

## October 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

Carl Fernald

Bill Jahoda

Judi Bergeron

Ruth Dillon

Norma Geer

Stan Fuller

Jean Souter

Shirley Brodeur

Joyce Cady

Barbara Rodman

Barbara Pitcher

Fred Wright

Jack Pelto

*Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord,  
"You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." – Psalm 16:1-2*

## *Pastor's Letter*

*Dear Friends,*

*As I sit in my office writing to you, I can hear the piano tuner in the sanctuary. Over and over he plays the same note, tightening the string to make sure it is tuned. There are 88 keys on a piano so this is a lot of careful listening.*

*It made me think about "tuning" our spiritual lives! It is so hard because our lives are full of noise. For example, at the same time I hear the piano tuner playing, I can also hear the nursery school downstairs singing "Following the Leader" as they go from their classroom to the bathroom. And there is the noise from the traffic outside my office and folks in the church office asking Nancy questions. Every moment is filled with noise. I wonder...**HOW DO WE LISTEN TO GOD WHEN THERE IS SO MUCH NOISE?***

*Some folks tell me that they meditate regularly, making sure to turn off all devices and sit in a quiet room. Others say they walk on the Green and "zone out" any competing noise so it is their time with God. Some walk on the beach...some find solace in worship.*

*All of this leads me to believe that we must make an effort to find silence...to find time to let our hearts wander to God and God's will for us. Taking time for silence is like tuning ourselves up for a better day! And, making quiet time is a challenge.*

*Oh wait! The piano tuner is finished...the children are back in their classroom. **IT IS QUIET!** Perhaps this is quiet time.....*

*Whoops...the piano tuner is at it again only now tuning another piano in the Fellowship Hall!*

*Love and joy,  
Pastor Sharon*

# Lofty Thoughts October 2014

My daughter, Laurie, and I were discussing Sunday school – my church and hers. Hannah is a confirmand this year, and goes to Sunday school also. When Laurie was 8 years to 10 years, the church we were attending at that time was one of five churches in our state to try a new, innovative plan for Sunday school based on “one-room-school-houses”. It stirred our most creative minds as there was no text book to guide us. I was one of the planners, even then I was intrigued by words and came up with the idea (or else read it somewhere). Now, remember, all the classes were in one room, stopping at different centers, where they would learn of God (at all age levels). Laurie remembers me with these words on a sign: “**God is nowhere!**” Not a great message for all to hear.

But, then, I flipped the sign over, and showed them this: “**God is now here!**”

What a difference it makes!

Same letters, but a whole different meaning.

I was glad Laurie remembered one Sunday in that special trial Sunday school. Now it has provided me with this message.

“Emanuel” means “God with us” and “God is now here” means we can include him in all of our lives: feel his presence as we go through each day. I feel it is similar to the UCC banner hung by many churches saying, “God is still speaking” (if we would just listen). Thanks, Laurie, for your thoughts!

Embrace October’s bright blue weather!

Just a note,  
Jean Souter

## Board of Outreach News

### *It's a Joy to Give*

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
Wish List 2014*

**OCTOBER** – Canned Fruit

**NOVEMBER** – Stuffing & Canned Ham

**DECEMBER** – Stuffing & Baked Bean (no pork)

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 or Tracy Kelley 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*



## Pumpkin Carving



Following the church service on October 26th, join us for a special "pumpkin" coffee hour hosted by the Board of Christian Education. Kids, bring your carving tools and come create a one-of-a-kind pumpkin! Pumpkins and some carving tools will be provided.

### Fall Cleanup

**Saturday, November 8th ~ 9:00 a.m.**  
**(Rain date – Saturday, November 15th)**

The Trustees are seeking all able-bodied members and friends to help out in the fall leaf cleanup of church grounds and interior cleaning of the sanctuary pews and woodwork. Please bring rakes for outside work, or buckets, sponges, and appropriate cleaning agents for inside work. Your contribution will be much appreciated.



### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

*We are studying Joshua, Judges and Ruth.*

*Please bring your Bible and join us in the Memorial Room Wednesday mornings at 9:30.*

### Preliminary Budget Hearing

**Sunday, October 26th**

**Following the worship service.**

## Holiday Harvest Bazaar

The Holiday Harvest Bazaar will be on November 21st and 22nd. All of our church family is welcome to help to make this successful. We are currently looking for:

**Vendors** - if you or someone you know are interested in having a table and selling your goods. See Kim Alleman for more information [kalleman@charter.net](mailto:kalleman@charter.net).

**Silent Auction donations** - items for our Silent Auction (gift certificates, pampering items, handmade items, etc.). Please see Ginger or Dan McGuire [gin38@att.net](mailto:gin38@att.net).

**Gift Baskets** - we will be contacting each board or committee for a specific theme basket but if you would like to donate one yourself, contact Linda Wagner [linda827@snet.net](mailto:linda827@snet.net).

**Baked Goods** - the deacons will be manning a table, more information to follow soon.

**Food for dinner Friday night and lunch Saturday** - more information as we get closer as to what we will be needing.

Please consider helping out in whatever way you can.

Kim Alleman & Linda Wagner

## Relay For Life of Greater Windham

Eastern Connecticut State University

Saturday, October 18th, 11:00 AM – Sunday, October 19th, 11:00 AM

Team ~ Congo Bongos

At the event, our team will camp out overnight and take turns walking around the track to raise money and awareness to help the American Cancer Society in the world's largest fight against cancer. Our team is taking action to help finish the fight because saving lives from cancer starts with one team, one participant, and one dollar at a time.

We are looking for **donations** (our goal is \$1,000) and **people to join our team!** Anyone is welcome to walk with us! Someone from the team needs to be walking on the track the entire 24 hours, typically rotating in 1 hour shifts.



You can sign up to walk or make a donation after church during coffee hour. Donations may also be made online at <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/FCCofLebanon>. If you have any questions you can see our team leader, Teresa Bielecki.

## Giv<sup>2</sup> News

*Youth group is open to all youth in 5th grade through 12th.*

*The Giv<sup>2</sup> Youth Group has a busy October planned!!*

*They will have their first movie night on October 10th from 6:00 – 9:30. Supper and snacks will be provided.*

*Participate in the Relay for Life from 11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 18th, though 11:00 a.m. Sunday, October 19th. Youth are invited to sign up to walk and spend the night (or come for a few hours if you cannot stay the night). More information will be available at the meeting on the 10th.*

*On Friday, October 31st, the youth will “trick-or-treat” for donations for Neighbors Helping Neighbors! Meet at the church at 6:00.*

**Come one; come all to a Stewardship Pot Luck Luncheon. This meal kicks off our stewardship month together.**

**Sunday, November 9th, immediately following service.**

**You know what you like to make and you know we'll like eating it!**

**During our meal we will view a brand new all-church video and photo montage assembled by Teresa Bielecki and Derek Waldron. We will get to see how our pledges are implemented in our church life.**

**If you have any questions, please contact David Fields or Skip Kuzel. See you there!**



## Board of Christian Education & Director of Christian Education News

### CHILDREN WANTED!!!

Attention all parents. Come get your children involved in the most amazing journey of their lives: the journey of faith, the holy crusade, the search for sacred belief.

Get your children involved in Sunday school. Although it may not look or sound or even be called Sunday school, it IS the most amazing journey of their lives. Children will be actively involved in learning about God and Scripture through adventure and discovery. Inquire within every Sunday at 10:00am.

### ADULTS WANTED!!!

Looking for a way to get involved in the future of our church? Do you often wonder what or how the children of our church are learning about God? Well now is your chance to get involved and be part of this amazing journey. All adults young and old are invited to join the children on this journey, sometimes you may lead, sometimes you may follow. If you care about the future of the church, inquire within every Sunday at 10:00am.

### GET INVOLVED:

TBA - Community Service Project



## Neighbor Helping Neighbors Food Donations October 31st

The First Congregational Church of Lebanon Give Squared Youth Group will be trick-or-treating for a cause this Halloween. You can help support their effort by offering non-perishable food items which will be donated to fill the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry. In case you don't get a visit, you can drop-off non-perishable "treats" at the church starting at 6:00 pm on Halloween. Help our youth help their neighbors!



