



The Congregate Tidings

Volume 37 Issue 7

July 2023

Pastor's Piece

By Pastor Sue Davidson

As I sit and write this newsletter First Church of Christ, Congregational has celebrated Children's Sunday; a day filled with music, stories, food, and games. As I was preparing to present Bibles to the children on behalf of this community of faith, I was taken by the stories in the Bible they knew.

I want to say right up front that I love the Bible. This love began as a child when my reading time was often spent reading our story Bible. It is also important that the Bible storybook wasn't the only reading I did as I read the popular books for young people at the time, like Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys. However, the Bible stories are the ones that I remember even to this day.

The difference between the Bible stories of my youth and the Bible stories that I read today is that they are seen with a different lens. The apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:11 writes:

*"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned as a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways."
(Common English Bible)*

I have learned that seeing the Bible stories as a child and as an adult are both important in the development of faith. So what?? The way I look at Bible stories is through a grown-up lens based on my own learning experiences.

During three Sundays in July, (the 16th, 23rd, and 30th) the emphasis for worship will be "Reading Scriptures with New Eyes-Bible Stories for Grown-ups". Three stories, two from the Old Testament and one from the Gospels, will be explored by approaching them with curiosity and seriousness. By exploring the context of these stories, we can learn that we shouldn't just be interested in the past, but in what the past might say to our present and future.

This then brings me to another question: What's next? My hope is that by taking time in a worship setting that the community of faith will be able to creatively reimagine how these stories will make it possible for us to be persons of faith in the world in which we find ourselves. The Bible might be a library of stories, poems, and letters from more than two millennia ago, but it also continues to resonate and offer insight into how we might engage the world in beautiful ways.

It is my prayer that by engaging these Bible stories we can get a glimpse of the radical, subversive, and transformative nature of these stories. Are you up for this journey of discovery??

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DEACON'S CORNER...

By Muriel Magg

WELCOME SUMMER! Is it possible we are already entering the month of July? It seems as if it was just Christmas and here, we are preparing to celebrate Independence Day. We should all be so happy to live in this nation of ours. For all its problems, for all its challenges, it's still America, home of the free and the brave. It's still America, the sweet land of liberty.

Your Diaconate continues their usual duties and is delighted that Pastor Sue Davidson willingly attends our monthly meetings and shares her concerns, visions and details that will bring us through our transition period at First Church of Christ, as we continue to navigate the pastoral search process.

Worship in July will focus on "The Path of the Disciple." Thank you, Pastor Sue, for continuing to share and inspire us in all seasons. We have much to CELEBRATE and be thankful for.

Pastor Sue's well received faith-sharing gatherings will resume in her office when she returns from vacation and shares future meeting dates.

By the time you receive and read this issue of the Congregate Tidings, the following will have occurred:

- Trinity Sunday was CELEBRATED on June 4th, focusing on the belief in a Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).
- Children's Sunday was CELEBRATED on June 11th, with a special upbeat service recognizing the children of First Church of Christ. Pastor Sue presented age-appropriate Bibles to seven children and Atticus Edwards played a special tune on his violin to the delight of everyone present. Special thanks to Anne Polak for leading the congregation in song with guitar accompaniment.
- A long overdue All Church Picnic followed the morning worship on the back lawn of the church. Delicious hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, and desserts were the order of the day and enjoyed by all. God was good and blessed us with a picture-perfect day!
- A Lay Service was led by our own Steve Woodcock on June 18th, Father's Day, while Pastor Sue was enjoying some well-deserved restful time away.
- The Ninth Annual Strawberry Festival sponsored by Vaughan Community Services and First Church of Christ, Congregational took place on June 24.
- The Celebration of Life Service for Dr. Charles Taylor took place on June 26th. ☩

We always continue to look for new Diaconate members. We meet in the vestry on the third Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m. Please reach out to anyone of us if you are interested in serving.

Many of you will be taking vacations away, maybe visiting family, having a BBQ with friends, hiking in the mountains, enjoying time lakeside, or just enjoying beautiful weather and having fun.

PLEASE REMEMBER, FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL IS HERE FOR YOU EVERY SUNDAY! WE DO NOT CLOSE FOR SUMMER VACATION!

If you need to renew your spirit, connect with your church family, take in an inspiring message, or just come and be in the moment, we will be here for you in the sanctuary and online!

HERE'S HOPING YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!!

Your Faithful Diaconate-Helen Goss (Chair), Julie James (Vice-Chair and Scribe), Lee Coffield, Laurel Ekberg, Muriel Magg, Fred Starkey and Gerry Tilton, Deacon Emeritus

"O GOD OF EVERY NATION"

A Hymn of Peace

By Muriel Magg – Music Team Chair

Celebrating the Fourth of July is one of the best parts about summer. You get to barbecue with your family, watch fireworks, go to a parade and take part in all the fun summer activities.

But another reason why July 4th is so special is because it's Independence Day, a holiday celebrating the anniversary of the United States officially becoming a country and the values that the country was founded upon.

William W. Reid, Jr. was born in Beechurst, Long Island, New York on November 12, 1923. The son of a hymnodist, (a composer of hymns or a person who studies hymnody). Reid graduated from Oberlin College and Seminary in Ohio and Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut. He served as a medic in World War II and spent eight months as a prisoner of war in Germany. Upon his return to America, Reid married the love of his life, Margaret, and together had three children. Bill pastored Congregational and United Methodist churches in Pennsylvania for 56 years. In addition to his work in local parishes, Reid held membership on various commissions and boards, including the Executive Committee of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Bill was an accomplished hymn writer, his hymns, most notably "O God of Every Nation," have been published in hymnals of many denominations. Reid's life was marked by his work for social justice and his tireless work on behalf of the imprisoned and impoverished.

In 1958 he submitted the hymn text of "O God of Every Nation" to a contest sponsored by the Hymn Society of America in conjunction with the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches. The text won first place. The hymn tune "LLANGLOFFAN" is a Welsh hymn harmonized by David Evans. "O God of Every Nation" can also be sung to the tune of: THE PASSION CHORALE, "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," AURELIA, "The Church's One Foundation," VIGIL, "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers," LANCASHIRE, "Lead On, O King Eternal," and FINLANDIA, "Be Still, My Soul."

Reid's understanding of the nature of war, combined with personal experiences, parish knowledge, theological understanding, and poetic skill provided the background for this hymn.

The first stanza petitions God to "redeem your whole creation" and "heal our strife-torn world."

The second stanza identifies some of the causes of strife: the "search for wealth and power," "the scorn of truth and right." It concludes with a petition to "deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray."

The third stanza is a plea for strength for "all who labor" that they "may find release...from escalating conflict" so that we might have "hope and courage" and a "faith that none can alter."

The final stanza pleads for a "bright vision" of the cessation of "war, hatred and division" where Christ will reign in "truth and justice" and is reminiscent of comfort found in the book of Revelation.

William W. Reid died on March 27, 2007 and is buried in South Eaton Cemetery, Eaton, Pennsylvania.

As we approach the celebration of our country's independence, let's take time to remember the courage our founding fathers displayed, embrace the values our country was built on, appreciate the wonderful gift of freedom that we all enjoy on a daily basis, and honor the men and women dedicated to preserving it.



JULY 2023



Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
25	Handbell Choir ends for the summer 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	26	11:00am Dr. Charles Taylor Celebration of Life Service 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	27	12:00pm-1:45pm Food Pantry Open	28		29	7:00am-9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm-2:45pm Food Pantry Open	30	12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	1	
2	10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm-5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS	3	 Pastor Sue away 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	4	Pastor Sue away 12:00pm-1:45pm Food Pantry Open	5	Pastor Sue away	6	Pastor Sue away 7:00am-9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm-2:45pm Food Pantry Open	7	Pastor Sue away 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	8	Pastor Sue away
9	 Hidden Gems: Lay Leader Pastor Sue away 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	10	Pastor Sue away 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	11	Pastor Sue away 12:00pm-1:45pm Food Pantry Open	12	 9:30am-10:30am Faith Fellowship	13	7:00am-9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm-2:45pm Food Pantry Open	14	12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	15	
16	10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm-5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS	17	12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	18	12:00pm-1:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm Trustee meeting	19	 3:00pm-6:00pm VLC Open House	20	7:00am-9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm-2:45pm Food Pantry Open	21	12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	22	
23	10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	24	12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	25	12:00pm-1:45pm Food Pantry Open	26	9:30am-10:30am Faith Fellowship	27	7:00am-9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm-2:45pm Food Pantry Open	28	12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	29	
30	 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm-6:00pm VLC Benefit at Tuckerman Brewing Co.	31	12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	1	12:00pm-1:45pm Food Pantry Open	2		3	7:00am-9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm-2:45pm Food Pantry Open	4	12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	5	



Join us at
**Tuckerman
Brewing Company**

July 30th 2-6pm

50/50 Raffle

**Live Music from
Chimera**

Face Painting!

**Join us for an afternoon of family fun at Tuckerman
Brewing! All proceeds from the raffle goes
towards supporting the Vaughn Learning Center!**

Vaughan Learning Center

66 Hobbs Street, Conway NH 03818 | (603) 447-5400

A Note from Youth & Family...

By Helen Goss

We had a picture perfect day for Children's Sunday on June 11th with a delightful All-Church Picnic that followed! It was wonderful to gather again as a church family after a three-year hiatus due to COVID.

The children received age-appropriate Bibles from Pastor Sue during worship and it was awesome to have (8) young people in attendance on this special Sunday. We were also privileged to have **Atticus Edwards (Floyd Corson's great-grandson)** share his musical talent as a violinist, playing *Seagull, Seagull* for our entertainment. This capped off a memorable time with the children during worship.

The picnic went off without a hitch! **Many thanks to Ken Schiller** for his grilling talents as assisted by brother, **Mark**. The congregation provided the rest of the food, and again, we out did ourselves as a church that knows how to put on a feed! Everyone had smiling faces which tells the true story.

A big **"THANK YOU" to Jennifer Terry** for her continued help to keep faith-based classes going so that our youth learn the importance of building a foundation for the good of all creation. As our numbers ebb and flow, we continue to offer Sunday classes to our youth as they learn the stories of Jesus and His disciples as they relate to our world today.

Sunday School will be back in full swing come September and we hope to have some eager young folks joining us! Have a great summer and we'd love to see you at church. The learning never stops!



COME JOIN US FOR THE

Vaughan Learning Center

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday

July 19th

3-6 PM

Light refreshments
provided

Tickets for door prizes
available for attending

For more information call
Natalie or Stephanie at
603-356-5213



**Providing high quality, play-based childcare
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Peter and Muriel Magg toasting a grand picnic with their ice cream cones!



Ken Schiller our Grill Master!



Don Ekberg enjoying the picnic under the watchful eye of Mark Porter!



- 07-01 Charlotte Boucher
- 07-02 Amelia Edwards
- 07-10 Sonya Porter
- 07-13 Lisa Cote
- 07-14 Stephanie Mullins
- 07-19 Jay Donabedian
- 07-19 Gregory George
- 07-20 Atticus Edwards
- 07-20 Rebecca Mallar
- 07-21 Daniel Edwards
- 07-27 Gavin Boucher
- 07-30 Bilo Bell
- 07-31 Paul Coffield



- 07-06 Vinnie and Cheryl Furtado
- 07-14 Bill Aughton and Jeanne Twehous
- 07-20 Charles and Rebecca Mallar
- 07-24 Mike and Julie James



Please pray for those dealing with illness, surgery or recovery, especially: **Bob Borchers; Evelyn Porter; Sandy and Greg George; Linda Hyde and Audrey Vorperian**

Prayers for those who mourn especially the families of **Dr. Charles (Chuck) Taylor, Jr. and Robert (Bob) Porter**

Remember those in our extended care facilities.

At Merriman House:

Liz George-Hussey; Cynthia and Conrad (Connie) Briggs and Marilyn Elliott

At Mineral Springs:

David Tilton

Please call the church office with prayer concerns if you wish names listed in the next *Congregate Tidings*.

Lectionaries

July 2, 2023

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of Holy Communion

Children's Story

Psalter Reading: Psalm 89:1-4 and 15-18

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:23-39

July 9, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Story

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11: 6-19 and 25-30

July 16, 2023

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Story

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 22:1-19

July 23, 2023

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Story

Old Testament Lesson: Jonah 1-4

July 30 2023

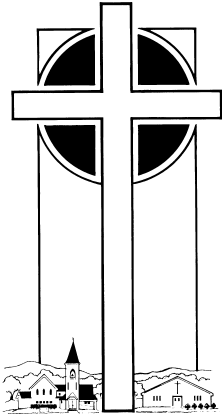
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Story

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30

The Congregate Tidings
First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ
PO Box 401
N Conway, NH 03860-0401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:

*Faith Fellowship with
Pastor Sue will resume on
Wednesdays, July 12th
and
July 26th at 9:30am
in the Pastor's Office.*



CHURCH & VAUGHAN STAFF

Pastor: Sue Davidson
Church Administrator/Editor: Denise Leighton
Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins
Vaughan Learning Center Director:
Heather Ouellette
Organist: Floyd W. Corson
Associate Organist: Muriel Magg
Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir Director:
Anne W. Polak
Church Sexton: Mark Schiller

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