

*“We seek to demonstrate God’s Spirit through worship, witness,  
and ministry to the needs of the people in the church and the community.”*

Second Sunday in Lent  
Everything [in] between: Faith and Works  
March 16, 2025

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

WELCOME & GREETING

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE & CENTERING PRAYER

Gracious God, make us mindful of all the gifts we have received from above. Help us to be content and grateful, giving our love and lives to you all the days. Fill us with grateful hearts and help us to set aside anything that keeps us from welcoming your word and your love. Instill in us, again, your hope, your peace, your joy, and your love amid all that we encounter in this world, and remind us constantly, we pray. Amen.

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed  
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

Leader: Come as you are.  
All: If you have deep faith or your faith has run dry,  
Leader: if you know every scripture or none at all,  
All: if you have calloused hands and live your faith through good works,  
Leader: or if you kneel at God’s feet, with a million hungry questions,  
All: come as you are.  
Leader: This is God’s house.  
All: None are turned away.  
Leader: All are welcome here. Amen.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE    Ministry and Presence Insert

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION    *Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed  
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

God of Grace, we long to do the “right” thing. We long to make the “right” choice. We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line. In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us. In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love. Show us how to hold our heart’s desire for perfection loosely. Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else. For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you. Show us the way. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

\*THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS Insert

ANTHEM    *Somebody’s Knockin’*

GATHERING AND PRESENTING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory  
\*Doxology  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.  
\*Prayer of Dedication

THE COMMUNITY AT PRAYER  
Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, and Our Lord’s Prayer  
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Response

SCRIPTURE READING John Cooke, Deacon  
Luke 10:38-42 Page 87 NT

UNISON PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed  
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Loving God, when our anxiety hovers close, when fear clings to our bones, when our stress rises like the tide, see us. Speak to us. Call us by name. See us in the kitchen, in the classroom, in the hospital waiting room. Speak to us in the quiet, in the crowd, in the inky black of night. Call us beloved. Call us by name. Call us your child. Whatever you do, speak to us, for we cannot live on bread alone. Amen

SERMON “Everything in between: Faith and Works”

\*HYMN OF CELEBRATION Many Gifts, One Spirit Insert

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE As We Go  
As we go, may your Spirit go before us.  
As we go, may we follow where you lead.  
May we live what we have learned, share the message we have heard,  
and be a light unto the world as we go. Amen.

POSTLUDE

\*Those who are able, are invited to stand.

Wildfire

I can picture it—salty sweat, accumulating in her bangs. The scent of toasted sesame seeds, crushed oregano, sumac, and cumin. Flour on her hands, painting streaks of white in her hair when she ties it back. The sweet date she samples—the way it stretches and clings to the back of her teeth, leaving the taste of honey in her mouth.

I can picture Martha in that kitchen, plating meals, eager to see their eyes close. Their heads nod. To hear the swell of approval that rises from their lips. And I can picture her sister. Brows scrunched. Fingers fidgeting, wishing for a pen, for paper, for a way to write it down. I can see her mouth part like a fish in the air, questions forming and reforming on her curious lips. I can see her lean in, knees tucked, eyes bright. I can see her imagining the world he dreamed of.

And I can picture how, for generations, this story of two brazen women in Scripture, a story of two women so close to Jesus, may have felt like an untamed wildfire. I can picture the way we put these women in boxes. I can imagine how people saw their full hearts, their untamed energy, and decided to label that as good and bad, better and worse. I can imagine how Martha’s questions were interpreted as nagging, or the interruption interpreted as needy.

I can picture how it happened, but what if it was all more beautiful than that? What if these sisters discovered a ministry of cooking? What if they discovered the faithfulness of learning, the kind of friendship that allows you to ask questions, or something in between?

I can imagine it. Can you?

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed  
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 8:30-9:45am Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:00am Worship (S)	17	18 10:00am Bible Study (MR) 6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH) 7:00pm Book Discussion	19 5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR)	20 7:00pm Brd of Trustees Mtg (MR)	21 5:00pm Lenten Soup & Bread (FH) 5:00pm Open Mic	22
23 8:30-9:45am Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:00am Worship (S)	24	25 10:00am Bible Study (MR) 6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH) 7:00pm Book Discussion (Zoom)	26 5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR)	27 7:00pm Council Mtg (MR)	28 5:00pm Lenten Soup & Bread (FH)	29 10:00am Co-Op Nursery School Open House
30 8:30-9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship (S) 2:00pm Rev. Jim Antal Discussion on Climate Church, Climate World (FH)	31 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)					

Church Office Hours: Tues. ~ 1-5 p.m.      Wed.-Fri. ~ 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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| Choir Schedule |                                | Additional Special Music Rehearsals |                               |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sun. 3/23      | 8:30am rehearsal               | Mon. 3/31                           | 7-8:30pm Bell Choir           |
| Sun. 3/30      | 8:30am rehearsal               | Mon. 4/7                            | 7-8:30pm Bell Choir           |
| Sun. 4/6       | 8:30am rehearsal               | Mon. 4/14                           | 6:30-7:30pm Hallelujah Chorus |
| Sun. 4/13      | 8:50am warm-up & 9am rehearsal |                                     | 7:30-8:30pm Bell Choir        |
| Thurs. 4/17    | 6pm rehearsal                  | Sun. 4/20                           | 9:30am Bell Choir Rehearsal   |
| Sun. 4/20      | 8:30am rehearsal               |                                     |                               |

Announcements for the week of March 16, 2025.

