-17th ~ Mission Trip to Boston

Friday, May 2nd ~ 6-9 pm Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back

Friday, June 6th ~ 6-9 pm Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi

2014 Give Squared Projects - starting local and then broadening our reach:

January, February, & March - Windham Area (Mission Mittens, Special Olympics)

April to June - New England (Mission projects in planning - more info to come)

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE ~ March- June 2014

All Classes are from 5:00-6:30pm

March 2nd ~ Class

March 5th ~ ATTEND ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE WITH MENTOR

March 9th ~ Class

March 16th ~ Confirmand and mentor breakfast at our church at 8:30 a.m.

Trip to Shiloh Baptist Church in New London.

March 23rd ~ Class

March 30th ~ Class

April 6th ~ Class

April 13th ~ Palm Sunday Breakfast - Help Deacons Serve

April 14-17 ~ MISSION TRIP TO BOSTON

April 20th ~ EASTER SUNDAY NO CLASS

April 27th ~ Surprise Activity

May 4th ~ Host Coffee Hour & Class

May 11th ~ No Class Mother's Day

May 18th ~ Confirmation Test and Statement of Faith Papers Due

May 25th ~ No Class

May 29th ~ Dinner with deacons and Confirmation Sunday Rehearsal 4-7:30

June 1st ~ CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



Round Robin Crafters

Round Robin is an old term coming from the 15th century where a group sits in a circle and perhaps signs a document so that no one knows who the original signer is. We, however, are not so secretive, and do not sit in a circle. We are a small group of women with a common goal, and who enjoy each other's company. Having the same thought in mind, each of us will work on an article and pass it on to another to add their signature work to it until the piece is completed.

In past years hand-made was something born out of necessity and had a lesser value, today something hand-made has a greater appreciation and value. We are hard at work creating all types of hand-crafted items. We offer quilts of all sizes, knitted items, dolls, handbags and much more all made in our very own round-robin style. All proceeds benefit our Church. Our table is always present at the annual Holiday Harvest Bazaar.

We meet most every Friday afternoon from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in our room in the basement of our church. We have various kits for folks who wish to work at home. Please remember us when searching for that perfect gift for a friend and loved one. Everyone is welcome to join us, and no crafting experience is necessary. Our first project of the season is a "Mended Heart Wall Hanging" which translates to: how do you mend a broken heart? You patch it, of course, and then quilt it.

For Round Robin Crafters,
Sandy Rose

Lenten Schedule

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| March 5th | Ash Wednesday Service ~ 7:00 p.m. |
| March 16th | An Invitation to Christ's Table ~ A Lenten Journey
Armstrong Fellowship Hall - 6:30 p.m. |
| March 23rd | An Invitation to Christ's Table ~ A Lenten Journey
Armstrong Fellowship Hall - 6:30 p.m. |
| March 30th | An Invitation to Christ's Table ~ A Lenten Journey
Armstrong Fellowship Hall - 6:30 p.m. |
| April 6th | An Invitation to Christ's Table ~ A Lenten Journey
Armstrong Fellowship Hall - 6:30 p.m. |
| April 9th | Joint Lenten Service at Lebanon Baptist Church ~ 7:00 p.m. |
| April 13th | Deacon's Palm Sunday Breakfast 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday Service ~ 10 a.m. |
| April 17th | Maundy Thursday Service ~ 7:00 p.m. |
| April 18th | Good Friday Service ~ 7:00 p.m. |
| April 20th | Easter Sunrise Service on the Green at approximately 6:00 a.m.
Breakfast following sunrise service in the Armstrong Fellowship Hall
Easter Service ~ 10:00 a.m. |

