

October 2016 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

Lucy Todd	Lee Schuett	Marion Fields	Judi Larsen
Deanna Kokoszka	Deb Boisvert	Ruth Tilley	Daryl Jewett
Barbara Rodman	Fred Wright	Neil Whitehead	Lynn Manning
Norma Geer	Michele Barrett	Karen Fuller	Jim Forrest
Fay Morehouse	Jan VanWoerkom	Joyce Cady	Norma Peterson
David Fields	Ellen Pelkey	Joan Dutko	Jean Souter

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. ~ Psalm 37:3-4

Pastor's Corner

I'm writing this month's reflection on the first full day of fall, the Friday of the 'big weekend' for the congregation, the search committee, and for Shannon, as well. While protocol is that the interim pastor absents himself from the related activities, the weekend also has implications for me and my tenure and my plans for the future. Some of you have been so thoughtful as to ask about that; thank you. What I mean to say is that I will again be seeking God's plans for me in the future rather than my plans or thoughts because that's always been the direction of my life: discerning, following, and completely trusting in God's plan for me. And, let me also say, that God's plans have always proven best, most fulfilling, and happiest, always!

At every important crossroad in my life, I've looked for the way the 'Lord of the cross' and of my life is indicating for me to take. When my term of serving with you here in this well-blest and blessed family of God comes to completion, I'll arrive at yet another crossroad; and I'll pray "now what, Lord?; now what?" And I'll keep on praying that simple prayer until God's direction becomes clear. As it has been said, "God can make a way out of no way."

Likewise, please know that in my physical absence this first autumn weekend, I'll be devotedly, even doggedly engaged in prayer that God's will and leading for the congregation becomes deeply felt and faithfully followed.

Prayerfully yours,

Bob

Sermon Titles

October 2nd, World Communion Sunday - "The Ought of Faith" - Luke 17:5-10
October 9th "Faith Healing" - Luke 17:11-19
October 16th "Ask Boldly, Live Justly" - Luke 18:1-8
October 23rd "Honest Humility" - Luke 18:9-14
October 30th "Up a Tree" - Luke 19:1-10

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
St. Francis of Assisi Church
Sunday, November 20th ~ 7:00 p.m.



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

Preliminary Budget Hearing
Sunday, October 30th
Following the worship service.

Lofty Thoughts October 2016

My son David and his wife Patti, their daughter Margeaux and her husband Garrett, plus their daughter Gretchen and son Edgar, spend most of the summer days on a beach in Rhode Island. It is a beautiful spot. Other residents also choose their space on the beach there, so over time they become acquainted. One day recently, a woman known to them arrived, set down her chair and umbrella, then walked over to where Edgar, now 6 months old, sat in his seat under an umbrella. She stooped down and picked him up. Gretchen, just two in June, looked at her quizzically and said, 'Mama's Edgar; Daddy's Edgar.' I think the translation is, 'put him back, he belongs to us.' The more I thought about this remark, the more I wondered how can a 2 year old feel threatened and also know the importance of family?

I know she watches 'Curious George' and 'Sesame Street' and having watched it myself with grandkids over the years, realize the source of these delightful characters teaching preschoolers many good lessons about family life. Perhaps she learned that the love bestowed upon her by her parents, grandparents, great grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, plus a spectacular 'sitter' taught her to take care of her little Edgar.

Family is so important. Sometimes families are created in groups of people not related. Just being together and doing similar things makes one think of being part of a family.

This autumn time of year reminds me of homecoming. Days are chillier, also darker as winter approaches, and a coming home means being held in warmth, light, good smells coming from the kitchen, and holding each other in love. Belonging to our church family does that for me, besides my own family. I know I belong; I am a child of God. A powerful emotion.

I remember my sister quoting this,

"Be careful how you love. You may be the only Bible someone reads.

Be careful of the things you say, children will listen;

Be careful of the things you do, children will see and learn.

Children may not obey, but children will listen.

Children will look to you for which way to turn, so learn to be careful before you say, 'listen to me.'

Children will listen."

('Into the Wood' by Stephen Sondheim)

Just a note,

Jean Souter



SAVE THE DATE

Super Saturday October 2016

Saturday, October 15th ~ 8:00 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Keefe Regional Technical High School

750 Winter Street, Framingham, Massachusetts

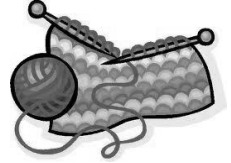
More info please go to www.macucc.org.

