



# May 2023 Circuit Rider

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

588 Exeter Road ~ P.O. Box 125

Lebanon, CT 06249

[www.lebanonfirstcong.org](http://www.lebanonfirstcong.org)

“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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# Message from OUR CHURCH Moderator

All the holidays (Christmas, New Years, Easter) and special church meetings (Bylaws, OnA, Annual Meeting) are now behind us. What's coming up that we should be aware of?

The Search Committee has been selected and should be starting the process of finding a new pastor shortly. This could be a long process, or not. This all depends on how many applicants we receive and if they are the right fit for us. We'll keep our fingers crossed and pray that the process is short and painless.

One of the questions that the church/Search Committee must come to grips with is, can we afford a fulltime pastor, or should we look at a parttime pastor? The Deacons and Trustees are evaluating the pros and cons and will bring their conclusions to the congregation to discuss, and hopefully decide on which way the church should go. Keep in mind, this is not a Trustees' decision, nor Deacon's decision, this is a decision to be made by the congregation. I hope that when a meeting is held for this discussion that you will attend. Are we ready to support the type of pastor we decide on, financially and or through physical support?

As I think of the physical support, we are still in need of filling positions on Boards and Committees. If you are interested in serving on any of the Boards/Committees listed below let me know and I will get you in contact with the proper persons.

**Members needed on:**

**Board of Deacons**

**Board of Christian Education**

**Stewardship Committee**

**Be Active. Join in.**

**Art Wallace - Moderator**



# News from the Board of Christian Outreach

Community Meal - Thank you to everyone who donated fruit and cookies for our March community meal. Our next meal at the First Baptist Church in Willimantic will be on May 31st.

Give-a-Goat Program ~ Need a Mother's Day or Father's Day gift idea? How about helping another mother and father by purchasing a goat for a family in need through the Haitian Health Foundation? The Give-a-Goat program provides a pregnant goat to the most at-risk families in rural mountain villages. The breed of goat they provide is hardy and is able to adapt to the rough mountainous terrain, and graze on the poor and dry land which is unsuitable for other livestock. The family will be taught how to breed, barter, and use the meat of the male offspring as a source of animal protein. If you would like to make a donation, please visit our table after church on May 7th, May 14th, June 4th and June 11th; or you can mail a check to the church (please note Give-a-Goat in the memo section of your check). Special Mother's Day and Father's Day cards will be available. Please contact a member of the Board of Outreach with any questions.

Equal Exchange Fairly Traded Products - Coffee, tea, baking items, and chocolate bars are available for purchase the first Sunday each month, following worship or by contacting the church office at 860-642-6179 or [lebfirstcong@att.net](mailto:lebfirstcong@att.net).

## **Fair Trade Products**

Coffee ~ \$8.00

**French Roast**

**Mind, Body & Soul**

Coffee ~ \$9.00

**Sister's Blend**

**Ginger Tea**

**Black Tea with Ginger**

Single Serve Pods ~ \$7.00

**Unwind Decaf**

**Breakfast Blend**

Tea ~ \$4.00

**Hibiscus Tea**

**Turmeric Ginger**

Decaf Coffee ~ \$9.00

**Organic Decaf**

**Hazelnut Crème**

**Chamomile Tea**

**Decaf English Breakfast**

Hot Cocoa ~ \$6.00

## Food & Baking Items

**Baking Cocoa ~ \$6.00**

**Natural Cashews ~ \$6.00**

Milk Chocolate & Dark Chocolate Bars ~ \$3.00

**Very Dark Dark Chocolate Bar**

**Dark Chocolate Infused with Orange**

**Almonds & Sea Salt**

**Dark Chocolate Lemon Ginger with Black Pepper**

**Available after the church service on May 7th or  
by contacting the church office at 860-642-6179 or [lebfirstcong@att.net](mailto:lebfirstcong@att.net).**

**The board thanks you for your continuing support in our mission projects!**



**Bible Study  
Wednesday Mornings  
9:30 a.m.  
Memorial Room  
Everyone is welcome!**



## May Birthdays

2nd ~ Bill Alleman      3rd ~ Grace Preli      4th ~ Martha Kendall      8th ~ Melody Lehoux  
11th ~ David Preli      12th ~ Art Wallace      17th ~ Sarah Olearnick      19th ~ Derek Waldron      20th ~ James Gillespie  
24th ~ Evan Vickers      26th ~ John Drum      28th ~ Linda Wallace      31st ~ Georgia Senechal

*Happy Birthday!*



### News from Round Robin Crafters Farmhouse Quilt Kits

Round Robin Crafters has chosen a “Farmhouse” pattern for this year’s quilt, but we need your help! We have put kits together that need to be sewn. Everything has already been cut, all you need to do is put it together and sew. Instructions are included. The kits are available for pick up on the table in the Memorial Room. Once all the kits are returned, we will need help assembling the squares for the quilt.

If you would like to help but not able to pick them up, please call the church office (860-642-6179) and we will make arrangements to get a kit to you. If you have any questions, please contact either Sandy Rose (860-468-0000) or Dawn Drum (860-228-9558).

