

Tower Tidings



Jun 1, 2019

Dates & Meetings

- Jun 2 - Confirmation Class
- Jun 5 - 6:30 Membership Committee Mtg
6:30 Outreach Mtg
- Jun 6 - 5:30 Stewardship Mtg
- Jun 8 - Memorial Services:
11:00 Ralph Plumer, Jr.
3:00 Betty Howard
- Jun 9 Confirmation Sunday
- Jun 11 - 7:00 Property & Finance Committee
- Jun 12 - 6:30 p.m. Deacons Mtg
- Jun 14 - 5:00 Driver Training / Got Lunch
- Jun 16 - Father's Day
- Jun 18 - 7:00 Worship & Music
- Jun 19 - noon/6:30 Book Club
- Jun 23 - 9:00 Worship hour for summer begins
- Jun 24 - Got Lunch begins
- Jun 26 - 6:30 Council Mtg
- Jun 29 - 4:30 Progressive Dinner

Stitches of Love meets every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice is every Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Bell Choir practices Sundays 10:45 a.m.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,
"911 - What is your emergency?" comes the dispatcher's voice through your phone.

When is something an emergency? There have been times when I've paused at this point wondering if what I was calling in was an actual emergency by their definition. I mean, they deal with all sorts of serious stuff every day. There was a time when I was calling 911 rather frequently and they always answered, "911 - what is the location of your emergency?" I would say "Well, it's 1:30 a.m. and the music across the street is rattling the windows in our bedroom!"

There was never any pause or "Humph!" on the other end as if to say "That's your emergency buddy?"

The dedicated first responders of our community will come whenever and to wherever they are called. I've served on volunteer fire departments and served as an emergency crisis responder for law enforcement and fire departments and believe me they are first and foremost communi-

ty servants and want to be of assistance when assistance is needed. So don't ever wonder if you should call 911 or not, if you're in a situation where the thought has even entered your mind, call! I know from experience on both sides of the 911, someone will be there.

You know as a church we might be considered a 911 center for the soul. And not just the soul, we also respond to many of the physical needs of our community as well. When someone is injured we have medical mobility aids, when someone is without heat or electricity we have assistance, when children are hungry we respond with meals, when someone needs a gas voucher for a distant doctor's appointment we help. We provide the space and support for hundreds of folks each week seeking health and wholeness from substances and habits holding them captive.

On Sunday mornings we strive to offer a worship experience that inspires and encourages rather than condemns and diminishes. This isn't to say that from time to time a message might be challenging! I'm re-

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Summer Worship

Summer is almost upon us! Please mark your calendars for our summer worship schedule. We will worship at 9:00 a.m. starting on June 23rd and continue doing so through Labor Day weekend. Our 9:30 schedule will resume on September 8th. Start your long summer Sundays at church at 9:00 a.m. starting June 23rd!



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minded that while Jesus met people where they were in most cases he didn't leave them where he found them! They were better, restored some even healed for having met this fellow from Nazareth.

So as with the emergency responders and 911, I encourage reaching out to your church, and encourage others to as well. We make no distinction between members and non-members, people of faith and people searching for something to believe in, *all are welcome here!* And I trust that, if you call, we will respond. After all we are only seeking to follow the way of the one we profess as our savior and sover-

eign, Jesus who not only received people when they came to him but also went out and met people where they were!



For some reason the chorus of an old Jackson Five song is in my head! "I'll be there."

Serving with you,

Pastor Neil Wilson

21st Century Church Update ~ Preparation

The Creating and Leading the 21st Century Church group is inviting YOU to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT). As a person who has demonstrated your investment in the future of the church through some combination of worship attendance, participation/leadership in ministry/education, volunteerism/service, and/or financial support, YOU are uniquely suited to access this on-line instrument that will help leaders gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in the Congregational Church of Laconia--UCC. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping our leaders as they make decisions about the future of our church.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. The assessment will take about thirty minutes to complete. Please set aside enough time to complete the survey all at one time as it MUST be completed in one sitting. Every individual should complete a survey. Do not collaborate with your spouse or someone else. Each person's readiness to contribute thoughts honestly and prayerfully is critical to our future together.

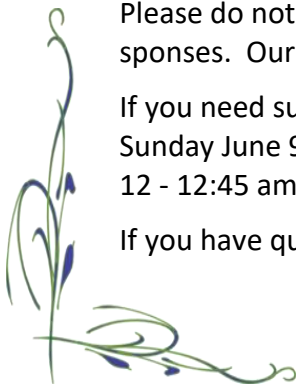
At your convenience, click on this link to take the CAT:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/laconiaucc>

Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their responses. Our survey window closes on June 24th.