Greeting you today as you entered the sanctuary was Deacon, John Cooke.

Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. We welcome everyone to worship this morning. A special welcome is extended to all who are visiting us for the first time. If you would like more information about our church, and its programs and activities, or would like to be added to our mailing list, please speak to one of our Deacons or the Pastor. We encourage you to complete one of the “I Wish...” visitor cards located in the pew and drop it in the offering basket. Again, welcome, it is good to worship God together. We deeply appreciate all who participate in leading worship.

Please remember to silence your cellphones during the service. Thank you for your assistance.

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The candle by the sanctuary’s American flag is lit to remember and honor those serving our country as military and first responders. May it remind us to say a prayer for those giving of themselves to keep us free from harm.

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The sanctuary is equipped with a “Hearing Loop System” which works with hearing aids that have a “T-Coil” setting, sending the sound directly to the hearing aid. We also have headphone devices that work with this system that are available from the ushers.



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Let us keep in our prayers:

Evelyn Grabber	Ginger McGuire	Randy Lynn
George	Mary Meli	Ellen Meseroll
Barbara Rodman	Ruth Tilley	Teddy Randall
		Ruth Turner-Jones

Those struggling with mental health issues and the loved ones caring for them.  
Those struggling with addiction and the loved ones caring for them.

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March Birthdays

|                       |                          |                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1st ~ Evan Dias       | 5th ~ Jim Randall        | 6th ~ Rev. Amie        |
| 12th ~ Josh Soileau   | 14th ~ Melanie Hopkins   | 17th ~ Amanda Hopkins  |
| 19th ~ Liam O’Hearn   | 26th ~ Teresa Waldron    | 28th ~ Ellen Bauwens   |
| 29th ~ Ginger McGuire | 29th ~ Bev York          | 29th ~ Hudson Holmes   |
| 30th ~ Ethan Magnuson | 30th ~ Chandler Magnuson | 31st ~ Hailey Tompkins |

Our Weekly Calendar

(Please check with church office before scheduling any meetings or events.)

Sunday ~ 3/16

8:30-9:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (S)

Monday ~ 3/17

Tuesday ~ 3/18

10:00 a.m. Bible Study (MR)  
6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)  
7:00 p.m. Book Discussion (Zoom)

Wednesday ~ 3/19

5:15 p.m. AFG Meeting (MR)

Thursday ~ 3/20

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees’ Meeting (MR)

Friday ~ 3/21

5:00 p.m. Soup & Bread (FH)  
5:00 p.m. Open Mic (FH)

Saturday ~ 3/22

Sunday ~ 3/23

8:30-9:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (S)

(MR-Memorial Rm, FH-Fellowship Hall, LR-Lathrop Rm, K-Kitchen, S-Sanctuary, CR-Class Rm)

From the Board of Christian Outreach

This year we have donated four boxes of items to the Willimantic No Freeze Shelter. We will continue to collect items through March. A box is in the foyer for this purpose. Following is a list of needed items. Homelessness isn’t always a choice, but we can choose to help.

WINTER NEEDS

|                      |                    |              |          |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------|
| Disinfectant Wipes   | Disinfectant Spray | Hand Soap    | Combs    |
| 55 Gallon Trash Bags | Tissues            | Paper Towels | Lotion   |
| Razors               | Brushes            | Toilet Paper | Soap     |
| Deodorant            | Shampoo            | Conditioner  | Tweezers |
| First Aid Supplies   | Nail Clippers      |              |          |

CLOTHING (men’s & women’s, med-xxl)

|             |                   |              |                     |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Sweatshirts | Sweatpants        | T-Shirts     | Underwear           | Hand/Foot Warmers |
| Thermals    | Waterproof Gloves | Rain Ponchos | Ear Buds/Headphones |                   |

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The Third Sunday in Lend  
March 23rd ~ 10:00am

everything between rest & growth  
Luke 13:6-9 (Parable of the fig tree)

The gardener in the vineyard knows the fig tree needs rest, nutrients, and time — and it also needs to produce fruit. Both things are true, which is also true for us. If we are always striving for more growth without taking time to rest, we will burn out. But if we are only ever resting, we won’t bear fruit or grow. The fig tree also teaches us that the in between time — of nurture before fruit — can be where transformation begins.

