

September 2014 Circuit Rider

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

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Bill Jahoda

Judi Bergeron

Ruth Dillon

Norma Geer

Stan Fuller

Jean Souter

Shirley Brodeur

Joyce Cady

Barbara Rodman

Barbara Pitcher

Fred Wright

Jack Pelto

*I lift up my eyes to the hills- from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. - Psalm 121:1-2*

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Where has the summer gone? It seems only yesterday that we celebrated July 4th and had the summer ahead of us! Jim and I enjoyed time with our grandchildren and also a week at Rehoboth Beach in Delaware. As we gather again for church activities, I hope to hear about your summer vacations.

September 7th is RALLY SUNDAY. Worship is at 10:00 a.m. and is followed by a coffee hour where all our boards and committees will have displays to explain their contributions to our church life. There will be registration for Sunday School and sign-ups for Sacred Dance, Choir, Bell Choir, Confirmation and Adult Study programs. But most of all, this is a church family gathering to share conversation with those we haven't seen for a while.

We have a new Sunday school program which Rev. Mary and the Board of Christian Education have been working on. Please read Rev. Mary's letter in this Circuit Rider which explains their exciting plans.

For the month of September, I will focus my preaching on the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 18, 20 and 21. I recommend reading these chapters if you have the opportunity...or actually just reading the entire gospel! This gospel contains such helpful teachings of Jesus and I hope to speak about their relevance in our lives today....2000 years later!

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 3:00 P.M. PEACE CELEBRATION ON THE GREEN. There is so much violence in our world today and the Lebanon and Franklin Clergy wanted to offer a time to remember peace...a time to be strong in our hope and actions that make for peace. We will gather at 3:00 p.m. The comfort dog Addie will be present so we can learn about the importance of comfort dogs in times of crisis. Room to Move Band will play. Hope to see you.

Again, I urge you to be an active part of our church life together and bring your friends!

See you Sunday,

*Love and joy,
Pastor Sharon*

Lofty Thoughts September 2014

"Cairn" – originates from Gaelic meaning "heap of stones". (Thanks, Hannah, for looking it up on the computer!)

I watch a PBS Sunday night show called, "Windows of the Wild." It is hosted by an older man, Willem Lange, who has lived in the mountains and hiked many of the trails in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. I watch, because my children and grandchildren have challenged these trails and thrilled to their spectacular beauty. One program showed him hiking an eight-mile trail across Mt. Washington. When he reached the summit, he paused there (quite a few pauses) and pointed to a pile of rocks on the path. He said it was a "cairn", put there many years ago to mark the trail. At this point, the trail is above the tree line, so arrows and signs cannot be hung to show the way. The only thing on hand were rocks and stones. Clever, yes?

My son, David, built cairns around his house in Rhode Island. Sometimes a robin will sit on the top stone, balancing quite well, but when he flies off, his leg pushes against the stone, and they tumble down. (Back to the drawing board.) Doug, my son-in-law, who vacations in the White Mountains, also built cairns around his yard. So, they have had knowledge of them for a while.

I feel the strength of stones. Every winter the ground heaves stones to the surface where they are tossed aside to clear the land for plowing and eventually end up as our famous "stone walls".

Mary's sermon one Sunday told of Jacob using a stone as a pillow. I don't know about how well he dreamed that night.

The Ten Commandments were inscribed on stone.

We collected stones, along with shells, on the beach in the summers. They are smoothed by the surf's constant washing.

It is good to know that people before us took time to mark a safe trail in the mountains and forests. It is good to know that our God has marked our trail, our journey, with love, compassion, joy, and beauty. Our trail can be enhanced by following the "cairns". Imaging God's signs, pointing to the right "trail".

At this point, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans would sing "Happy Trails to You".

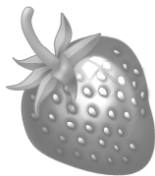
Just a note,
Jean Souter



Thank you to all who participated in any way to make this year's Strawberry Festival a huge success. The strawberries were great, the help was fantastic and the band, Room to Move, was fabulous!!!! We should profit about \$3200.

Thank you again to all.