If you need support completing the survey online, help sessions are available after church on Sunday June 9th, 16th and 23rd. Please call the church office to reserve the 11 - 11:45 am or 12 - 12:45 am time slot prior to your preferred date.

If you have questions, please contact Paula in the church office at 524-0668.



A Note From Paula

There are so many aspects of my call to ministry that I love. Yet the one that constantly surprises me is the part of my call to reach out into the community and to partner with others to contribute in some meaningful way to make the community better.

What a privilege it was to be a part of the Greater Laconia Ministerial Association (GLMA) who originated and coordinated the effort to have a Field of Flags. What a joy that we, the Congregational Church of Laconia, could be the hosts of that event. Partnering with the VFW and the American Legion, three members of GLMA coordinated, fundraised and made it happen.

But there is more to the story - there were miracles (or unexplained gifts) that happened along the way. Friday, I was supposed to pick up the signs that Winnisquam Printing was donating with all the names of those to be honored ... I completely forgot! Winnisquam Printing is closed on Saturday!!!! Help what are we going to do??? I called the owner at home at 8 am and left a message. He called me back and told me that they had they delivered the flags personally to the American Legion so that we would have the signs. Thank you Winnisquam Printing!

Another amazing gift is the master mind and designer of the placement of the flags, Greg Thompson! What an amazing meticulous plan he devel-



oped and coordinated close to 50 volunteers to follow that plan! That was not easy!

Then, on Tuesday we had a plan with the Riverbank House to come help take the flags down at noon. The weather forecast said rain at 11 (let's try not to get the flags wet).....yes, another surprise and gift! At 7 am we were texting people to come help and then we called the Laconia Fire Department!! They were glad to help - in about an hour all the flags were back in their boxes, ready for storage.

Oh yes, another gift - storage! Where will all the flags be stored? Laconia Kiwanis (several church people are members of Laconia Kiwanis), has free storage space from Irwin Motors and they offered to let us store the flags in their space. Wednesday, the flags were placed in storage for the next time we want to have a field of flags.







Strengthen the Church Offering

Strengthen the Church Offering is the 2nd of the 5 UCC Offering we have this year. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

Through this offering, your congregation contributed to the continued expansion and revitalization of the United Church of Christ. As called for by the General Synod, 50 percent of your offering stays in your local conference, and 50 percent is sent to the national work of strengthening the church universal: through grants towards new church starts, inspiring youth and young adults into leadership, and equipping pastors for ministry in the 21st century. GOT LUNCH! Laconia was a recipient of one of the ministry start up grants in 2011.

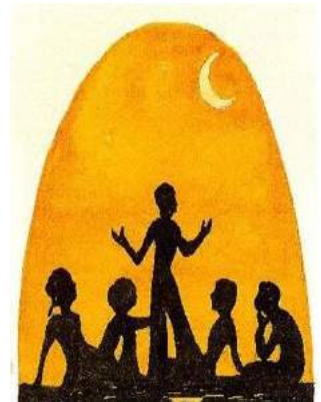
... God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams. ... — Acts 2: 17 (NRSV)

Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to the Strengthen the Church offering. We will take the offering on Sunday, June 23.

One Minute of Sharing

Collecting the offering in Church is not just simply passing the hat around to pay some bills, it is a tangible expression of our faith. Grateful for what we can offer, we show appreciation for the gifts we have received, and we make a statement about the kind of presence we want to have in our Community and world. All of us are inspired to give in different ways and we want to know what inspires you. If you had one minute to describe something about our Church that inspires your generosity, please share it with all of us!

Starting in June, the Stewardship Committee will be helping every other Sunday with the Introduction to the Offering. This is your opportunity to share! If you would like to learn more or are ready to sign up for one minute of your time, speak with Pastor Neil, Bill Gile, or Dan Tinkham. We look forward to what you have to say.



Progressive Dinner ~ Saturday June 29 5:00 p.m.



The Membership and Parish Activities Committees are together organizing this fun event. Those attending are asked to provide an appetizer or dessert, and we will need 7-8 people to host an entree at their home, with help from co-hosts. Beginning at 4:30 PM, appetizers will be served at Woodside at the Taylor Community. Dinner will be from 6:15 to 8:00 PM, and we will return to Fellowship Hall for Dessert.

This has been a wonderful evening of food and fellowship in the past, and we hope to include as many as are able to attend. For more information, contact Ruth Gill (528-6608) or Hollis Thompson (512-970-6592).