~A Sanctified Art, Everything in Between  
InfoGraphic

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

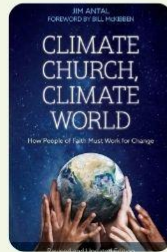
The deacons have placed the Lenten cross in the church foyer where it will remain throughout the Lenten season. A basket of stones is located alongside it. You are invited during this season of reflection to take a stone, as a symbol of your burdens, and lay it down at the foot of the cross.







March 30, 2025 at 2pm



Jim Antal serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. The revised and updated 2nd edition of Antal's book, CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD, is being read by hundreds of churches. From 2006–2018, Antal led the 350 UCC churches in Massachusetts as their Conference Minister and President. He has preached on climate change since 1988 in over 400 settings and has engaged in nonviolent civil disobedience on numerous occasions.



First Congregational Church of Lebanon, UCC 588 Exeter Road, Lebanon, CT 06249

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### Lenten & Easter 2025 Schedule

- Board of Deacon's Palm Sunday Breakfast  
April 13th ~ 8:30–9:30 am
- Palm Sunday Service – April 13th ~ 10:00 am
- Maundy Thursday Service – April 17th ~ 7:00 pm
- Good Friday Service – April 18th ~ 7:00 pm
- Sunrise Service & Breakfast – April 20th ~ 6:00 am  
Lebanon Baptist Church
- Easter Service – April 20th ~ 10:00 am  
First Congregational Church of Lebanon



## Open Mic With Lenten Soup & Bread

March 21, 2025

April 4, 2025

April 18, 2025

5:00pm –

*First Congregational Church of Lebanon Fellowship Hall*  
*Come and be a part of the fun. Come have some Soup and Bread.*  
*Come and perform, or just come and listen, but come.*

Soup and Bread will be available at no charge.  
You can sign up ahead of time by emailing Art Wallace  
at [ajwopenmic@gmail.com](mailto:ajwopenmic@gmail.com), or sign up at the door.

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Lenten Soup & Bread  
Bread by Jim

5:00pm in the  
Fellowship Hall

March 21st

Butternut with Sausage  
Hearty Vegetable

March 28th

Romanian Tchorba  
Orechiette with Tomatoes

April 4th

Spanish Chicken  
Potato Leek

April 11th

Tomato Masala with Chicken  
Veggie Pesto Soup

April 18th

Layered Fish Chowder  
Persian Barley–Lentil with Spinach



**Boy Scout Troop 58**  
Spaghetti Dinner  
Silent Auction  
&  
Scout Reunion



4:00 – 7:00 pm

--> Lebanon Fire Safety Complex <--

**Saturday March 22, 2025**

Enjoy the company  
of family  
& friends



Spaghetti, Meatballs,  
Salad, Bread,  
Dessert & Beverage

Help to celebrate Boy Scouting in  
Lebanon

Presale Tickets preferred or  
Pay at the door\*



\$12.00 Adults  
\$10.00 Seniors & 6-13 years  
5 years & younger free  
\*(\$14.00 at the Door)



## Ministry and Presence

EIN FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by Martin Luther, 1529



When Je - sus passed near Mar - tha's home she had no  
Her sis - ter Ma - ry took a seat to spend time  
He said, "You are both gifts to me with diff - erent

hes - i - ta - tion "Please treat my house like it's your own," she  
with the tea - cher In - tent - ly listen - ing at his feet, his  
ways of be - ing. I won't take that from Ma - ry whose

gave the in - vi - ta - tion She wan - ted all the best  
words drew her in dee - per But Mar - tha took of - fense  
place is right here with me. You have no - thing to prove

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To serve her hon - ored guest Her check - list grew and grew Her  
At Ma - ry so con - tent With all there was to do She  
So let your heart be moved Just one thing do I need: To

time was all con - sumed With min - i - stry a - bound - ing  
need - ed Ma - ry too And asked for Je - sus' back - ing  
feel your love in deeds Of min - i - stry and pre - sence

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# Many Gifts, One Spirit

Alvin Allison (Al) Carmines, Jr., 1974

**♩ = 105**

**C G C F G C E**

1. God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space, When we fear the  
2. God of ma - ny col - ors, God of ma - ny signs, You have made us  
3. Fresh-ness of the morn-ing, new-ness of each night, You are still cre-

**Am D7 G G7 C**

fu - ture, give to us your grace. In the midst of chang-ing ways  
dif - ferent, bless-ing ma - ny kinds. As the old ways dis - ap - pear,  
at - ing end - less love and light. This we see, as sha - dows part,

**F C G7 C G7 C** *Refrain* **C** **F G C**

give us still the grace to praise. Ma - ny gifts, one Spir-it, one love known in  
let your love cast out our fear.  
ma - ny gifts from one great heart.

**F C G C**

ma - ny ways. In our dif - fer - ence is bless-ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise One Giv - er,

**F**

one Lord, one Spir-it, one Word Known in ma - ny ways, hal - low - ing our days.

**C G7 C**

For the Giv - er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!