

*SUNDAY
WORSHIP
HOURS
CHANGE
BACK
SEPTEMBER 8
TO 9:30 A.M.*

Upcoming Meetings

- Aug 31- 5:30 INTL Overdose
Awareness Vigil
- Sep 3- Membership Mtg
- Sep 4- 6:30 Outreach Mtg
- Sep 5- 10:00 Faith Walk
- Sep 5- noon/6:00 Book Club
- Sep 5- 5:30 Stewardship Mtg
- Sep 5- 7:00 Choir Practice
- Sep 8- 10:45 Special Meeting
- Sep 8- 3:00 Camp Mowglis
Church Outing
- Sep 10- 6:30 Property/Finance
- Sep 17- 7:00 Worship & Music
- Sep 22- 11:00 Adult Faith
Formation
- Sep 23- 6:30 Educational
Ministries
- Sep 25- 6:30 Diaconate Mtg
- 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 starting
back up Sept. 5

Tower Tidings



Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC

September 2019

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, Donna and I are preparing for a bit of a vacation, a portion of which will be spent on Prince Edward Island. There we will be camping in the Provincial Park near Cavendish, the area made popular by the Anne of Green Gable series. Many in my generation know about the Lucy Maud Montgomery's stories about Anne of Green Gables through the Canadian Broadcasting Company series in the mid-1980s, which was then carried on PBS Wonderworks. Donna of course read all the books! Whether in the pages of the books or on the screen, many of us fell in love with red-headed orphan girl as she tripped and stumbled through life.

Lucy Maud Montgomery as you may know wrote many other books among them the Emily trilogy. There is a quote from "Emily of New Moon" which has come to be a wonderful description for me of the almost magical, no, mystical beauty of the autumn season we are entering. It also expresses the many ways in which I've experienced the holiness that surrounds us every moment, yet often just beyond sight or our ability to empirically know. I share it with you as perhaps a meditation to carry with you this fall. Maybe it will be something you reflect upon when you see the first hint of color in the maples, a wisp of fog lifting off an autumn valley, or when you see the first snowfall on the high peaks.

"It had always seemed to Emily, ever since she could remember that she was very, very near to a world of wonderful beauty. Between it and herself hung only a thin curtain; she could never draw the curtain aside-- but sometimes, just for a moment, a wind fluttered it and then it was as if she caught a glimpse of the enchanting realm beyond-- only a glimpse-- and heard a note of unearthly music."

May you be blessed with glimpses of the beauty that surrounds you and the music that can only be heard in the quiet whispers when the veil is for a moment whisked aside by a fall wind.

May the blessings of this fall season enrich your days,



Pastor Neil Wilson

Rewarding Volunteer Opportunity

The American Cancer Society operates a program called Road to Recovery. It is a program that takes clients to the Payson Center at Concord Hospital, primarily, for cancer treatments. It is a 40 minute drive each way, and most treatments are less than 1/2 hour. The program is in need of additional volunteers. If interested, click here www.cancer.org/involved/volunteer/road-to-recovery.html



It takes about 1 hour to complete the computer work to be added to the system. It is one of the more rewarding volunteer jobs I have experienced, as you deal with very appreciative folks, and the conversation is usually quite enjoyable. To me, a person choosing treatment deserves all the help we can provide to get them to their treatments, and back home again. Thank you for considering. I am always available for any questions regarding the program please call me, John Walker 603.520.4383.

A Message from Carolyn, our Financial Church Secretary

When making a donation to the Dorcas Fund, your check must be made out payable to "DORCAS" and can not be combined with your pledge.



Additional Leave Time for Pastor Paula

Executive Committee approved a request by Pastor Paula for an additional six weeks of unpaid leave for the calendar year 2020. Paula and Bill are excited to be able to take this additional time traveling with family and friends. This is a one year arrangement and Paula will work closely with Pastor Neil to schedule the time off to minimize the impact on the congregation.