## Inspired by South Africa

After hearing the comment, “Oh you Americans, you come to visit us, then go home and forget about us”, an idea was born. Because bead work is very Zulu, beaded items were everywhere in South Africa. There were those lovely spoons in sugar bowls and jam and jelly jars. On our way home we vowed we would not forget and Inspired by South Africa was created. Since I try to keep abreast of new fashion trends in jewelry new designs are always introduced. By purchasing beads from different areas of Africa, we not only help to support the Bridgman Development Center but also smaller groups who are helping to raise women and children out of poverty.

After a busy summer we are looking forward to a busier fall. It makes me feel proud to be asked to participate in conferences and various craft shows. I was excited to be asked to be part of the group to be featured at The Square Fair in the new Storrs Center across from UCONN.

I would like to thank the Outreach Board for hosting the delightful evenings of beading over a glass of wine. Help in beading is always appreciated as well as new design ideas and event suggestions.

Look for us at the Harvest Bazaar.

For ISA ~ Sandy Rose

## The Quilters Group

1. Do your friends or family pick threads off your clothes?
2. Do you pet fabric?
3. Do you see a certain design and exclaim “That would be nice in a quilt”?
4. Do you have scissors for cutting fabric only never to be used on paper?
5. Are you on a first name with your local quilt shop?

If you can answer yes to any of the above questions, we have just the place for you. Come to our quilters group every Thursday evening from 6 PM to 8 PM in the basement workroom at our church.

For The Quilters Group ~ Sandy Rose

## Round Robin Crafters

Presently we are working on aprons, table runners, lap quilts, pot holders, and wall hangings for the Holiday Bazaar. Since we are busting with ideas, we need more hands to help make more items to sell.

We meet most Friday afternoons from 2 PM to 4 PM. We are fortunate to have our own room stocked with our supplies and sewing machines.

For Round Robin Crafters ~ Sandy Rose



that was easy:

# SCRIP – October



"Scrip is a unique program that maximizes your members' collective purchasing power and turns those normal spending dollars into profit for your organization. Literally thousands of dollars are spent monthly by our families for their normal purchases."

United Scrip has added new members to the family. The first is a new restaurant called Fuddruckers. The card value is \$25 and is a 3% discount to the church. Fuddruckers is the "original" upscale burger pioneer, setting the standard of serving 100% fresh, never frozen, all-American premium beef for over 30 years. The second is one for the athletes; Under Armour. Under Armour® is one of the world's most technical performance apparel, footwear, and accessories brands. Under Armour® is the originator of performance apparel-gear engineered to keep athletes cool, dry, and light as they power through a game, practice, or workout. The card value is \$25 and is a 13% discount to the church.

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## LEBANON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - SCRIP PROGRAM PARTIAL INVENTORY

SUBWAY \$10	EXXON/MOBIL \$50	SHOPRITE \$25
STOP & SHOP \$50	FRIENDLY'S \$25	WAL-MART \$25
DUNKIN' DONUTS \$10	KOHL'S \$25	STARBUCKS \$10
PANERA BREAD \$10	LOWES \$25	BUFFALO WILD WINGS \$10

## **Piano Recital & Concert**

Derek Waldron will be putting on a solo piano recital and a full concert the first weekend in October. The piano recital will be held on Friday, October 3rd, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the First Congregational Church of Lebanon. The concert will be the next day, October 4th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Armstrong Fellowship Hall of the congregational church and will feature three bands he plays with: Room To Move, Lawnchair on Mars, and Crazy On You. The First Congregational Church Choir will also be joining him, as well as a few of his fellow musician friends in this multi-genre encompassing concert.

The recital and concert are also fundraisers for the new music studio Derek Waldron and Jim Wheeler are opening this January. Located in Willimantic, *Waldron's Studio 88* will provide private lessons and classes as well as a professional recording studio, photography studio, and even a stage for performances. Any donations great or small will be incredibly appreciated. The recital and concert are both free to attend, so, even if you cannot donate at this time, please feel welcome to come and enjoy the music!

