

OCTOBER

Upcoming Meetings

- Oct 1- 1:00 & 6:00 Embracing an Adult Faith Study
6:30 Membership Mtg
- Oct 2- 6:30 Outreach
- Oct 3- Stewardship Mtg
- Oct 4- Scarves in the Square
- Oct 5- 11:00 Mary Harrington Memorial Service
- Oct 8- 1:00 & 6:00 Embracing an Adult Faith
6:30 Property/Finance
- Oct 10-12 Rummage Sale
- Oct 15- 9:45 Blood Pressure Clinic here
1:00 & 6:00 Embracing an Adult Faith
7:00 Worship & Music
- Oct 16- 5:30 Exec Council Mtg
6:30 Council Mtg
- Oct 17-18 Pumpkin Fest
- Oct 21- 6:30 Ed Min Mtg
- Oct 22- 1:00 & 6:00 Embracing an Adult Faith
- Oct 23- 6:30 Diaconate Mtg
- Oct 27- 11:00 Adult Faith Formation
- Oct 29- 1:00 & 6:00 Embracing an Adult Faith

Hand Bell practice meets at 10:45 a.m. after Sunday worship

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

Choir practice meets every Thursday at 7:00 pm

Tower Tidings



Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC

October 2019

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." John 14:6

Dear friends,

Today if you walk through the woods with attentive and informed eyes you will find the faint traces of paths and trails, an old logging haul road even perhaps an old county road. Parallel stone walls suggest the presence of a lane leading up to a cellar hole and an old farmstead; beyond that another set of ancient ruts and another farm.

Humans leave traces of connection. British naturalist Robert MacFarlane wrote: *"that once you begin to notice them, you see that the landscape is still webbed with paths and footpaths. . ."*

We speak of the life of faith as a journey, the earliest followers of Jesus were known to themselves and those around them as "people of the way." As the people of the Congregational Church of Laconia UCC we are following the footpaths and tracks of others who walked the Christian way before us going all the way back to Jesus and the way he set forth in his life. I wonder what will be the paths and tracks we will leave for the generations of church goers who follow us?

It's October and this means fall colors and leaf raking (blowing!) and the ubiquitous aroma of pumpkin spice. In the Church it's the annual emphasis on stewardship. Stewardship is not only about the here and now, the needs of today but also about the legacy we are building for all the tomorrows. Sometimes we are called to cut a new path and other times we are to clear out a path that has become overgrowth for the lack of use.

Stewardship is one way we can continue to be faithful to the way that others have walked before us. It is also the way we can be guides for those who will follow us. We are both signposts and caretakers, stewards of the way of Jesus.

I invite you to consider this as you prayerfully contemplate your stewardship support of our church this season.

May the blessings of autumn abound in your lives!



Pastor Neil Wilson

A Note From Pastor Paula

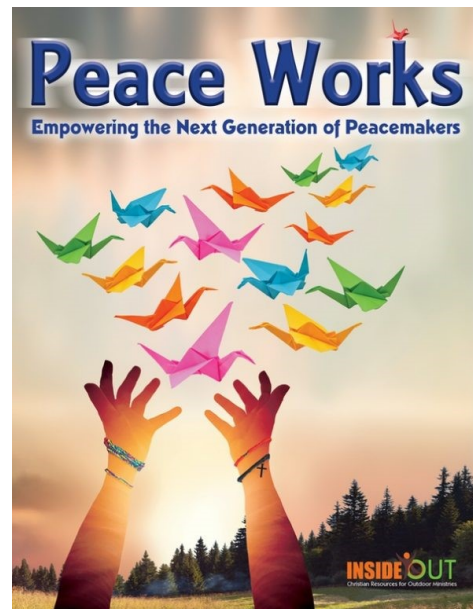
Once a month I am participating in Faith Formation with the youth during worship time. In September I led our time along with Matt Fink while Dieane Tinkham was on vacation. I had the opportunity to learn just how cool the curriculum we are using this year is.

Peace Works - *Empowering the Next Generation of Peacemakers* is the curriculum Horton Center uses at camp.

For the first month or so, the youth will be exploring the meaning of "ALOHA" and what it means to welcome and give extravagant welcome to all people. Aloha is a Hawaiian word for love, affection, peace, compassion and mercy combined - it is commonly used as a simple greeting but has a deeper cultural and spiritual significance to native Hawaiians. Thus the giving of a lei as a greeting. It is a warm and extravagant welcome.

We talked about times when we felt that kind of warm and loving welcome or a special gathering that made us feel special. We also talked about ways we can let others know they are welcome with "aloha" kind of welcome. One idea was to look people in the eye and actually tell the person your happy to see them with a real smile and sparkly eyes. We watched a UCC video about welcoming all people - check it out. <https://youtu.be/FIW4dxeyeUQ>

We all have much to learn from our young people - they are the next generation of peacemakers and helping to form a foundation for their journey of faith is a privilege and pleasure. Thank you Diane Tinkham, Matt Fink and Bernie Chapman for supporting our youth week after week.



Update on the CAT

(Congregational Assessment Tool)

September 7th the Creating and Leading the 21st Century team (CL21) along with several other council members attended a review session to help us to interpret and understand the results of the survey that 87% of our average monthly church attenders participated in.

The single most important information gathered as a result of the survey was that our church needs to "Know Our Why" - why do we do what we do - not just a flip and quick answer but a deeper why?