The New Hampshire Immigrant and Refugee Support Group Reaches out to NH immigrants

Welcome the Stranger

The Immigrant and Refugee Support Group (IRSG) is a ministry of the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ that helps people who have been jailed in New Hampshire for immigration reasons. The individuals are kept in the Strafford County jail pending their court hearings and setting bond. The IRSG offers them a commissary stipend to place phone calls and buy personal supplies and helps them with the bonding process.

Thanks to the generosity of many, the IRSG has bonded out eleven people who are now free to live and apply for a work permit while their case works through the court system. Each bonded person receives a modest monthly payment to help until a job is found.

Your church can help support this ministry by sending contributions (payable to NHCUC) to the conference office (140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275) marked for the IRSG Bond Fund.

September 8 - Fall Worship Kick-off Event

YOU are invited to play, picnic, and participate in a vespers service on Sunday, September 8th from 3:00 to about 6:30 at Camp Mowglis in Hebron on Newfound Lake. Bring your lawn chair; plates, silverware, and beverages for your family; a dish to share with a serving utensil; and, if you choose, something for the grill.

Be ready to play at the waterfront where swimming will be supervised by a certified lifeguard--our Sally Tinkham! Canoeing will occur under the watchful eye of our Bob Bengtson. Or enjoy a game on the ballfield or elsewhere, some organized by Educational Ministries! Or consider a walk in the woods. This is not to say you can't sit, chat, and relax lakeside, if you prefer. You

can be shuttled directly to the lake from the parking area if you need assistance. Pastor Neil will lead us in an evening vespers service before the sun sets. Let's play and pray together to kick-off our fall worship well! Call the church office if you'd like to arrange a ride there. Directions will be available at church.



Paula's Note

I have to admit that I love summer time for the warm weather, family gatherings, and the activity around GOT LUNCH! Laconia - but I love September for different reasons. I love that Faith formation starts up again for the children; I love having their energy and joy around us. The choir returns and the bells start rehearsing. New ideas for ministry such as Bed-time Story Time at Belknap House get organized and started. I love the activity level that happens in this church but September is my favorite.

The other night when I looked up at the night sky and saw stars so bright that it felt like I could touch them, I was in awe - a sense of wonderment filled me. I don't know why, but my thoughts went to the children of the church and the joy I feel when I can share with them the wonder and vastness and glory of God's creation. The night sky helps me to feel a special closeness to God; I do so love trying



to help people experience God's love.

This year I am excited to expand that wonder and joy during a time of Adult Faith Formation: Informing and Forming our Faith. Beginning September 22nd we will be having Adult Faith Formation gatherings the fourth Sunday of each month after church at 11 am in the Church Library. Outreach and Educational Ministries are partnering to bring this time of forming and informing our faith to the adults. Read more about it in this TT and in News Blasts to come!

Blessings

Pastor Paula

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA, UCC (“Church”)
NOTICE AND CALL TO
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

To Be Held On
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

In accordance with Article IV, Section (b) of the Bylaws of the Church, the Executive Committee of the Church hereby notifies the members and associate members of the Church of a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held in the **Church Sanctuary** on **Sunday, September 8**, commencing at approximately **10:45 a.m.** (promptly following the conclusion of the 9:30 a.m. worship service). All are cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

The purposes of the meeting:

To consider the proposal from Property and Finance Committee to proceed with Option #1 from Eckhart & Johnson to install new gas burners to both boilers complete with new gas lines for \$24,700.00 plus gas lines to meter installation;

In addition to authorize the church to borrow up to \$25,000.00 from the Bank of New Hampshire at 5% interest for ten years;

To conduct any other business related to the foregoing which is proper to come before the meeting.