June Babies! Happy Birthday!

June 1
Patti Hines
Michael Mussen
Cassie Prescott

June 2
Mary Ann Ross
Zachary Nelson

June 4
Michelle Piscopo

June 10
Janet Karp

June 12
David Smith

June 13
Hannah Marcel

June 20
Ronald Baker III

June 24
Jacqueline Shoemaker
Kieran Coraccio-Prescott

June 25
Stephen Lanning

June 26
Martha Crane
Charlotte Cilley
Connie Bickford
James Groleau

June 28
Michael Izard
Jean Clarke

June 30
John Gauthier
Mitzi Tucker
Lisa Marshall
Joshua Rawson
Alyson Lines



May 19 Rev. Neil Wilson Installed



Even though the Senior Minister's Search Committee thought their duties were concluded in September when Rev. Neil Wilson began serving this church as the Senior Pastor; their job was not officially concluded until May 19th when Rev. Neil Wilson was installed.

What a wonderful service of hope and joy it was. Pastor Neil's retired Conference Minister, Rev. Stephen Gray, from the Kentucky/Indiana Conference was the guest preacher. Focusing on the scripture about the prodigal son, Rev. Gray talked about the need for our churches to be places of "extravagant welcome." He spoke of the changes currently happening in the church with hope and passion.

There is more good news. Pastor Neil and his wife Donna will be moving into their new home this weekend and are preparing to enjoy their first summer in the Lakes Region. Welcome Pastor Neil and Donna, Welcome!

A great big thank you from Hollis and the Parish Activities Committee to everyone for all the generosity of time, dedication and fabulous foods shared at Rev. Neil's installation making it a wonderful celebration.

Book Club with Martha

There will be a book discussion on the third Wednesday of each month. NOT as heavy duty as 'Canoeing the Mountains' but interesting and conversation-worthy. If you have a suggestion for a title please share.

June 19 the book is "Breakfast with the Buddha." Join us in the Beane parlor at noon or 6:30 p.m. And if you haven't read it, come anyway it may spark your interest. No sign up, no RSVP, drop in whenever you can!





Congregational
Church of Laconia,
UCC
18 Veterans Square
Laconia NH 03246

Church office hours
Monday thru Friday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Summer Worship
begins at 9:00**

June 23

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Neil Wilson
neil@laconiaucc.org

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Paula B. Gile
paula@laconiaucc.org

Financial Secretary:

Carolyn Jorgensen
carolyn@laconiaucc.org

Editor-in-Chief:

Camille Gibson
churchoffice@laconiaucc.org

Just a little note . . .

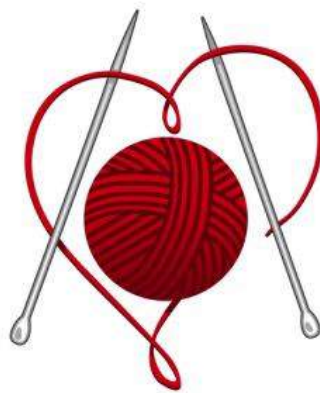
While on vacation in April, one of our parishioners, Cathie Austin, suffered a devastating CVA. A Cerebrovascular accident is the medical term for a stroke. Please consider sharing her story via the following link. The family thanks everyone for consideration for helping them with their cause.

<http://gofundme.com/help-get-cathie-home>

Just a reminder . . .

Please submit your contributions for consideration by July 1 for the Third Edition to the UCC Women's Fellowship book of prayers and prose to Margie Kreitler, Chair of the NH Women's Fellowship to mvkreitler@gmail.com.

Stitches of Love Ministry



In the fall, scarves will again be displayed on the property around the church in Veteran's Square and in the hallway of the Parish House for our many local visitors. The scarves are free to anyone in our community needing comfort and warmth.

Please consider knitting or crocheting scarves at home, or join us at any weekly meeting on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. in the parlor on the second floor of the parish house. We have

plenty of yarn to share, so stop in and check out the selection!

New Beginnings Needs the Following . . .



Topping the list of needs are:

Children's clothing - all sizes
and Feminine products

Twin size blankets
Full size blankets & sheets
Laundry detergent
Fabric softener
Disinfecting wipes

Loofahs
Binders and notebooks
Crayons and markers
Backpacks (adult and kid)
Socks
Women & Kids undies
Reusable bags

Sweat shirts/sweat
pants
All purpose cleaners
Diapers sizes 4,5,6,
Kids clothing
Toilet paper