The Strawberry Festival Committee
 Dawn Drum
 Geri McCaw
 Debbie Boisvert
 Tracey Kelly
 Ellen Bauwens



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



SAVE THE DATE

This year our Holiday Harvest Bazaar will be November 21st and 22nd. The Bazaar is a church-wide fundraiser and it takes all of us to make it successful. We have a very enthusiastic group who is working hard to plan this event. We will be asking each Board and Committee for a specific theme for a gift basket which will be in a special raffle. In addition, we will also have our silent auction and will gladly accept any donations from our church family. We will have more information available soon.

Kim Alleman & Linda Wagner

Rally Sunday is September 7th

We will again have a church-wide expo. You will be able to:

- Sign up for Sunday School
- Learn about all of the programs for the upcoming year
- Find out about all of the church Boards and Committees
- Learn more about how our church functions.

**Mark your calendar
and plan to attend!**

Confirmation Begins

Confirmation class will begin on Sunday, September 28th, at 5 p.m. in the Memorial Room. Pastor Sharon would like to invite all the parents, students, and deacons to attend this first class. Youths in grades 9 through 12 are eligible.

Bible Study Begins Wednesday, September 17th

We will be studying Joshua, Judges and Ruth.

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

Board of Outreach News

It's a Joy to Give

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Wish List 2014*

SEPTEMBER – Canned Ravioli

OCTOBER – Canned Fruit

NOVEMBER – Stuffing & Canned Ham

DECEMBER – Stuffing & Baked Bean (no pork)

The Lebanon Faith Community & Franklin Congregational Church invite you to

PEACE DAY

...a focus on healing and making the world a better place.

...a focus on family, strength, and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding with an acknowledgment of past events.

(September 11th, Newtown, Boston)

Sunday September 7th ~ 3:00 p.m.
on the Lebanon Green

*In case of inclement weather, please join us in the
Congregational Church Fellowship Hall*

Bring a blanket or chairs and a picnic supper

Music provided by *Room to Move*

Visit with Addie, our Connecticut Comfort Dog.



*Addie was part of the Newtown and Boston
Marathon Comfort Ministry. The Comfort Dogs
are friends who bring a calming influence,
allowing people to open up their hearts and
receive help in times of need.*



For more information please contact
Pastor Sharon Ledbetter at 860-642-2557

Board of Christian Education & Director of Christian Education News

It has been an amazing summer of long, sunny days and cool refreshing nights. I do hope you and your families have had a chance to enjoy each other and the special place we live. Your Christian Education Team has been busy during these past months. After a fun and lively Children's Sunday in June we spent some time creating a church survey for families with children. Over a dozen families responded and shared their reasons for bringing their children to church, what they hope their children will learn and some of the challenges they face in getting to church.

With considerable thought and planning we have a new and amazing year planned for our children's education program. It will include Sunday morning lessons, community service, music, film, worship and something we are calling Holy Encounters. Five theme-based program sessions, each lasting two months, will be conducted from September through June. Each session will be led by a mentor while members of our congregation will be invited to act as a coach. Parents and recent Confirmands will be invited to provide support as organizer or facilitator to help our children explore community service opportunities. Working together to create a network of support and resources, we will build our children's foundation in God and our relationship with each other. As it states in our covenant of 1629 (Salem Church Covenant),

We covenant with the Lord and one with another and do bind ourselves in the presence of God, to walk together in all his ways, according as he is pleased to reveal himself unto us in his blessed word of truth.

I look forward to covenanting in our new children's education program with all of you. On Rally Sunday (September 7th) we will have calendars and details for parents. Newsletters will keep you all informed so be sure to request to be on the mailing list if you aren't already. This new and exciting model will be in need of a new name so we are holding a 'naming' contest starting on Rally Sunday – I do hope you can join us!

Blessings,
Rev. Mary

Weekly Emails

Rev. Mary will soon begin sending her weekly email to the Sunday school families and those in the congregation who are interested in receiving it. If you are not receiving this email and would like to, please contact either Mary or the church office.

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



SCRIP – September



"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."

September is here and so is school. But with the change of the calendar comes changes to our Scrip program. First, United Scrip has added three 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.



Also beginning August, iTunes cards can be ordered at a value of \$10 and \$25.

Our Scrip program will have a table on Rally Sunday, so if you have any questions about the program and how it works, please pay us a visit.

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	