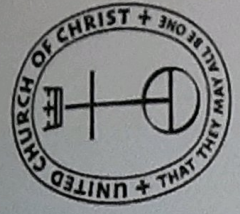


The Congregational Church of Laconia
United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Paula B. Gile, Associate Pastor
K. Robert Bengtson, Director of Music
Church office: (603) 524-0668



Called Together

Gathering for Worship

January 26, 2020

www.laconiaucc.org

9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

+ * + * + * + * + * +

The Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ, is a welcoming Christian community with a scriptural foundation seeking Justice and peace for all.

Preparing

Organ Prelude

K. Robert Bengtson

Meditative Thought *"We sinned for no reason but an incomprehensible lack of love, and [God] saved us for no reason but an incomprehensible excess of love."*

Peter Kreeft, Professor of Philosophy Boston College

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Introit

"Morning Has Broken"

Chancel Choir

Praising

Call to Worship

We come together as a community of faith.

We assemble to honor the living God.

Through Christ we become God's holy household.

In Christ we are bound together to be God's people.

Our worship is united into oneness by the Holy Spirit.

In communion with the Holy Spirit, we celebrate our unity.

*** Opening Hymn**

"Like a Tree Beside the Waters"

313

(To the tune of Hyfrydol)

Invocation

Our God, we worship you. We praise and adore you. We offer you thanksgiving. Together, assembled as we are in this time and place, we hear you in word, and we hear you in silence. We listen, we sing, we pray. We thank you for this opportunity for worship. Hear as we worship through the prayer our Savior taught: 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 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 forever. Amen

Musical Offering

"Fill Thou My Life, O Lord, with Praise"

Hal H. Hopson

Reflecting & Praying

A Scripture Story

Rev. Neil Wilson

* Passing of the Peace & the Gloria

*Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle,
Halle, Hall-lu-jah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Pew Bible p. 1038

Sermon

"Where Is Our Focus?"

Rev. Neil Wilson

Meditative Moment

Preparation for Prayer *"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"*

Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Pastoral Prayer (Yellow prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate. Also you may go to the Church's website click on Prayer Wall and post your requests. www.laconiaucc.org)

Prayer Response

"Amen, Amen"

Chancel Choir

Committing

Invitation to Stewardship

Offertory

"Grace"

Chancel Choir

* Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

* Prayer of Consecration/Dedication

God, as we seek to keep our focus on you as revealed to us through Jesus the Christ, we pray your blessing up on these gifts, offerings, and pledges.

Guide us with wisdom and compassion, for you have called this congregation to be co-laborers with Christ in the mission of bringing your reign to fruition. Amen.

Going to Serve

* Closing Hymn

"The Summons"

See Insert

* Pastoral Benediction

Benediction Response

"Together We Serve"

Chancel Choir

Organ Postlude

*You may stand as able.

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Today Jan 26- 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |
| 10:30 a.m. | 195th Annual Meeting |
| 4:00 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| 9:30 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| 5:00 a.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| Tuesday Jan 28- 7:00 p.m. | Stitches of Love |
| Thursday Jan 30- 7:00 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| Next Sunday Feb 2- 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |

A Call to the 195th Annual Meeting

of the

Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ

January 26, 2020

The Annual Meeting of the Church will be held immediately following worship in the Church sanctuary for the purpose of:

1. Treasurer's presentation of the financial activity of the Church for 2019;
2. Presentation of, and action on, the budget proposed for 2020;
3. The election of Officers, Committee members, and Standing Delegates;
4. The presentation of reports by Officers and Committees of the Church;
5. Presentation of, and action on, proposed revisions to the Church's By-Laws; and
6. Any other business that any member may wish to place before the Church for consideration or action.



February 5 - Deadline for Lenten Devotionals If you need assistance please contact Pastor Paula.

Sunday February 9 Following worship during coffee hour, in the Church Hall, the Creating and Leading the 21st Century Church Team will be sharing a few of the results of the Assessment Tool survey (CAT).