## A Note from Inspired by South Africa

### ISA & Round Robin NEW Meeting Dates

Inspired By South Africa has a few vendor shows scheduled over the next couple of months. Due to these conflicts we had to reschedule our normal third Saturday of the month meeting times for May and June. Our new meeting dates are May 13th and June 10th. We will continue to meet at 10:00am in the Lathrop Room. Hope you can join us!



### Need a gift for Mother’s Day?

We will have our jewelry and baskets available following the worship service on May 7th.







# 44th Annual Strawberry Festival

The First Congregational Church of Lebanon (588 Exeter Rd.)

Saturday, June 17, 2023

Serving 6:00-8:00 pm

Inside & Outside

Live Music ~ Room to Move

Strawberry shortcake, cake & ice cream, coffee and water.

Tables and chairs will be available both outside and inside.

**Donation**  
\$15.00/pp

**Patron**  
\$35.00 (2 tickets)

**Sponsor**  
\$45.00 (1/4 page ad & 2 tickets)

Mail your sponsor donation to the Church, P.O. Box 125; check made out to FCCL – memo: Strawberry Festival Patron. We will get your tickets to you! Tickets will also be available at the door. ~Thank you.

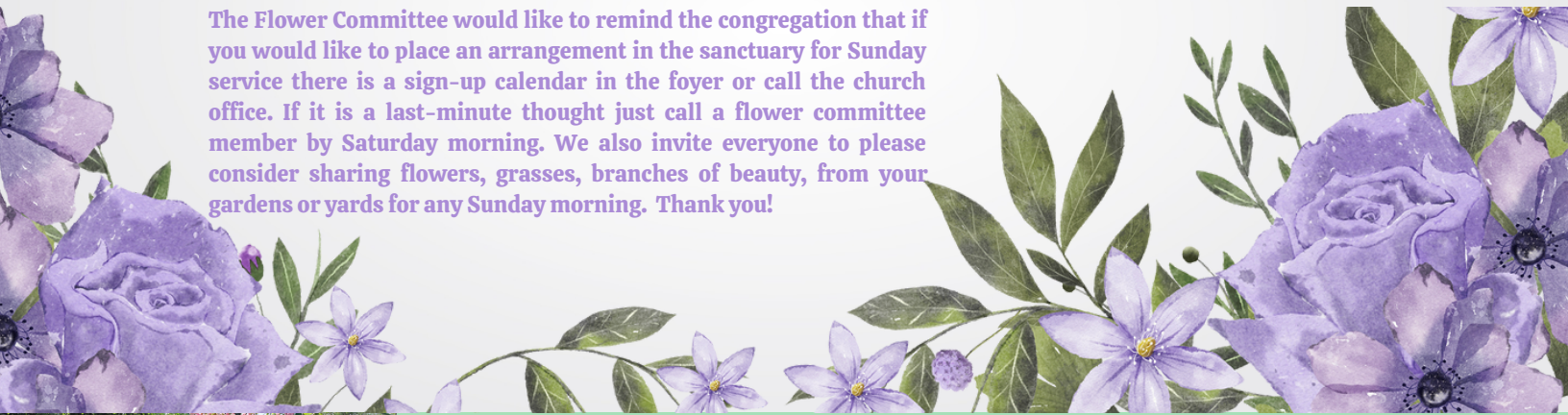
## Online Church Directory

Don't forget our church directory is also available online. For instructions on how to access directory, please contact the church office at 860-642-6179 or at [lebfirstcong@att.net](mailto:lebfirstcong@att.net).

Call, text or email right from your phone! Download the directory app today!



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!



## Memorial Bench



Our church, along with the Gilead Congregational Church, are arranging to place an engraved stone bench honoring Pastor Sharon under the dogwood tree outside of the Fellowship Hall entrance. This dogwood tree held a special place is Sharon's heart during her time here as pastor. Both churches thought a bench would be a wonderful way in which to honor Pastor Sharon. If you would like to contribute, donations may be made out to the church with "Sharon's Bench" written in the memo line.





# From The Director of Christian Education & Faith Formation

Spring is in the air and what a spring it is!

Our amazing Sunday School group spent Lent learning about the importance of Spiritual Practices. Prayer, Fasting, Listening to God, Embracing Simplicity, and Unplugging! We visited the islands of Want and Need, learned new prayers and motions to help remember them, and served our community by baking cookies that were served at the Willimantic Baptist Church by our Outreach Committee. **Thank you, Rev. Mary,** for guiding us through the season of Lent!

Audra has joined us downstairs for the next few weeks as we open our minds to Forgiveness!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.. ..AND MORE!

VBS Planning has begun! An incredible group of teens and adults kicked off the process over homemade pizza at Rev. Mary's house! The group not only chose their theme, scripture readings, and most of the music, but they made the decision to come together YEAR ROUND as a group, and as leaders for the VBS campers! That's right! Plan to see more of **THE PEACEMAKERS** doing great work in our community throughout the year!

**Details coming soon!**

If you are interested in volunteering to help with VBS – for the week, for a day, for an hour, or just in the planning stages, we welcome you! Please reach out to myself or Rev. Mary with questions or for ways you can help! It takes a village, and there's no greater group than our church!

