

## *April 2015 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 C. Horan  
Director of Christian Education  
Email: mchoran@att.net  
Phone: 860-642-4330*

*Veronica Thomen  
Assistant to the Director of Christian Education  
Email: mamav06@gmail.com  
Phone: 860-324-5428*

*Derek Waldron ~ Organist  
Email: WaldronsStudio88@gmail.com  
Phone: 860-593-6836*

*Teresa Bielecki, Website/Facebook Coordinator  
Email: teresabielecki@yahoo.com*

*Church Kitchen Phone: 860-642-7000*

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

---

*Bev York, Moderator  
Email: bevishistory@yahoo.com  
Phone: 860-423-1878*

*Jennifer Blevins, Chair of Board of Deacons  
Email: jgblevins@hotmail.com  
Phone: 860-642-6105*

*Duke York, Chair of Board of Trustees  
Phone: 860-423-1878*

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

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

*Bryce Johnson, Co-Chair Board of CE  
Phone: 860-885-1431*

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

*Geri McCaw, Co-Chair of Board of Outreach  
Phone: 860-642-7449*

*Skip Kuzel, Co-Chair of Stewardship Comm.  
Phone: 860-642-4330*

*Al Manning, Co-Chair of Stewardship Comm.  
Phone: 860-642-6444*

---

## *Our Prayer List*

<i>Norma &amp; Harold Geer</i>	<i>Stan Fuller</i>	<i>Ellen Lathrop</i>	<i>Joan Dutko</i>
<i>Joyce Cady</i>	<i>Fay Morehouse</i>	<i>Jean Souter</i>	<i>Michele Barrett</i>
<i>Barbara Rodman</i>	<i>Fred Wright</i>	<i>Neil Whitehead</i>	<i>Mary Horan</i>
<i>Deanna Kokoszka</i>	<i>Judi Bergeron</i>	<i>Carl Fernald</i>	<i>Dan McGuire</i>

---

*"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." ~ Mark 16:6*

## *Pastor's Letter*

*Dear Friends,*

*March 29th, Sunday, is the beginning of Holy Week. This is Jesus' last week of life and all the activity takes place in and around Jerusalem. During this time, Jesus and his disciples enter Jerusalem while followers shout, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" On Thursday of that week he joins his disciples in an upper room for a last meal and later that night he is arrested. Friday he is crucified and Sunday he is resurrected...Easter Sunday!*

*For Christians this is a solemn time that ends in the great celebration of Easter! We celebrate not only the promise of eternal life, but also the promise of new beginnings as we live our lives daily. Who doesn't want a new beginning once in a while? I know in my own faith journey I have had times of doubting and times when my faith felt "tired." Only to realize one day that I felt alive with some new insight or new experience that confirmed stronger than ever, the presence of God in my life.*

*I wonder if you have ever experienced your faith as "tired?" Tired in the sense that you **have** faith but your faith is not energizing or inspiring.*

*Come and travel through Holy Week with Jesus and your church family. Join in Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Come to the Maundy Thursday service and join in the last meal Jesus had with his followers. Come to the Good Friday service and hear the story of the crucifixion and come to the Easter Sunday celebration! I pray that you will feel "born anew," inspired and energized!!*

*Love and joy,  
Pastor Sharon*

# Lofty Thoughts April 2015

April is the month of rain, “April showers bring May flowers.” This year we also celebrate Easter for Christians, a very holy day following a holy week. I want to share a story of many past Easters our family celebrated.

Dad was an invalid and Mom was his constant companion and caregiver. He was never alone. Our two sons, who attended a camp at Silver Lake for a few summer weeks, thought that Grandma needed a church at her house for Easter. So began many years of Easter sunrises at my parents’ house at 6 a.m. on Easter. Behind their house, we climbed the hill to stand at the top in the rough grass, amid rocks and trees. There we stood, or sat on blankets or two benches from the picnic table, catching our breath and listening to the sparrows and chickadees chattering in the bushes. Dad was safely seated in his recliner in the house. We each brought something to read, or something we had written, and Mom read from the Bible. Our group was small at the beginning, but grew as grandchildren joined us and became our junior choir, singing “Jesus Loves Me.” Perhaps it was our presence, but the noisy birds hushed as we started our celebration of life and thanks to God for all our blessings. All our readings were appreciated. The choices for wonderful, meaningful words every year was something to look forward to. Sometimes we wept with emotion. I had found a book written by Winston Abbott called “Come Walk Among the Stars,” and read from it for our sunrise service. This is an excerpt:

*“... and as my life has been gently touched by other lives – it follows that I have touched theirs too – one cannot always know the time of greatest need – perhaps this is as it should be – perhaps it is only for me to light one darkened corner of the path – to place a hand upon your shoulder as a symbol of my kinship and my love – perhaps I came this way – as did you – to fill some special need – but this is not always given us to know – sometimes a single word will lift the spirit – sometimes words are so inadequate – and sometimes it is destined that one must only listen – sometimes a smile will bridge the empty darkness – sometimes just the nearness is the answer – from many lives I have gathered courage and strength – I have learned humility and gentleness and forgiveness – and for all of these blessings – I am grateful – and so you must understand that your life is not your own – it has become a part of mine – and so it follows that my life does not belong to me – it is yours.”*

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts with you. Oh yes, the family had breakfast together after our service, joining Dad who was patiently waiting. This became a tradition prompted by circumstances.

A blessed Easter and beautiful Spring to all of us – we’ve waited so long this snowy winter!

Just a note,  
Jean Souter

# GiU News

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

April 10th ~ 6:00-9:30 p.m.  
Movie Night

May 1st ~ 6:00-9:30 p.m.  
Movie Night

June 5th ~ 6:00-9:30 p.m.  
Movie Night

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

The deacons have placed the Lenten cross in the church foyer, where it will remain throughout the Lenten season. A basket of stones is 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.