Welcome & Information

Welcome to our service of worship! Please introduce yourself to those sitting near you & use a pew rack card to inform us of requests.

Wireless hearing assistance devices, back cushions, large print bulletins and children's activity bags are available; please ask an usher.

Nursery & Child Care Children younger than 1st grade are welcome in the Nursery before the service begins or following A Scripture Story. Please escort your child to the Nursery room across The Bridge and pick them up after the service. Visitors are always welcome!

Faith Formation The concept of "the beloved community" is seen throughout the Bible and in literature from around the world. The African term "Ubuntu" refers to this and is translated from a longer phrase to mean "I am because you are". As you consider this phrase, also consider donating your spare coins this year to the Faith Formation offering. It will be given to our local family homeless shelter, Belknap House.

Our Service is video recorded and published. Please speak to one of our ushers if you have any concerns.

Our Greeters today are Doug Teegarden, Dave Smith

Today's Ushers are Sue and Dave Smith, Linda and Ted Tunnicliffe

The Altar Flowers today are *"In loving tribute to our children and grandchildren"* given by Diane and Jerry Maher.

Join us for a time of fellowship downstairs following the service for refreshments served by Diaconate. Fair Trade coffee is served in biodegradable cups.

Saturday February 15 at 5:30 p.m. Winter Celebration in the Church Hall

The Membership Committee invites you to our annual Winter Celebration! Food - Fun - Fellowship! For more information, call Ruth Gill 528.6608 or Ila Mattila 527.9476. Hope to see you there!

Sunday February 16 at 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Adult Faith Formation

Outreach will host Rev. Dr. Dawn C. Berry for a presentation and discussion about racial justice. Do you have questions about what racial justice is? Or what is meant by "white privilege." Come hear about the resolution the New Hampshire Conference unanimously adopted in 2018. Join us in the Library in the Parish House.

January 26, 2020

Matthew 4:12-23

Called Together

Health and Human Service Sunday

Litany for Health and Human Service Sunday

Wonderful Creator, In the beginning you made the world – rocks and trees, water and animals. You created, and you looked on your creation and called it good. Good, you decided, but not complete. And so you created us. You made people. You created us to be beautifully diverse – with many colors of skin, many levels of ability, many shapes and sizes. In our diversity, you also created us with a common longing – to love and be loved, to grow and thrive, to live lives of meaning and purpose.

Brother Christ, You came to earth to show us how to be both fully human and completely divine. You loved and cried, taught and touched, died and rose again. By your healing touch, you brought others close to you and to your heavenly Parent. You modeled for us how to live lives of sacrifice and service, how to be healers of the ills of body and mind. You encouraged us to be bringers of hope to all we encounter.

Holy Spirit, You are the Advocate. You accompany us day by day, hour by hour, breath by breath. You are the challenger, the encourager and the sustainer. You impel us toward places of need and longing in your world, and infuse us with the desire to be your people. You lift us, giving us energy when our own spirits flag. And you promise to remain with us, no matter what.

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer; you are both one and three. You are both distinct and in relationship. As neither one part of your divine being is complete without the others, so we are called to lives of radical interconnectivity. Create in us a desire to bring hope and healing to all we encounter. In your many powerful names we pray, Amen.

Today is Health and Human Service Sunday. This is a special opportunity to create awareness of the health concerns of our communities and world, and to learn about the many and various health and human service ministries of the United Church of Christ. It is observed annually in the United Church of Christ and is an opportunity to talk about health in a holistic way, address the issues of justice in our health care systems and learn about how each of us can become involved. The resources for observing Health and Human Service are available throughout the year and may be used for the many opportunities congregations and other organizations have for creating awareness of and responding to the health needs of their communities and throughout the world. To learn more about Health and Human Service Sunday, please visit:

https://www.ucc.org/health_hhs-sunday



8½" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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