



# The Congregate Tidings

Volume 37 Issue 9

September 2023

## The Pastor's Piece By Pastor Sue Davidson

Summer, that time of the year when New Englanders can enjoy all that is beautiful and warm. While this may not have been a perfect season, it still is good. The problem is that it has flown by. As I begin to think about fall, I have been exploring the possibilities for our worship together.

I have been struck by the number of video games and book series that are based on heroes and heroines. Our grandgirls keep me well-informed in this area. So, I will be preparing worship that will include Biblical stories of four heroines of the faith. Heroines do not just belong in comic books and blockbuster movies. We have them in real life too – people whose courage, strength, and resilience we can look up to as models for our own lives. During the month of September, we will meet four outstanding heroines from our faith story. Their readiness to listen to God's voice in their lives and act on it will offer us inspiration to do the same.

The four heroines that will be highlighted are Deborah, Rahab, Lydia, and Esther. Each of these will challenge us to be courageous and bold, to step beyond our comfort zones, and to find ways to engage in mission and ministry in this community and the world. I have included scripture readings for daily reading that will introduce you to these heroines that will stimulate your interest and curiosity as we worship together.

During my time as worship leader here at First Church of Christ, UCC, I have been asked with frequency this question. *"What can we do to encourage family and friends to attend worship?"* I am a frequent viewer of Facebook and one day just after someone had asked me this question, I found a great post that may be one approach and I happen to think a very valid one. So, I present this as food for thought.

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### The Power of an Invite:

Why people came to church:

- 6-8% Came by own initiative
- 8-10% Liked the clergy
- 3-4% Had a need met by the church
- 1-2% Were evangelized
- 75-85% Were invited by a friend

The average is that 83% of people came to church because a friend invited them to come.



The combination of your faith journey, faith-sharing, and worship together is one of the very best reasons to offer that invitation to anyone that may be looking for a community of faith that is caring, compassionate and open to all. Let it be so!!!

May God's blessing be with you all!!!

*Pastor SUE!!*

## LOOKING BACK AND REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

### TWENTY TWO YEARS LATER

By Muriel Magg - Music Team Chairperson



It's been 22 years. No matter how many years have passed, nobody can actually comprehend what happened that very day. An overwhelming share of Americans who are old enough to recall the day remember where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news. Yet, an ever-growing number of Americans have no personal memory of that day, either because they were too young or not yet born.

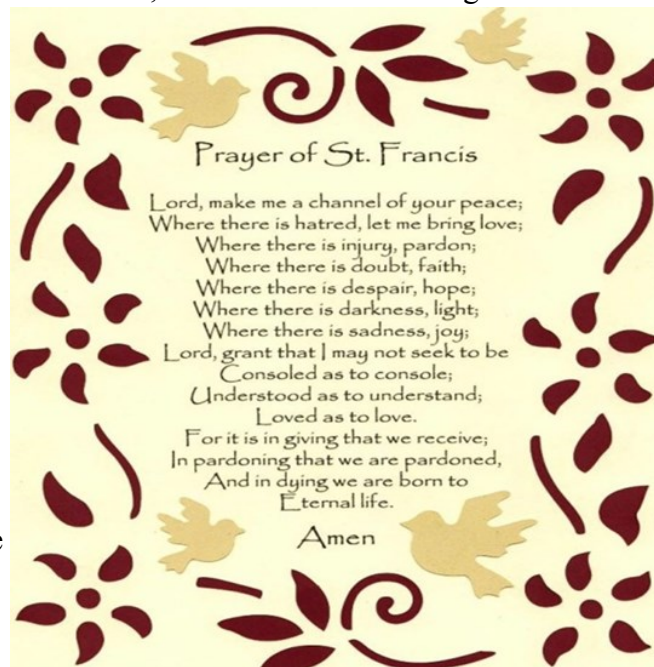
The events of September 11, 2001, changed the lives of victims' families and friends, survivors, first responders, rescue and recovery workers, volunteers, and millions of Americans and people around the world. In the days, weeks, and months that followed 9/11, most Americans said they were praying more often. Americans also turned to religion and faith in large numbers. For a time, the September 11th attacks stirred a sense of national pride and unity for many. It took a tragedy to unite us. It should not take another tragedy to unite us again.