## 2015 Silver Lake Summer Calendar

The Silver Lake 2015 summer conference calendars are here! They are located on the desk in the church foyer. Scholarships to Silver Lake are available; please see their website or Rev. Mary.

## Sanctuary Open During Holy Week

Beginning on Palm Sunday and continuing throughout Holy Week, the sanctuary will be open daily, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., for prayer and meditation. Please enter through the main doors facing Route 207.

## Flower Committee

The Flower Committee would like to remind the congregation that if you would like to place an arrangement in the sanctuary for Sunday service there is a sign-up calendar in the foyer or call the church office. If it is a last minute thought just call a flower committee member by Saturday morning. We also invite everyone to please consider sharing flowers, grasses, branches of beauty, from your gardens or yards for any Sunday morning.

Thank you,  
Sylvia Ryan  
Nancy Magnuson  
Tracy Kelley



*"Bread feeds the body indeed.  
But flowers feed also the soul."*

*~ The Koran*

## Easter Egg Hunt April 5th

*The Board of Christian Education invites all children in fourth grade and under to our annual Easter egg hunt on April 5th.*

*Please meet at the back  
of the Fellowship Hall  
following the service.  
Bags will be provided.*



## Lenten Services

(All services are at 7:00 p.m. and are at our church unless otherwise noted.)

April 2nd Maundy Thursday Service

April 3rd Good Friday Service

April 5th Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast at the Lebanon Baptist Church at approximately 6:00 a.m.

Easter Service ~ 10:00 a.m.



**CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE ~ April - June 2015**  
**All Classes are 5:00-6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.**

April 5th ~ EASTER SUNDAY No class.

April 12th ~ Class

April 19th ~ Class

April 24th ~ OVERNIGHT TRIP TO NIGHT WATCH in New York City

April 26th ~ No Class

May 3rd ~ Class

May 10th ~ MOTHER'S DAY No class.

May 17th ~ Class

May 24th ~ Class - STATEMENT OF FAITH DUE & TEST

May 31st ~ No class

June 4th ~ THURSDAY 4:00-7:30 p.m. REHEARSAL FOR CONFIRMATION SUNDAY AND DINNER WITH DEACONS

June 7th ~ CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

**Round Robin Challenge 2015**

We are a small group of women who create items to be sold at our Church's Holiday Harvest Bazaar. We meet most Friday afternoons 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the basement of our Church. Please join us anytime.

One of our best sellers happens to be an apron. A couple of people commented that it was so great to find an apron that was suitable for a guy. The aprons are styled as butcher aprons with a large pocket across the front.

We are offering a challenge to all of you, can you go out and purchase fabric that you may like to see made up as an apron? Maybe the cloth could reflect your personality, hobby or passion. A yard is all you need to buy. We will display all at the Bazaar. Please print your name and pin it to the fabric.

For Round Robin Crafters

Sandy Rose, Sylvia Ryan, Evelyn Grabber, Dawn Drum & Gloria Costa

**Upcoming Events**

**Sunday School Field Trip to Maple Leaf Farm**  
**Sunday, April 19th ~ 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Confirmation Sunday**  
**Sunday, June 7th**

**Baccalaureate Service**  
**Sunday, June 7th ~ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Lebanon Baptist Church**

**Children's Sunday**  
**Sunday, June 14th**

**Music Appreciation Sunday,**  
**Sunday, June 21st**

**Raise the Roof**  
**Benefit for Stirrup Fun Stables**  
First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Saturday, April 11, 2015  
Dinner ~ 5-7 p.m. Live Music ~ 5-9 p.m.

**Ticket Cost:**  
Adults~\$15.00 Youth~\$10.00 Family~\$40.00

Live Music provided by Room To Move!  
Live and Silent Auctions! Bake Sale!

For information, tickets, or to donate an  
auction item or baked good, see Teresa or Bev,  
or call Janet Lewis - 860-237-0432.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

A new Bible study will begin Wednesday, April 8th, at 9:30 in the Memorial Room. Please bring your Bible and join us!

# Assistant to Director & Director of Christian Ed News

Come walk with us in the light of God this spring!

We will start our final module entitled WALK and bring together all that we have learned about God on this magnificent journey.

How do we understand ourselves in the world? Where do we see God? And how do we walk in the ways of God? Come be witnesses in doing God's work.

April 2nd is Maundy Thursday. Children will be baking bread and celebrating Passover with Reverend Mary. Check the weekly email for time.

Easter is April 5th! Come early for a good seat and don't come late because you'll miss the Easter Egg Hunt.

April 12th is Spirit Sunday.

April 19th field trip to Ned's Farm.

## **Memorial Fund for Education Scholarship**

High School Seniors,

The Scholarship Committee of the Board of Deacons would like to reiterate that this scholarship is for all Seniors who have been members of the Lebanon First Congregational Church.

We want to emphasize that this is an Honorarium to the Seniors of our Church Family. That is our main goal. We wish to give you a small amount of money which you may use in any further training or studies you may choose. You, the Senior, are a member whom we have been fortunate enough to see grow in our church, and we wish to encourage you in your future plans.

We are aware that this year's graduating class of 2015 cannot reach back in time and fill in activities for the last four years. And we understand that this is a very busy, exciting time in your lives. However, please, fill in an application for the Scholarship and list any events or activities you have attended in the past.

We welcome your participation and look forward to being a small part of your future endeavors.

If you have any questions about the scholarship, please speak with any Deacon. Current members of the committee are: Lynn Manning, Oliver Manning, and Ruth Turner-Jones.

Respectfully,  
Ruth Turner-Jones  
(860) 886-3909  
(860) 642-6016