



The Congregate Tidings

Volume 37 Issue 8

August 2023

Pastor's Piece

By Pastor Sue Davidson

Summer, that time of year when New Englanders can enjoy the great outdoors in wonderful ways. I like to think that it is also time for a little relaxation. After all these years that I have lived in New Hampshire, close to 55 years, I still marvel at the beauty of Mt. Washington Valley. I grew up in Florida where the roads were straight and there were no mountains or hills or nary a mound to be seen. So, I will always be intrigued by the beauty of this place. This is also the time of year when our patience with traffic, waiting lines at restaurants, and times when there is no milk or bread on the shelves at the grocery store can really stretch us to the limit. Despite all of this, we are surrounded by the natural beauty of God's creation.

The summer months have often allowed me to plan worship that is a bit different, a bit more relaxed but still challenging for us as Christians in this time and place. During the first three weeks of August, I am planning worship based on a well-loved children's author known for his imagination, Dr. Seuss. Some years ago, I came across a book titled, *The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss* by James W. Kemp.

The beloved stories of Dr. Seuss were probably not intended as material for use in worship and sermons. But, I have found that his stories are easily accessible and enjoyable with hints of inspiration and yes, even spiritually challenging. After I first read Kemp's book it sparked the worship design creativity that I love. The aha moment for me was discovering that the characters created by Dr. Seuss are not only for children but also for the imagination of grown-ups.

While I am still narrowing down the three stories that will be the focus, the ones under consideration include: Horton Hatches the Egg, Yertle the Turtle, The Cat in the Hat Comes Back, or Bartholomew and the Oobleck. Each of these stories brings me a chuckle or a smile at the simplicity of the story, yet holds deep scriptural meaning. It is my prayer that through the glory of worship we can hear the word of God in new and engaging ways.

The Faith Fellowship Group will continue to meet as an avenue to discover the ways in which we can be engaged in storytelling. I have been inspired by the stories of faith that have been shared. This is an opportunity to be in community with other travelers on this journey of faith. The way of following Christ is not always an easy one. Among the joys there are challenges. This is a group guided by what the participants bring to the room – it is not a Bible Study or a lecture but meant to capture the stories of inspiration in a new way. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, August 9 and 24, at 9:30am.

May your days of summer be filled with the goodness of God's glory.

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MOSTLY BACH FESTIVAL

By Floyd Corson, Organist



After a three-year absence because of COVID, the White Mountain Musical Arts “Mostly Bach Festival” will be back August 26 and 27, 2023. The WMMA Directors spent many hours this past year working out all the details to bring back one of the major events of our concert offerings. As in previous years the concerts will be held in our sanctuary as we have space for a full Baroque orchestra and chorus, a pipe organ, harpsichord, and a grand piano when the Festival’s programing calls for one. The Friday concert begins at 7:30pm and the Sunday concert is at 4:30pm. Tickets will not be sold in advance but only at the door. Once again, Dr. Robert Lehmann from the University of Southern Maine will be our conductor.

Music for the weekend will include two of J. S. Bach’s Brandenburg Concerti, No’s 3 & 4, Cantata 137, *Lobe den Herren*, for four vocal soloists, chorus & orchestra, two selections by J. S. Bach’s son, Carl Philip Emanuel Bach, the *Magnificat D*, also scored for soprano, alto, tenor and bass soloists, chorus and orchestra and the *Flute Concerto in D Minor*. Alex Lehmann, a flute student at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY will be our 2023 young artist. Alex, is the son of our conductor and his wife Kim (principal viola in the orchestra) will also play flute in the orchestral selections. The Sunday program will conclude with George Frideric Handel’s magnificent *Coronation Anthem, No. 2, The King Shall Rejoice*.

Soloists for this year’s Festival will include familiar artists: Emily Marvosh, alto; John Adams, bass; Ray Cornils, harpsichord and organ. Ashley Emerson last heard at our 2010 & 2011 Festivals returns to the 2023 Festival as our soprano soloist. She now is on the roster of the Metropolitan Opera in NYC. Our new tenor will be Dominic Armstrong, Ashley Emerson’s husband, who was a soloist this spring with the Bangor, ME Symphony Orchestra. A perfect venue for this Baroque event, WMMA thanks the members, friends and committees of First Church of Christ, Congregational for their hospitality and willingness to host this annual event.

Our traditional Bach Sunday Services with Choir and instrumentalists will be held on August 27th at 9:45am and the Worship Service begins at 10:00am, here at First Church of Christ, Congregational.

Vaughan Learning Center

By Heather Ouellette, Director

We are enjoying our summer as much as we can with all the rain. Thankfully, our first field trip was a sunny day. We have partnered with the White MountainTrolley to do day trips to local places. The kids were SO excited to be on the trolley for the first time on their trip to Echo Lake! (see picture to the right)

August 30th we have a fundraising event at Trails End – “Cone for a Cause.” Stop by and grab an ice cream!



ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Hymn #31 in The New Century Hymnal

CELEBRATING THE WONDERS OF CREATION

By Muriel Magg - Music Team Chairperson

A song of praise to God. It seems simple, but have you ever read the stories behind the beloved lyrics of your favorite hymns?

Each month I enjoy sharing the story behind one of our favorite classic hymns. I hope these stories will encourage you and help you worship, just like the hymnist, amid hurt, hope, fear, thanksgiving, joy or loss.

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” a well-loved hymn that celebrates the wonders of Creation was first published in the nineteenth century in a book called “*Hymns for Little Children*” by the writer Cecil Frances Alexander who was a woman despite her masculine sounding name!

Cecil Frances Alexander (1823-1895) was born in Dublin, Ireland, the second daughter of Major John Humphreys and his wife Elizabeth Frances Reed. The introverted Fanny, as she was known to her family and friends, showed an interest in poetry and writing as a young child and wrote poetry in her school journal. In 1850, Cecil married Rev. William Alexander, who would later become Archbishop of all Ireland and together they had four children. The newlyweds began their married life serving together in a church in an impoverished rural area of Ireland where Cecil showed her concern for disadvantaged people by traveling many miles each day to visit the sick and the poor, providing food, warm clothes, and medical supplies. Cecil and her sister also founded a school for the deaf. It’s interesting to note that Cecil and other women were writing hymns and achieving considerable levels of public attention in an era when women could neither vote or own property.

Cecil was inspired to write the beautiful hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful” in 1848, based on the passage of Genesis 1:31 when trying, with difficulty, to teach a group of children in her Sunday School class the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed. When traditional teaching methods failed, she decided to write a series of hymns based on various phrases of the creed. She based this hymn on the phrase, “I believe in God, the Father Almighty maker of heaven and earth.” It was those last words, “maker of heaven and earth” that particularly inspired her.

The hymn celebrates “Each little flower that opens” and “Each little bird that sings.” It speaks of “The purple-headed mountain” and “The river running by.” It tells of “The sunset and the morning,” “The cold in winter” and “The pleasant summer sun.” It describes “The ripe fruits in the garden” but, most of all, it affirms that “The Lord God made them all,” everyone! The words were first published in Cecil’s 1848 edition of “*Hymns for Little Children*” which also includes two hymns which have retained their popularity to the present day: “Once In Royal David’s City,” and “There is a Green Hill Far Away.” “All Things Bright and Beautiful” has been sung to several melodies, most notably “ROYAL OAK”, a 17th-century English melody, adapted by Martin Shaw in 1915.

Many of us, if not all of us, have had moments where we’re in a park, on a mountain top, at the seashore or lake, simply driving down a highway with a glorious sunset behind us, when we find ourselves lost in the beauty of God’s creation. These scenes should bring to mind Genesis 1:31: “And God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” Our God is a good God, who gives us good things, and then tasks us with taking care of them. Let us give thanks and praise to our Maker, the Creator of all things bright and beautiful.



Life can be short! Therefore, we are asking that you consider completing the front and back of this form so that the church has your final arrangements on file. This makes the planning for your service much easier on your loved ones and the Pastor once you have departed for your heavenly home. Please write legibly. Thank you!

YOUR FINAL WISHES

First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ
 PO Box 401 - 2503 Main St.
 North Conway, NH 03860-0401 (603) 356-2324

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL/MEMORIAL/GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Name _____

Address _____ - _____

Place and Date of Birth _____

Names of your parents _____

Upon my death I prefer

- a graveside service.
- a funeral service (closed casket present) at church funeral home.
- a memorial service (no casket present) at church funeral home.
- other (please specify) _____
- no service.

I wish don't wish calling hours. Clothing preference _____.

I wish to have my body cremated and the ashes _____.

I wish burial and my body interred in _____.

I have made arrangements for organ donation upon my death.

In my memory gifts may be made to _____

The Memorial Fund of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC of N Conway, NH or other charity/ cause may be designated here. Would you like your obituary to suggest memorial gifts in lieu of flowers?

_____.

Specific information for the funeral/memorial/graveside service

I would like these scriptures/poems/readings read at my service _____

(The church office has a list of suggested scripture readings.)

I would like these hymns _____

Other arrangements including information for an obituary.

Person(s) to be notified at time of death and telephone #

Your signature _____

Date _____

The Diaconate of the First Church of Christ encourages you and other family members to complete **Your Final Wishes** and make at least two copies. One may be placed in a sealed envelope in the **Your Final Wishes** file in the Pastor's Office, to be opened upon your death. Another should be placed with your personal papers or with family or close friend. By planning ahead of time, the wishes of the deceased can be more easily honored. **Your Final Wishes** has been helpful to countless families as they dealt with both the passing of a loved one and the planning of a service of remembrance. The Pastor is available to help in preparation of this document.