Women's Fellowship & Prayer Shawl Ministry News



Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting? Or would like to learn? We would like to invite you to join our group! You don't have to knit a prayer shawl, just bring whatever you are working on, or just join us for conversation and fellowship. **We will gather in the Memorial Room following worship on Sunday, October 23rd, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Please bring your own supplies. Patterns are available for prayer shawls and prayer squares. For further information, please contact Carla Dias at (860) 642-7112.

St. Patrick-St. Anthony's Annual Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering



Please join our church's Prayer Shawl Ministry for a trip to the Annual Gathering of the Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford (285 Church Street) on Saturday, November 5th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a \$7 pre-registration fee for this event. They have asked that we send one group registration form; if you are interested in attending please contact the church office by Sunday, October 16th. If you would like to carpool we will meet at the church at 8:45 and depart for Hartford at 9:00. We will return back to the church by 3:00. Additional information is available in the church foyer.

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,
Tracy Kelley, Nancy Magnuson &
Jody & Gary Waldron



Holy Joe's Café

Holy Joe's Café is a Coffee House Ministry for UCC military chaplains and troops in the Middle East. Chaplains invite U.S. Service Members into a safe and informal place, a coffee house, where they can receive spiritual care and good coffee. Congregations can support the ministry project by sending Equal Exchange coffee to the military chaplains through the Wallingford Congregational Church. A donation jar and more information will be on the coffee table on Sundays.



Environmental Justice Action Committee

Sunday, October 16th - 6:00 p.m.

Movie "Vanishing Bees" Discussion and Potluck

On Sunday, October 16, 2016, the Environmental Justice Action Committee will present the movie "Vanishing Bees" with discussion to follow. This is an important issue as many of you know the bee population is diminishing by the hundreds of millions. Learn how to prevent this from happening and much more. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sunday, November 13th - 11:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker, Will Hooper on "Permaculture & Sustainability"
Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Thursday, December 29th - 6:00 p.m.

Movie "GMO's" Discussion and Potluck



October Birthdays

1st ~ Jen Wilkosz

6th ~ Brenda Olearnick

15th ~ Jennifer Blevins

20th ~ David Fields

20th ~ Tammy Raymond

22nd ~ Heather Johnson

24th ~ Phil Ziel

24th ~ Chet Ryan

Please join us for cake to celebrate October birthdays on Sunday, October 23rd.



If you haven't already, please add your name to our NEW Church Family BIRTHDAY CALENDAR!!! It is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. EVERYONE IS WELCOME. We would like to keep track of this very important date. If you know the birth date of someone in our church and it is not on the calendar please add them. ~ Thank you & Happy Birthday!

If you would like to bake a cake for a birthday Sunday please see schedule on the Birthday Calendar and signup.

Inspired by South Africa ~ Affectionately known, as ISA

It has been 10 years since our Mission Trip to South Africa. Some things may have changed but the fact still remains that the children of the country need a safe place to go to. In Soweto there is such a place, the Bridgman Development Centre. Here children can learn, play and develop lasting friendships. The Centre is always instating new programs such as the "BASA" boys, Boys Against the Spread of AIDS. Young men learn about the prevention of the virus, as well as, the skills to reach out to their peers. This is a place where women can gather for craftwork and fellowship and more importantly just too simply dance.

It was on the plane ride home that the idea of ISA was borne. We came home with bags of beads with no idea what to do with them. We put our heads together and came up with designs for necklaces, bracelets, and earrings. Our designs have evolved into what we offer today.

I would like to remind us that ISA is a Mission Project of our church. I encourage you to read our brochure. It states that a few women of our church do all the work. I need your help in continuing this project. Help is needed to create the necklaces, bracelets and earrings or to join me at a conference or craft show. The experience can be quite rewarding. You will be amazed at the people you will meet and the stories you will share.

Many of the beads that are used in the making of our jewelry come from Africa. When holding an African bead in your hand, you may find yourself thinking about the woman who made the bead. You may be reminded that this unknown woman shares the same thoughts and prayers for her children and family that you do. The difference is that she lives in a country far away and is struggling to work her way from poverty.

