

## *November 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."***

*Rev. Dr. Sharon Ledbetter, Pastor  
Pastor's Office Phone: 860-642-2557  
Cell Phone: 860-608-2701  
Email: PastorSharonLed@att.net*

*Nancy Magnuson, Secretary  
Phone: 860-642-6179  
Email: LebFirstCong@att.net*

*Rev. Mary Horan, Director of Christian Education  
Email: mchoran@att.net  
Phone: 860-642-4330*

*Derek Waldron ~ Organist  
Email: rockinmyboot@yahoo.com  
Phone: 860-593-6836*

*Web Site: [www.lebanonfirstcong.org](http://www.lebanonfirstcong.org)*

*Church Kitchen Phone: 860-642-7000*

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*Kim Alleman, Moderator  
Email: kalleman@charter.net  
Phone: 860-377-7355*

*Jon Magnuson, Chair of Board of Deacons  
Email: njm400@charter.net  
Phone: 860-423-4852*

*Jim McCaw, Chair of Board of Trustees  
Phone: 860-642-7449*

*David Fields, Chair of Stewardship Comm.  
Phone: 860-642-6189*

*Ashley Meseroll, Co-Chair of Board of Outreach  
Phone: 860-642-7364*

*Bev York, Co-Chair of Board of Outreach  
Phone: 860-423-1878*

*Michelle Kersey, Co-Chair Board of CE  
Phone: 860-642-7411*

*Chet Ryan, Co-Chair Board of CE  
Phone: 860-642-7094*

*Sue Vigue, Chair of Music Comm.  
Phone: 860-642-4761*

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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*

*Fay Morehouse*

*Barbara Rodman*

*Barbara Pitcher*

*Fred Wright*

*Jack Pelto*

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*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! – Psalm 95:2*

## *Pastor's Letter*

*Dear Friends,*

*With Thanksgiving rapidly approaching, gratitude fills our hearts. I know it is a time when we may be overwhelmed just thinking of our many blessings...food, clothes, shelter, freedoms, health, family, friends and more and more and more...*

*It seems to me that generosity goes hand in hand with gratitude. Because we recognize how fortunate we are, we want to give to others in need. For example our Neighbors In Need offering collected on Sunday, October 26th, totaled \$823 dollars...we are a generous congregation!*

*On November 9th in our 10 a.m. worship we will kick off our 2015 stewardship campaign drive. This is an annual drive where our Stewardship Committee asks us to make a pledge for the coming year for the work and ministry of our church. After our worship everyone is invited to a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall where we will see for the first time a video of our church activities through the past year. Teresa Bielecki has been taking pictures for the last few months and she and Derek Waldron have made this into a video. Please make a point to be present for this.*

*Our campaign will run for two weeks and during that time you will be receiving a letter containing a pledge card and an explanation of our budget needs as a church. On November 23rd during the last hymn of our worship service you will be asked to come forward and place your pledge card on the communion table as we dedicate our pledges to God.*

*One of the frustrations for our Stewardship Committee has been that our pledges seem to dribble in from November until after the Annual Meeting in February. This year we are being offered an incentive! If we get our pledge cards in on or before November 23rd, we get a tote bag!!! It is really quite nice...hunter green with a picture of our church...good for carrying groceries, etc.*

*So again our Stewardship campaign runs for two weeks and I invite you to give as you can for the continuing vitality and mission of our church.*

*Love and joy,  
Pastor Sharon*

# Lofty Thoughts November 2014

You probably realize by now that I am addicted to TV. My favorite channels are PBS and CPTV, The Learning Channel, and a few others. However, I watched Hoda and Kathie Lee interview an astronaut on the space station. He wrote a book with many, many pictures called "You Are Here, Around the World in 92 Minutes." That's the length of time the space station circles the earth. I should say "orbits." I remember a movie (way back when) called "Around the World in 80 Days." I thought that was fascinating at that time, but viewing the beautiful sphere called "earth" from outer space rather than at ground level was truly awesome. The author's remarks about his book, even though he is a scientist, made me feel that the earth's beauty, and the apparent closeness of earth's inhabitants or people caused him to wonder why we don't get along better. We should not be fighting (for what?). We should realize the wonder of the universe, what has been given to us in love. (I have to find that book).