WHEN IN DOUBT...

Lectionaries

August 6, 2017

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of Holy Communion

Children's Story

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 32:22-31

Psalter Reading: Psalm 17:1-7, 15

New Testament Lesson: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:13-21

August 13, 2017

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Story

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalter Reading: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

New Testament Reading: Romans 10:5-15

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:22-33

August 20, 2017

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Story

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 45:1-15

Psalter Reading: Psalm 133

New Testament Lesson: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 27, 2017

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Bach Worship Service

Children's Story

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalter Reading: Psalm 124

Testament Lesson: Romans 12:1-8

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:13-20

These are the Revised Common Lectionary texts for personal reading as Pastor Sue will not be using them in worship during August.

I recently saw a sign outside a church that said, "When in doubt, reach out." It was such a simple message, but it is one that we might tend to forget. Historically, the church was at the center of the community. Churches had big steeples to make sure that people knew where to come, and most of life centered around the church community.

Fast forward to the present, and we all know all too well that church can sometimes take a back seat to other obligations. However, the power of community and congregation hasn't changed, even if the central place of the church has.

When we turn to the Bible, we see example after example of community. In Paul's letter to the Galatians we hear, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2).

In Paul's letter to the Romans we read, "I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." (Rom. 1:11-12). The church has always known and valued community and the importance of supporting one another.

In our current society, we tend to turn inwards, or to carry shame or embarrassment, and turn away from community. We try to go at hardships alone, without the support of others. However, that's not what we're meant to do.

As the church sign reminded me, "When in doubt, reach out," which can go so many ways. It can remind us that if we are struggling, if we aren't sure if we can go it alone, we should reach out. It also reminds us that if we think someone is struggling or suspect that someone could use support, we should reach out, and offer a helping hand, and a shoulder to help carry their burdens.

The church means so many things to so many people, but it should always feel like a safe haven. A place that you can turn to, without judgment or shame, knowing that there is always a community there to support you and help you walk through the challenges of this life.

Deacon Diana Auer
Resurrection Church
Garden City, New York



AUGUST 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
6 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS 	7 Denise away 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bach Festival Rehearsal	8 Denise away 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	9 Denise away 9:30am - 10:30am Faith Fellowship 	10 Denise away 7:00am - 9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open	11 Denise away 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 3:00pm - 6:00pm Revolving Closet Backpack Giveaway	12
13 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	14 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bach Festival Rehearsal	15 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm Trustees meeting 5:00pm Diaconate meeting	16	17 7:00am - 9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open	18 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	19
20 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS	21 September Congregate Tidings articles due 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bach Festival Rehearsal	22 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	23 9:30am - 10:30am Faith Fellowship 	24 7:00am - 9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open	25 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 7:00pm - 10:00pm Bach Festival Rehearsal	26 3:00pm - 6:00pm Bach Festival Rehearsal 7:30pm - 8:30pm Bach Festival 
27 10:00am Bach Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 12:30pm - 3:30pm Bach Festival Rehearsal 4:30pm Bach Festival 	28 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 4:00pm Vaughan Board meeting	29 12:00pm - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	30 Vaughan Fundraiser at Trails End 	31 7:00am - 9:00am Rotary meeting 1:00pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open	1 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	2



August

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

- 08-02 Laura Jean Beeler
- 08-03 Patricia Johnston
- 08-08 Gilman Healy
- 08-14 Steve Cote
- 08-19 Nichole Smith
- 08-20 Julie James
- 08-24 Mike Davenport



August

ANNIVERSARIES

- 08-04 Fred & Nichole Smith
- 08-06 Sean & Patricia McGrath
- 08-16 Dan & Trina Jones
- 08-26 Andy & Laura Jean Beeler
- 08-27 Dana & Christine Russian



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.

Prayers for those who mourn, especially:
 The families of **Robert (Bob) Porter and Pat Greico.**

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

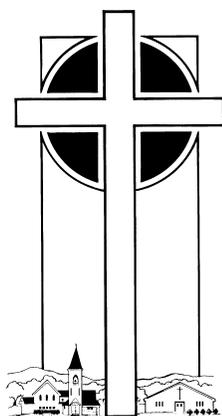
Please call the church office with prayer concerns if you wish names listed in the next *Congregate Tidings*.



If you need use of the church building, please contact the church office. Also, if you are willing to be Liturgist, Greeter, Usher or give flowers for the altar on Sunday, please call Denise at the church office at 603-356-2324.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:



September is fast approaching! It's time to start thinking about Blueberry Crisp. The Fryeburg Fair runs from October 1st thru October 8th. Baking begins September 25th.

The sign-up sheets to volunteer to help will be up by August 6th. So you can sign-up early or by calling the church office.

There will be more structure and training sessions before the fair. Check your schedules now and let's make this another banner year!

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

**Worship Service at 10 A.M.
Church Office (603)356-2324
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