Published in Sunday Bulletin dated August 25, and September 1, 2019

Published in Special News Blast dated August 27, 2019

Published in Tower Tidings, August 29, 2019

Proposal: Conversion to Natural Gas Congregational Church of Laconia (2019)

Rationale

Volatile oil market
Over \$20,000 in oil spent each year in 2017 and 2018
Furnace repairs cost the Church about \$5000 last year
Significant savings in natural gas (as much as \$4000/year)

Scope of the Proposed Work

Eckhardt and Johnson, Mechanical Contractors out of Hooksett, NH

Project: Install new gas burners to both oil boilers complete with new gas line. \$24,700.00

Other options were more costly

OPTION #2) Install one new gas fired boiler for the Rectory as described above..... \$40,162.00
OPTION # 3) Install one new gas fired boiler for the church as described above.....\$46,334.00
OPTION #4) To install 2 lead lag boilers in the church. This would be about 45% to 50% more than the single boiler

Quote from Rowell's was over \$100,000

Future considerations: We can get more use out of our boilers, limit the cost of the project, start saving money, and buy time

Financing: Bank of NH

10 year loan for the entire cost of the project
5 percent interest
A \$4000 donation that we received could be to offset the loan amount

Timeline

August 13 - Property and Finance approved the proposal and financing.
August 21 - Property and Finance presented to Church Council proposal. Executive committee authorizes special church meeting.
August 27 - Communication of the Proposal in the Tower of Tidings and announcement of Congregational Special Meeting is sent out.
September 8 - Congregation votes on the Proposal.
8 weeks is necessary to do the work.

Eckhardt & Johnson

MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

6 Eastpoint Drive, Hooksett, NH 03106
Tel. 603-622-7493 Fax 603-647-4618



LACONIA FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
VETERANS CIRCLE
LACONIA, N.H. 03246
ATTN: RAY VERCOE

PROPOSAL

SUBJECT: Gas Conversion for 2 Boilers and Boiler replacement for 2 Boilers

SCOPE OF WORK: Eckhardt & Johnson proposes to furnish labor and materials to install the following:

- #1) Set up and layout.
- #2) Any related permits, and electrical conversions work.
- #3) Demo out the existing oil burners and oil lines caped.
- #4) Install new gas burners by Riello R 750
- #5) Install all new gas piping from the meters; supplied by others, To the new burners.
- #6) Install new fresh-air intakes to burners to the exterior wall.
- #7) Install one single new boiler for the Rectory model ELX 500 complete with new boiler pump, venting, gas piping and neutralizer.
- #8) Install one single new boiler for the church model ELX 650 complete with new boiler pump, venting, gas piping & neutralizer.
- #9) All options include a complete start up and owner's instruction.

- . **PRICE: OPTION #1) Install new gas burners to both oil boilers complete with new gas line. \$24,700.00**
- OPTION #2) Install one new gas fired boiler for the Rectory as describe above..... \$40,162.00**
- OPTION # 3) Install one new gas fired boiler for the church as describe above.....\$46,334.00**
- OPTION #4) To install 2 lead lag boilers in the church. This would be about 45% to 50% more than the single boiler.**

EXCLUSIONS: No warranty on existing systems. No extra power work, No after-hours labor.
This proposal is good for 30 days from date of proposal.

The Owner hereby accepts the foregoing proposal and the parties hereto have executed this Contractor Agreement as set forth on the following page as of this _____ day of _____, 2019.

ECKHARDT & JOHNSON, LLC.
("Contractor")

("Owner")

By: _____
Dave Broughton
PRINT NAME
Estimator
TITLE

By: _____

PRINT NAME



Adult Faith Formation: Informing and Forming our Faith

Beginning September 22, we will be having Adult Faith Formation gatherings the fourth Sunday of each month after church at 11:00 a.m. 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 this learning opportunity to everyone!

- September 22 - Our topic will be understanding substance abuse addiction
- 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

Embracing an Adult Faith

Every Tuesday in October we will gather at 1pm and at 6pm for a 5 week study written by Marcus Borg. This video based series is called Embracing an Adult Faith and will explore what it means to be Christian. Books are available for about \$18. Scholarships are available. Watch for more information in September.

Faith Formation for Kids

Faith Formation begins Sunday, September 8 - we hope to see you then!