It is Thanksgiving. A gorgeous day to stop and praise, and pray, and give thanks. We have so much. For myself I say, "I am not homeless; I am surrounded by loving people; I can, and do worship God freely, (and his presence is everywhere I can see). The spectacular view from the space station's windows fills me with hope. Maybe things aren't as worrisome as my 'tunnel vision' sees. I realize there are many like me, (the readers of this newsletter), who feel the trust, and believe. Make a bucket list of Thank You's! "It's a small, small world." Happy Thanksgiving.

Just a note,

Jean Souter

## Board of Outreach News

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

#### *Neighbors Helping Neighbors Wish List 2014*

**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, Tracy Kelley or Nancy Magnuson 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*



### **Severe Weather Cancellations**



In the event of severe weather, please check for cancellations of Sunday morning worship services and church activities on WFSB TV Channel 3, church website, or you may contact any deacon.

### **CAT'S MEOW VILLAGE COLLECTION**

We are excited to bring the Cat's Meow Village Collection replica of our church. The collectibles were designed by the Art Department of this company. To purchase please contact Stan Fuller at 860-642-1872 or the church office at 860-642-6179. Price of the collectible is \$15.00.

These will make a great gift for birthday, anniversary or Christmas.

### **2014 Annual Reports**

Board and committee reports are due by the end of December. If you would please e-mail them to the office, it would help tremendously.

### **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.

### **Bible Study**



*We are studying Judges and Ruth.*

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

### **Potluck Luncheon**

**Come one; come all to a Stewardship Potluck 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!**

## ***Holiday Harvest Fair***

*First Congregational Church of Lebanon*

*Friday, November 21st ~ 4-8 p.m.*

*Saturday, November 22nd*

*9:00 a.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.*



### ***Roast Beef Dinner***

*Saturday, November 22nd*

*5:00 – 7:00 p.m.*

#### ***Menu:***

***Roast Beef, mashed potatoes & gravy,  
vegetable, salad, desserts,  
and beverages.***

#### ***Tickets:***

***Adults - \$10***

***Seniors - \$8***

***Children Under 12 - \$8***

***Children Under 5 - Free***

## ***GiU News***

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

*November 7th ~ 6:00-9:30 p.m.*

*Movie Night*

*December 12th ~ 6:00-9:30 p.m.*

*Movie Night*

### **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**

**Lebanon Baptist Church**

**Sunday, November 23rd**

**7:00 p.m.**



**Please bring a  
non-perishable item  
for Neighbors Helping Neighbors.**

## **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

## Christmas Poinsettias



*Yes, it is a little early to think about Christmas, but we need to get our order in early this year. The Flower Committee has decided to purchase poinsettias through a fundraiser sponsored by the Lyman Memorial High School Agricultural Department. All proceeds from their flower sales help to support the FFA members in their various activities and events throughout the year. We hope that you will help us support our local FFA students by ordering and purchasing your Christmas Poinsettias in this fashion. The sanctuary will be decorated with the poinsettias on Christmas Sunday, December 21st, and they will be available for pick up after the service.*

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ 5" pot for \$8.00 and/or \_\_\_\_\_ 6.5" pot for \$12.00 each for a total of \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias.

\_\_\_\_\_ Red

\_\_\_\_\_ White

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

The plant is given In Loving Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Or In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s) after the service on Sunday, December 21, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send plant(s) to a shut-in.

Please make check payable to The First Congregational Church of Lebanon. Orders and payments may be placed in the Flower Committee box or mailed to:

The First Congregational Church of Lebanon  
P.O. Box 125  
Lebanon, CT 06249  
Attention: Flower Committee

**Please return order by Sunday, November 9th.**

Contact Sylvia Ryan, Tracy Kelley, or Nancy Magnuson with any questions.

# Inspired by South Africa

## Turtle Wisdom

We have enough supplies to make 50 turtle bracelets. They are one of Inspired by South Africa's best sellers. We use turquoise from South Africa, silver spacers and a choice of clasps. The money earned from the purchase of the bracelets goes to the Bridgman Development Centre in Soweto, South Africa via Global Ministries.