It is important that the items be displayed properly. Since most of our beads have a significant meaning or are symbolic of a different culture, each item should have a tag stating the meaning behind the bead. We also need simple sewing done, our teabag pouch and the mudcloth purse has to be constructed. Our new patchwork bag has our Mission Statement printed on the inside. It is a reminder how we feel and why we do what we do. This is all something that either you or I cannot do alone. So, please come and join us in this Mission Project. If you have any questions, please phone me at 860-228-1566. ~ Sandy Rose

To Our Church Family:

It is Sunday evening, September 25, 2016, and I am very happy to report that our congregation voted overwhelmingly today to approve the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee to call Reverend Shannon Wall as the 28th settled pastor of our church! On Friday and Saturday, many of you had the opportunity to meet Rev. Shannon and her husband Larry socially when we hosted a meet and greet on Friday evening for our lay leadership; and an all-church potluck dinner, with great music coordinated by the Music Committee, on Saturday evening. Truly a joyous and fun evening! This morning it was wonderful to see so many of you in the sanctuary as she led us in worship. She was our unanimous choice to lead us forward in ministry, to work together to be a viable, living, and active church in our community and in the greater community of the world.

Pastor Sharon gave us a rock when she retired, saying that it represented our being the rock on which this church stands and will grow. We are excited about the possibilities for growth that our ministry with Reverend Shannon offers. She, too, is excited and looks forward to getting to know all of us. We expect her first Sunday will be Epiphany Sunday, January 8, 2017, 'Star Sunday.' How appropriate! During one of our interviews with her, we asked her to choose an Epiphany star and give us a brief message based on that star. Her word was 'hopefulness.'

The official work of this committee is now concluded. The congregation voted to 'dismiss the committee with thanks.' On behalf of all of us, I thank all of you for your support throughout this process.

In great hope and faith,
Linda Wagner, Chairperson
The Pastoral Search Committee

Committee: Janet Barton, Ken Beaudoin, Vanessa Coutu, Jim Gillespie, Audra Holmes, Sarah Olearnick, Chet Ryan, Hailey Tompkins, Phil Ziel, and Linda Wagner, Chairperson.

Dear Congregation,

Thank you everyone for supporting the Pay What You Can - Community Breakfast the first Saturday each month over the summer. Thank you to all the wonderful bakers and great cooks, always available kitchen helpers and of course the lovers of breakfast! Thank you to Teresa for your beautiful photos of church activities for the bulletin board. Thank you to Nancy for remembering each month to send out a reminder to everyone's email.

The purpose for these breakfasts was community outreach and hopefully some fun ... It was fun! & successful!

The Pie Sales & Bake Sales were held to fund this project. We have paid our expenses and even have a little extra.

**Thank you again.
Janet Lewis & Tracy Kelley**



Notes from Your Board of Christian Education



Our **Sunday School** is off to a great start for grades PK-4. Our stories will help our children to grow in the faith concepts and values our church regards as important for young disciples.

Upcoming Stories and themes for Grades PK-4:

October 2nd	<i>The Boy Who Shared His Lunch</i>
9th	<i>On the Day You Were Born</i>
16th	<i>Momma, Do You Love Me</i>
23rd	<i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i>
30th	<i>I Sing a Song of the Saints of God</i>

World Communion Sunday
God's love is like a parent's love
God's love is unconditional
Friendship and loyalty
God's great people

Don't forget that on **Sunday 10/30/16** we'll invite children to participate in a story character parade where they will be able to dress as their favorite storybook character (or create a mask of their favorite character) and decorate pumpkins during our fellowship time as we celebrate **All Hallows and All Saints**.



Our **Sunday School for older youth in grades 5-7** will begin on Sunday 10/9. In an experience designed just for them, they will engage **Faith Practices – activities** designed to explore values for young disciples appropriate to their growing participation in the journey of faith.



Faith Practices Activities:

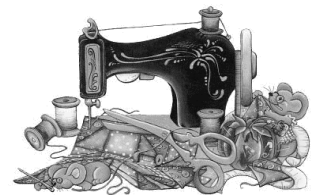
October:	<i>Living and Playing Joyfully</i>
November:	<i>Giving and Receiving Hospitality</i>
December:	<i>Encountering Scripture</i>

Round Robin Crafters is a small group dedicated to creating items to be sold at our Holiday Bazaar. Our aprons, table runners, small quilts and other items are getting to be well known. If you are searching for a unique gift for someone special, we can probably accommodate you with a few choices. We meet most Friday afternoons 2:00-4:00 p.m. in our very colorful room downstairs in the church. We ask that you join us; you don't need to sew, be there with us and join in on the creative process to completion of an item. This is what the definition of Round Robin is about – I start work on an item and pass it on to someone else then it is passed to another and finally the item is completed and ready to be sold at the Bazaar. If you are looking for fellowship and conversation, we are here. Please join us anytime.