This year we'll be using the curriculum *PEACE WORKS, Empowering the Next Generation of Peacemakers* which was originally designed for use with Outdoor Ministries. It was used at Horton Center this summer and was full of creative ideas, meaningful themes and fun activities. The first theme is ALOHA, which emphasizes hospitality and welcoming to all. So we welcome any and all of you to join us and be part of our Faith Formation community!



Book Club

Thursday September 5
Noon or 6:00 p.m.
Bean Parlor

Anyone interested in a book discussion, please join us in the Bean Parlor.

This month's book is *Gilead* by Marilyn Robinson. Whether or not you've read the book, all are welcome.





Living with Grief

Support Groups & Events

Autumn 2019 (Sep – Nov)



Living with Grief (weekly, adult): Offers adults a space to connect, to learn about grief, discuss ways of coping, and gain support of others in a safe, caring environment. Open to anyone who has lost a loved one at any age to any circumstance. Nonreligious. Please call to register and for locations.

LACONIA (weekly)	THUs	4:00 – 5:30 pm	Sep 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7
WOLFEBORO (weekly)	TUEs	2:00 – 3:30 pm	Sep 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5
TAYLOR HOME (Laconia)	WEDs	2:00 – 3:00 pm	Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Next Step (monthly, adult): Curious to see what a group is like? Not able or prefer not to attend a weekly group? This monthly gathering brings together people who have participated in previous grief groups with those who may be newly exploring whether a support group feels like a good fit.

LACONIA (monthly)	1 st WED	3:30 – 5:00 pm	Sep 4, Oct 2, Nov 6
WOLFEBORO (monthly)	2 nd TUE	4:00 – 5:30 pm	Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 12
TAYLOR HOME (Laconia)	2 nd TUE	2:00 – 3:00 pm	Sep 10

Parent Circle (adult, monthly): A circle of support for parents who have lost a child at any age to any circumstance. Join us as individuals or together with partners. We welcome you to drop-in as meets your needs, but appreciate a call to let us know you are coming.

WOLFEBORO (monthly)	2 nd TUE	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 12
LACONIA (monthly)	3 rd WED	5:00 – 6:30 pm	Sep 18, Oct 16, Nov 20

End of Year / Holiday Events:

Annual Interfaith Service of Remembrance - Sunday, Nov 3rd 2pm Good Shepherd Lutheran, Laconia

Grief in the Holidays Support Groups - multiple times/locations In November and December

Dan Kusch, *Bereavement Care Coordinator*

524-8444 x 2390 or dkusch@centralvna.org



“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.”

- Lao Tzu

Congregational Church
of Laconia
United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square
Laconia NH
603.524.0668

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



September Happy Birthdays!!

Sep 1
Elaine Morrison

Sep 2
Elizabeth Stuart
Dan Makely, III

Sep 4
Chad Vaillancourt
Sara Ellerbeck

Sep 6
Mark Carwell

Sep 7
Joan Thurston

Sep 9
Nancy Hemlin
Stephen Hatch

Sep 10
Eric Nelson
Tara Shore

Sep 13
Cindy Bronson

Sep 14
Robert Harrington
Carole Veer
Martha Clement

Sep 16
Judith Yeaton

Sep 17
Angela McCarty

Sep 19
Diane Tinkham
Sally Tinkham

Sep 20
Bill Gile

Sep 23
Ashley Coddington

Sep 25
Jeanne Malone

Sep 26
Bobbie Thomas
David Furber

Sep 27
Molly Hazelton

Sep 29
Robert Hunt



Wednesday Matinee

What: The Lion King

When: Wednesday, August 28 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



Outreach is organizing a bedtime story time at the Belknap House beginning the end of Sept. If you are interested in being a reader please contact Pastor Paula for more information. We will be coordinating with the Belknap House to have a weekly (maybe biweekly) story time for the children at Belknap House. Reading is so important for children – this a fun and important opportunity to make a difference in children’s lives.