## Tea Bag Pouches

A snug little bag to be sewn with fabric and lining from South Africa. The button closure is also from South Africa. A tea bag from South Africa is inserted in the bag. Our tea bag pouch is very handy to carry with you when visiting a coffee drinking friend. We use a lovely basket from Ghana to hold an array of our tea pouches.

## Elastic Bracelets

Because we have many beads in many colors, you can let your color sense run wild. The beads are strung on an elastic cord and tied to form a bracelet, the knot is secured by dotting it with colorless nail polish. The bracelets are easy to make and sold at a reasonable price. Remember they should be rolled on the wrist and not pulled and stretched.

## Prayer Box Bracelets

A color is first chosen and beads are selected in different shapes and sizes and strung on an elastic cord. A magnetic prayer box in gold or silver is strung along with the beads. The box contains a prayer with the word for Peace in English and again in Zulu. The bracelets are beautiful as well as meaningful.

## Necklaces

Our necklaces are divided into three categories - Sea Life - Safari- and Other. Sea Life has pendants of starfish, shells and other marine life. Safari has animal pendants as well as African symbols - Wisdom without Words. We use three different clasps on all our necklaces. Lobster claw, toggle and hook and eye. We make necklaces in both gold and silver.

## Rainbow Collection

Since South Africa is known as the Rainbow Nation, in this collection we use a multi-colored bead to celebrate the diversity of South Africa. We feature necklace and earrings sets using pendants of butterflies, tree of life and humming birds. Included in the Rainbow Collection is a rather unique cross. The cross is Sterling Silver and is to be worn across your heart.

*This is what we do, now can you tell us what you can do to help carry on this important mission. We need help beading, setting up and maintaining a calendar of events, investigating new venues, and sewing our new patchwork bags. Each bag tells our story. We hope they will be successful. When sorting through the beads, I am reminded of the women who are making their way from poverty and their children's smiling faces. Just the realization that you are touching so many lives can change your own life.*

*Please consider joining us on Saturdays during the month of January (weather permitting, of course) when we will be beading and sewing.*

For Inspired by South Africa (ISA)

Sandy Rose

860-228-1566 ~ [sandrar@dreamscapers.com](mailto:sandrar@dreamscapers.com)



# SCRIP - NEW FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON!



With the turning of the calendar, it is time to start thinking about Christmas lists and who to buy for? What to get them? Will They Like it? Our SCRIP gift card program has cards available to more than 600 stores, restaurant and businesses. What is even better is getting that new “gadget” first! Well here is what is new to our SCRIP program and in time for Christmas.

	ZAPPO'S	\$25.00	9%
	PETCO	\$25.00	7%
	PEP BOYS	\$25.00	8%
	AVIS CAR RENTAL	\$50.00	8%
	BUDGETCAR RENTAL	\$50.00	8%
	ORIENTAL TRADING	\$25.00	9%

Also, have you ever had your groceries delivered via Peapod or ShopRite? Well the gift cards from our SCRIP program are accepted as a method of payment. How sweet is that?

So in this time when getting a gift card is the perfect gift, think about who is on that special Christmas list of teachers? Bus driver's? Far away family? Co-workers? Coaches? Tough to buy for family member? Check out our list of stores and get them a gift card to their favorite store. Order forms are on the bulletin board in the foyer or on the church website. Drop your order off in the SCRIP mailbox by Sunday and cards will be ready for pick up the next Sunday. It's that simple. Share the program with your family, friends and neighbors. **Last day to order to have cards for Christmas is DECEMBER 7TH!!**

*The Church will have a special Christmas Inventory available at the Harvest Fair.*



See or contact Phil Johnson with any questions.



## LEBANON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - SCRIP PROGRAM PARTIAL INVENTORY

SUBWAY \$10	EXXON/MOBIL \$50	ITUNES \$15	TARGET \$25
FRIENDLY'S \$25	WAL-MART \$25	HOME DEPOT \$25	LOWES \$25



ACE HARDWARE \$25

DUNKIN' DONUTS \$10