For most Americans, "Never Forget" means "Always Remember." We remember in part because we see the ripples of that tragic day continue to impact our world twenty-two years later, and we wonder if there will ever be an end to violence, to war, and to hatred. We remember and we grieve our world's inability to learn the things that lead to peace.

We will forget because we're human and live in time. The best choice we have is to remember as well as we can for as long as we can, so that when we do forget, we leave wisdom, or at least understanding behind.

The hymn "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace," by Sebastian Temple (1928-1997) is a beautiful musical setting of the well-known Prayer of Saint Francis and has become one of Temple's most beloved compositions. This prayer for peace written in 1967, gained its popularity with people of all faiths over the years, because of its broadly inclusive language. "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" was sung numerous times at memorials following the September 11th. tragedy. The familiarity of the text and the folk-like feel of the melody make it a great and long-lasting contribution to the hymnody of the church.

On this, the twenty second anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks, let's not just pause for a moment at 8:46 a.m., but let's embrace the American Spirit. The same spirit that drew us together as a nation following 9-11 and come together to reclaim that spirit as brothers and sisters, friends, and neighbors; lifting up one another, helping each other out, and treating everyone as equals.



## *DEACON'S CORNER...*

Your Diaconate carries on with their duties to keep services rolling along and host special services at our church. **Pastor Sue** continues to amaze us with her themed services that tie in wonderful stories from the Bible and bring meaning to our daily lives in the here and now. She will be a very difficult pastor to follow having been such a healing presence for us as we travel through this time of search and discernment.

We hope you were able to join us for the wonderful music that was shared at the *Mostly Bach Festival* the end of August. And now as **September** is upon us, we will be gearing up for a new year with the choirs, Sunday School, and the Fair all coming into full swing!

This month we are going to offer a testimony from **Barbara and Fred Starkey** in this space. They are a couple of our newer members who wish to share a bit of their faith journey with us.

*“My name is Frederick Starkey. Several years ago my wife, Barbara, and I started seasonal camping at Eastern Slope Campground. We started looking for a church up here. We began going to the “brown church” in Conway the first year. Then our interim pastor, Cara McFadden, in Dracut, MA suggested we go to the “white church” in downtown North Conway. She said to ask for Gerry and advise that she sent us. We were welcomed with open arms and great big beautiful smiles. We fell in love with this church and all the people in it!*

*We love the beautiful gold cross with the silver organ pipes on each side of the altar along with the pew cushions.*

*My wife and I love helping out the church family anywhere we can – flowers for the altar, treats for coffee hour, fundraisers, or decorating the church for special occasions.*

*A big “THANK YOU” to **Pastor Sue** for staying on to help us in the pulpit through October. Don’t know what we would do without you!*

*Well God Bless You All and Stay Safe!”*

We thank Barbara and Fred for sharing and their dedication to the work and mission of First Church of Christ.

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

### ***Reminder!!!***

In July we sent out the form requesting your “Final Wishes” so that they could be kept on file in the church office in order that your wishes were clearly known at your passing. This is just a friendly reminder that we need to hear from more of you! Even if you plan to have your service elsewhere or desire no service, it is important that we have this information if you are a member or friend attending this church. It saves a whole lot of confusion and heartache when you have departed.

***Thank you!***



**The 26<sup>th</sup> Jen's Friends Climb Against Cancer will be Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** at Cranmore Mountain. If you haven't registered to climb, you can do so online. If you cannot do the climb, your donations are always welcome. Donations are easily made via their website, <https://www.jensfriends.org/> or **Lee Coffield** will be happy to collect them at church.

This foundation was formed in memory of **Jennifer Hill**, the daughter of Arthur and Leona Hill, who were loyal members of our church. Jennifer lost her battle with brain cancer at age 26 with no health insurance as a part-time student and part-time employee of the U.S. Forest Service. As a result her friends, family, and local community members gathered and Jen's Friends was born to help others in need.