The other thing we learned is that the survey did not give us a prescription or check list on how we...the Congregational Church of Laconia UCC need to proceed into the future. There is more work for the CL21 team to really understand the survey results and to take all the information that we have learned from last year's sessions to develop a plan and a way in which we can best communicate the information with everyone. We are not there yet - but we are working together and will keep everyone informed as we move forward.





When: Thurs. Oct. 10 5:00 - 7 :00 pm

Fri. Oct. 11 9:00 - 3:00 pm

Sat. Oct. 12 9:00 - noon

Saturday is
bargain day!
Fill a bag for \$2
Fill a box for \$5



At Congregational Church of Laconia
18 Veterans Square



Stitches of Love

Scarves & Little Baby Bird Nests ~ oh my!

Scarves in the Square

This happens this coming Friday October 4 from 10:00 to 3:00 and weather promises to be a chilly 50 degrees and sunny.

Another Stitches of Love Project - Nests

This photo is of knitted and crocheted bird nests that Stitches of Love sent to Carolina Waterfowl Rescue. Each year the rescue center takes in 50 varieties of baby birds. They provide nests for them where they grow up, get fed by volunteers and receive any necessary medical care. Although these nests are not as authentic as the nests Mother Nature provides, they are a good home base for the rescued birds!

Stitches of Love meets every Tuesday evening 7:00-8:30 upstairs in the Parish House Parlor. We have patterns, yarn and needles for a variety of projects that we work on. We can also deliver yarn etc to those who prefer to knit at home, or provide transportation to the church if needed. Any questions, please contact Sandy Brallier @slbrallier@metrocst.net or 524-9687.



Consider Volunteering at NH Conference Ministry

The NH Conference has volunteer positions available for dedicated individuals interested in a variety of topics including justice, peace, local church support, witness in the wider world, Christian formation, immigration, racism, and economic equality. Serving a one-year term on any of the Conference ministry teams is a great way to meet dynamic people, engage in stimulating discussion, and make a difference in God's world.

For further information, contact Pat Harris, chairperson of the Conference Nominating Committee at patharris.hollis@gmail.com.





Adult Faith Formation: Informing and Forming our Faith

The fourth Sunday of each month after church at 11 am we will gather in the Church Library for a time of forming and informing our faith. After a time of Fellowship, get another coffee and some more snacks then gather at 11:00 a.m. in the Church Library - second floor of the Parish House. No books to read, no homework to be done but a time to form and inform your faith journey. Outreach and Educational Ministries are partnering to bring these learning opportunities to everyone! Mark your calendars:

- October 27 - What you might not know about the UCC
- November 24 - Understanding Substance Abuse Recovery
- December (to be announced) - What is Advent and significance of Jesus birth

September 22nd, 18 church members gathered to learn about the science of addiction and the effects of substances on the brain.



Walking by Faith

Introductory Session:

Wednesday, October 16 at 2:00 p.m. or

Thursday, October 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Workshop:

November 3

The Deacons are planning a Lenten booklet of Devotional readings based on scripture. All of you are invited to participate in this project. Each participant will select a scripture taken from the Common Lectionary and write a one page story of what the scripture means to you, or your interpretation of the passage, maybe a life experience comes to mind after reading the scripture, or maybe the scripture raises questions for you.

This is a more structured approach than some of Lenten and Advent booklets many have contributed to in the past. But don't be alarmed. We will have an introduction to the process and later a workshop conducted by an expert in this sort of writing. Several of the deacons will also be available to provide support. Even if you have never done anything like this before, There will step by step assistance and lots of fun and fellowship.

We are inviting everyone to come to an introductory session to learn more about the project Wednesday, October 16 at 2:00, with the session repeated on Thursday, October 17 at 5:30. Often writing about scripture and putting our thoughts into words is a deeply spiritual experience. You don't have to be a perfect writer or the most articulate author – come and find out more at one of the introductory sessions. Join in this new experience of "Walking by Faith" through writing. The workshop is scheduled for Sunday, November 3.

The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The realist adjusts her sails.

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Happy Birthdays in October!



Oct 2
Warren Clement

Oct 3
Thai Outhoummontry

Oct 6
Mikayla Clarke

Oct 6
Betsy Fosburgh

Oct 7
Kurtis Cross

Oct 9
Grace Southworth

Oct 10
John Walker, Jr.

Oct 11
Daniel Makely, Jr.

Oct 13
Carol Gable

Oct 14
Mike Marshall

Oct 15
Peg Petrie
Mary Lou Grevatt
Nancy Grow

Oct 16
Adrienne Curtis

Oct 17
Carolyn Jorgenson
Mary Ann Myers

Oct 18
James Sessler
Mike Colcord, III

Oct 20
Phyllis Veazey
Amy Smith

Oct 21
John Burbank

Oct 22
Lou Ann Darling

Oct 23
David Barth

Oct 25
Christopher Liebl

Oct 26
Deborah Williams

Oct 28
Jean Frost
David Ross

Oct 29
Kristen Pietro

Oct 30
Dawn Gilbert
Ruth Gill
David Prescott, Jr.
Shawn Prescott



Wednesday Matinee

What: Info to come! Promise!

When: Wednesday, October 23 at 12:15 p.m.

Where: Gilford Cinema 8

RSVP: To Catherine by calling her at 603.998.3811
or email ctokarz@metrocast.net



Belknap House Bedtime Story

Many have volunteered and completed their criminal background checks to be readers at Belknap House for bedtime story reading. Belknap House does not have a firm opening date as of this time, so we will be in touch with them to plan when our reading will begin. If you are interested in participating please let Pastor Paula know.