We are a small but, mighty group of ladies. I would like to introduce us to you. First there is Evelyn Grabber. Evelyn can be found at the ironing board, she has an uncanny eye for color setting up our appliqué designs for placement. Next is Edwina Rechlin who is known for her tote bags, which are both useful as well as beautiful. Edwina both pieces and sews our patchwork items. Lastly we have Dawn Drum. She can be found at a sewing machine either completing an appliqué piece or binding a table runner. She is also known for her delightful Penny Rugs. All of us together are the Round Robin Crafters. Our work is available for sale at our church's Bazaar in November. We appreciate any amount of time you can give us.

We have found that the display of items is important. For example our aprons will be hung from an antique wooden rake. Several pairs of owl mitts will be displayed on a tree branch, mittens will hang from a mitten tree. We gratefully accept any crocheted, knitted or sewn items.

Again this year, if you give us a yard of fabric, we will give you back an apron either for your purchase or to be sold at the Bazaar. ~ For Round Robin Crafters, Sandy Rose 860-228-1566



HOLIDAY HARVEST FAIR ~ General Store, Silent Auction, Gift Baskets & More!

The Holiday Fair is Saturday, November 19th, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. the day will be upon us before we know it, so now is the time to get into planning mode. We have a committee, but this is an 'All-Church' FUNdraising activity, and we need lots of help. Here are some of the ways to participate:

GENERAL STORE – it's harvest season. Do you can veggies, make pickles, jams or jellies; do any other wonderful thing to enjoy the harvest throughout the winter? Well, please donate a jar or two to the General Store at the fair.

SILENT AUCTION – And back this year of course is our very popular Silent Auction this year will be featuring items, goods, and services, which we, the church family, will be donating. (This is not the 'clean out your basement/attic stuff, but rather things we would buy for gifts or wish someone would 'gift' to us! Some suggestions: items handmade or purchased; services – share a talent that you have or a service you could provide – a 'spring/fall clean-up-the-yard' day; sew a hem; replace a zipper; mend a garment; repair furniture; a lesson; help someone put up their holiday decorations (or take them down!); transportation; shopping assistance; prepare a dinner; host a tea party; teach someone how to use their smartphone, or some other device; tickets to a performance, show, or athletic event; donate a professional service you can provide. We ask that you think of what you would like or wish someone would offer or provide or help you accomplish. Perhaps team up with someone to provide an item or a service.

GIFT BASKETS – our themed gift baskets were beautiful and a big hit last year. We will again ask boards and committees to donate items for particular themes, but we also want everyone to participate in donating to fill the baskets. These are some of the categories we will be doing, and anything else you can think of – let us know: **Pets, Games & Puzzles, Sports, Coffee & Tea, Chocolate, Arts & Crafts, Baking, Kitchen, Holiday (any and all holidays!), Music, Entertainment, Nature, Light Up Your Life (candles, etc), 'Ready for Winter,' or 'Wintertime Fun'** depending on how you look at it. We will also need nice baskets/containers, clear wrap, and pretty ribbons to do them up, so if you have some to spare....Thank you!

THE BOOK NOOK - new this year and we think it will be fun. We will have a table that will feature gently used or new books. We are looking for your donations for this table – it can be anything – cook books, craft books, DIY books, and novels for all ages. Here's your chance to check out a new author, try a new recipe or learn a new craft to make that one of a kind gift. Look around your home or when you're out and about, and let's see what we can come up with.

Janet Barton

janetkay67@comcast.net

Co-Chairs Holiday Harvest Fair

Edna Pelto

edna.pelto@gmail.com

Fall Cleanup

Saturday, November 5th ~ 9:00 a.m.
(Rain date – Saturday, November 12th)

The Trustees are seeking all able-bodied members and friends to help out in the fall leaf cleanup of the 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

Weekly Bible Study has resumed Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the Memorial Room. **Everyone** is welcome to come and join in the lively discussion and the deepening of our faith, as well as, our relationships with one another. Please plan to attend as we seek to deepen our faith together.