*"To date, more than 3 million dollars has been raised and used to defray the non-medical expenses of more than 400 local cancer patients right here in the Mount Washington Valley. Currently Jen's Friends is assisting 93 cancer patients at a cost of more than \$35,000 per month."*

The financial need is a steep climb for so many. Jen's Friends helps to cover what insurances won't and **every dollar raised here, stays here** with 100% of funds going to help patients and families battling cancer. *Please consider making a gift that will help so many!*

## Mission Committee

By Deb Smith and Mary Lou Waite, Co-Leaders

### BLOOMING CRAFTS WORKSHOP

Blooming Crafts Workshop to resume on Mondays starting October 2, 2023, 6:30 to 8 p.m. (No Monday Holidays) in the Howard Room of the Reverence for Life Bldg.

Workshop Goal: Missions Fundraising for Community Scholarships & Missions Outreach

Handcrafts: Crafty Crafts, Quilt Blocks, Knitting, Crocheting.

All welcome to join the workshop: Newbies & Experienced; come to work on projects or share your favorite craft ideas.

We have tools needed to work with, sewing machines, donated fabric + yarn or bring your own.

Come whenever you have a free Monday or as often as you like.

We look forward to your joining us!

Deb Smith - Crafty Crafts 508 320 5127

Mary Lou Waite - Handcrafts 508 272 0734



**IT'S TIME FOR THE FRYEBURG FAIR!!!**

Once again we are gearing up for the fair and have many opportunities for you to help with the church's largest fundraising event of the year! The work begins Saturday, September 23rd, and continues until the trailer is back at the church on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

*If you like to bake*, we are starting to make our famous blueberry crisp on **Monday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>**, and will be baking Monday right through **Friday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**. The church kitchen starts warming up at 8AM and we kick it into gear at 9AM. The sign-up sheet is in the church vestry or you can call **Helen Goss at 603-520-6891** to volunteer.

*If you and/or your friends can help with sales in the church booth* starting **Sunday, Oct. 1st thru Sunday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>**, please call the church office at **603-356-2324** and speak to **Denise** who is helping us to fill in the (4) hour daily shifts. It can be a lot of fun and a way to get to know people better

from our church and community. You will be given a ticket and parking pass for the day you work at the fair, so you have time to enjoy the fair before or after your shift.

*If you can help get the booth ready to roll* on **Saturday, September 23rd**, please let **Dick Goss know at 603-520-6890** or you can call **Denise** in the church office. The booth and all necessary equipment will be rolling out from the church on **Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** for set-up at the fair. We need all the able bodies we can get for the move. **Please be AT THE CHURCH at 9AM on Tuesday, 9/26, ready to load-up and roll!**

**With your help, it's going to be another AWESOME year for the church at the FAYAH!  
Hope to see you there!**

Your Fundraising Team: Dick & Helen Goss, Mark Schiller, Barbara & Fred Starkey, Jennifer Terry, and Gerry Tilton (Baker for Life)



- 09-07 Penny Robinson
- 09-10 Sandra George
- 09-16 Lisa Gibson
- 09-21 Floyd Corson
- 09-27 Tavon Porter
- 09-30 Anne Polak
- 09-30 Karen Umberger



- 09-06 Joe and Denise Leighton
- 09-13 Dale and Jean Hamilton
- 09-17 Richard and Helen Goss
- 09-17 Brian and Megan Croce
- 09-18 Robert and Marcia Smith



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

**Laura Jean Beeler.**

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.**

**UPDATED CHURCH ROSTERS are available for pick-up at church or in the church office. If any changes, please call the the church office.**

# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 10:00am Bach Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 12:30pm - 3:30pm Bach Festival Rehearsal 4:30pm Bach Festival</p>	<p>28 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 4:00pm Vaughan Board meeting</p>	<p>29 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open</p>	<p>30 Vaughan Fundraiser at Trails End</p>	<p>31 7:00am - 9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open</p>	<p>1 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting</p>	
<p>3 10:00am <b>Worship Celebration</b> 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS</p>	<p>4 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting</p>	<p>5 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open</p> 	<p>6</p>	<p>7 7:00am - 9:00am Rotary meeting 9:30am - 2:30pm WIC 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm - 5:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:46pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>8 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting</p>	
<p>10 10:00am <b>Worship Celebration and Rally Day</b> 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 11:30am Church Council meeting</p> 	<p>11 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting</p>	<p>12 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm - 5:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:46pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13 9:00am - 10:30am Faith Fellowship</p> 	<p>14 7:00am - 9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open</p>	<p>15 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting</p>	
<p>17 10:00am <b>Worship Celebration</b> 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS</p>	<p>18 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting</p>	<p>19 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 7:00am - 9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm - 5:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:46pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting</p>	<p>23 9:00am <b>Cleaning Fair Booth and Kitchen</b></p> 
<p>24 10:00am <b>Worship Celebration</b> 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship</p> 	<p>25 9:00am Fair Baking begins 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 4:00pm <b>Vaughan Board meeting</b></p> 	<p>26 9:00am Fair Baking begins 9:00am Fair Booth to Fairgrounds 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 5:00pm Diacornate meeting</p>	<p>27 9:00am Fair Baking begins 9:00am - 10:30am Faith Fellowship</p>	<p>28 7:00am - 9:00am Rotary meeting 9:00am Fair Baking begins 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm - 5:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:46pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>29 Pastor Sue away 9:00am Fair Baking begins 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting</p>	<p>30 Pastor Sue away</p>

## Faith Movers of the Bible Daily Scriptures

### WEEK 1: DEBORAH

Sunday – Judges 4:4-11; 5:1-9  
Monday – Judges 2:16-19  
Tuesday – Judges 4:1-10  
Wednesday – Judges 4:11-23  
Thursday – Judges 5:1-9  
Friday – Judges 5:10-18  
Saturday – Judges 5:19-31

### WEEK 2: RAHAB

Sunday – Joshua 2:1-14  
Monday – Joshua 1:1-18  
Tuesday – Joshua 2:15-24  
Wednesday – Joshua 6:17-27  
Thursday – Matthew 1:5, 17  
Friday – Hebrews 11:31-40  
Saturday – James 2:14-26

### WEEK 3: LYDIA

Sunday – Acts 16:13-15, 40  
Monday – Acts 16:1-12  
Tuesday – Acts 16:16-24  
Wednesday – Acts 16:25-40  
Thursday – Philippians 1:1-10  
Friday – Philippians 1:12-30  
Saturday – Philippians 2:1-11

### WEEK 4: ESTHER

Sunday – Esther 3:13; 4:13-17  
Monday – Esther 2:1-17  
Tuesday – Esther 3:1-15  
Wednesday – Esther 4:1-17  
Thursday – Esther 6:1-14  
Friday – Esther 7:1-10  
Saturday – Esther 8:1-17

## Vaughan Learning Center

By Heather Ouellette, Director

Vaughan Learning Center has been in full swing this summer with lots of activities and fun events. As we are winding down, we still have some openings in our Pre-K Class.

We are looking forward to the new school year and Mud Bowl Weekend, September 8-10<sup>th</sup>, which is a fundraising event for VLC.

### WISH LIST

Velcro- dots and strips- \$40

Circle Rug- \$150

Laminating Sheets- \$40

Walking Rope- \$30

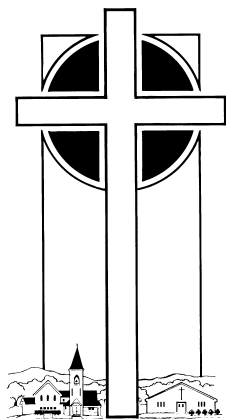
We can always use- Baby wipes sensitive,  
409 cleaning spray, trash bags,  
Lysol disinfectant spray.



Pictured above is Emery Schwarz, one of the Vaughan Learning Center's children, swimming at Echo Lake during a field trip this summer.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:



*A Note from the Trustees...*

In February of this year the parsonage suffered severe water damage from the separation of a pipe

between the first and second floors above the kitchen. As a result, the structure has been gutted and total renovation of the interior is underway. We are fortunate to have strong relationships with some excellent local contractors to facilitate these repairs and their willingness to work through the claims process with us. This has taken longer than we would have liked, but it will be a vastly improved dwelling when completed. It has "good bones" and as we pray for the craftsmanship of the building's repair, so too do we pray for the person(s) who will inhabit it in the future and shepherd us onward.

**CHURCH & VAUGHAN STAFF**

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

**Worship Service at 10 A.M.**  
**Church Office (603)356-2324**  
**Fax Number (603)356-2106**  
**E-mail address:**  
**churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com**  
**Website: www.northconwayucc.com**  
**Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh**