



Tower Tidings

Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ

18 Veterans Square, Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

603-524-0668

www.laconiaucc.org

DECEMBER 2023

- Search Committee
- December Events
- Help Wanted
- Lunch & Learn
- Poinsettias
- Caroling
- Power Chords
- Christmas Card
- One Life Africa
- Special Meeting
- Church Service Award
- Christmas Fund
- Book Discussion
- Women's & Men's Breakfasts
- December Birthdays

Staff:

Interim Pastor:
Campbell Lovett

Director of Music:
K. Robert Bengtson

Financial Secretary:
Carolyn Jorgensen
carolyn@laconiaucc.org

Communications
Associate:
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Sexton:
Chuck Laurent

Church Office
603-524-0668
Office hours
Mon. Wed. 9-3; Fri. 9-1

Interim Notes

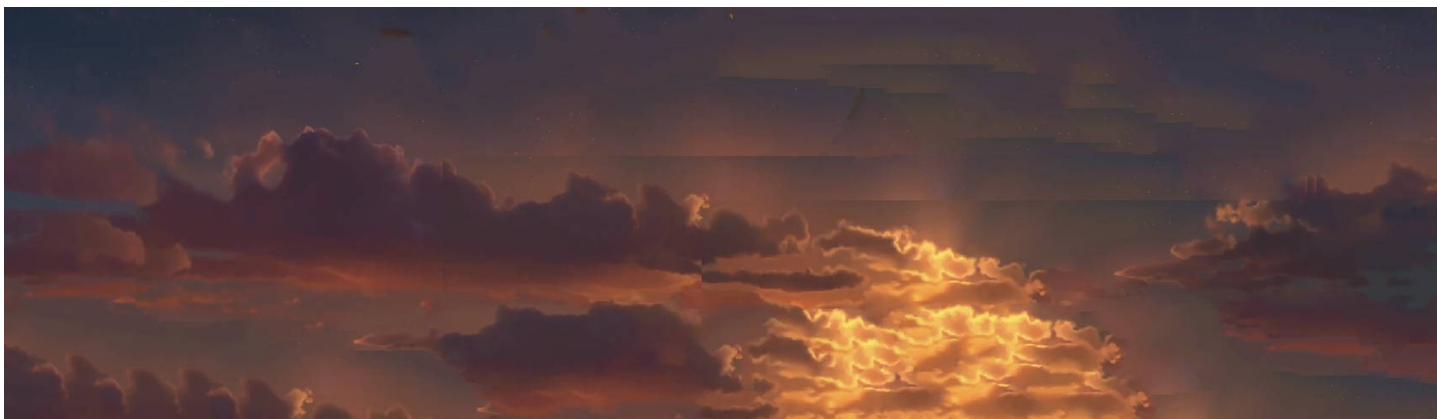
I inherited many of the books in my professional library from my father. He was an incurable bibliophile and was always on the lookout for good deals and rare finds. When he lived in West Hartford, Connecticut, my father purchased many books from retired professors at Hartford Seminary. Thus, many of my tomes are inscribed with the names of notable faculty members from the twentieth century. A few of my books have the name E. Jerome Johanson written in neat blue letters on the inside cover. Johanson was a professor of Christian Ethics and Theology at Hartford Seminary – beginning in 1935 and serving until just before his death in 1973. You know where Dr. Johanson was before Hartford Seminary? Johanson was the 11th pastor of The Congregational Church of Laconia from 1929 – 1935. This is just one of the many connections to this church that I have discovered while serving in your midst. No, I am not related to Miller Lovett – but my father and Miller referred to each other as “distant cousins!”

As my service in your midst draws to a close this month, I am grateful for the many connections we have shared in mission and ministry. I am honored to have had the opportunity to help you “bridge the gap” between settled pastors, and I have nothing but high hopes as you assemble on the cusp of your bicentennial with a new pastor on the near horizon.

That’s enough sentimentality for now because we still have a lot of work to do together! December promises to be a great month of festive worship, significant planning and meaningful outreach. Please check the *December Calendar* in this edition of Tower Tidings and mark the dates in your personal planners. Planning for 2024 continues on several fronts, as the Stewardship campaign enters its follow-up phase. Please call the Church Office if you need a pledge card. December is a month for holiday and year-end giving. Please remember that I never ask you for gift cards or money via email or text. Please *report spam* and *delete* if you receive an electronic solicitation from “me.”

When Rev. E. Jerome Johanson departed from Laconia in 1935, the world was turning a corner toward authoritarianism and world war. It is hard to predict what will transpire in Ukraine and the Middle East – let alone in our own country in the next year. However, as we welcome the Prince of Peace during this Christmas season, let us devote ourselves to the work of peacemaking. May we be people of love and justice who make a difference due to our compassion and hope-filled community engagement.

With you on the journey,
Campbell Lovett
Interim Pastor



A Great Update from Our Pastoral Search Committee!

As members of the Search Committee, we are sincerely grateful for the trust you have placed in us. In October, we concluded our prayer-filled process of reviewing profiles and interviewing candidates, ultimately reaching a unanimous decision. We are delighted to recommend to you our final candidate for the position of Pastor and Teacher, to be considered by the congregation at a special meeting on Sunday, December 10th, following worship.

You will have an opportunity to meet the candidate at a reception in the Church Hall from 3:00 -4:30 pm on Saturday, December 9th, and in worship on Sunday, December 10th. A congregational meeting following worship will offer each member an opportunity to ask questions of the Search Committee and to vote on the call to our new pastor. A Zoom link will be provided for the meeting for those who cannot attend in person.

Please plan to attend church on December 10th to hear more from the Search Committee as we present our candidate to you. We are blessed with a wonderful church community. With hard work and God's guidance, we will be blessed with a wonderful pastor to guide us as we minister in the name of Jesus Christ.

*In Christ's name,
The Pastoral Search Committee*

Lorraine Barrows, Richard Bastille, Jaylene Bengtson, Dave Emond, Kathy Giovanni, Bob Hunt, John Intorcio, Diane Tinkham, and Ted Tunncliffe



DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 3 First Sunday of Advent – “Hope for Those Who Wait”
Sunday Service of Worship 9:30 – in-person and livestream

December 7 Advent Event – Supper with Series – 5:30 p.m. in Church Hall
You Can’t Handel the Truth – Part 2

December 9 Meet & Greet with the Recommended Candidate for Our Settled Pastor!
Church Hall 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. A Time of Refreshment and Reunion
Hosted by Pastoral Search Committee

December 10 Second Sunday of Advent - "Hope for Those Who Are Weary"
“Candidate Sunday” Service at 9:30 a.m.
Special Meeting of the Congregation following worship (10:45)

December 14 Advent Event – Supper with Series – 5:30 p.m. in Church Hall
You Can’t Handel the Truth – Part 3

December 17 Third Sunday of Advent – “Hope for Those Who Are Watching”
A “Pageant Prequel” Service of Worship at 9:30 a.m.
Based on Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1

December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent – “Hope for Those Who are Wounded”
A Festive Christmas Eve Day Service of Worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:00 p.m.
Special Music, Familiar Carols, Warm Candlelight

December 31 New Year’s Eve Morning Service of Worship at 9:30 a.m.
A Service of Resolve and Resolutions

Please share with a friend who may be interested in this part-time position:

The Congregational Church of Laconia seeks a part-time **Administrative and Communications Associate** to work up to 15 hours, 3 mornings a week in the office with church staff and members. Primary tasks will include updating websites, posting information via social media, and producing communication and worship material via Microsoft Office applications. Other duties will include assisting with weekly mailings, medical lending ministry, answering phones, and member relations. Must have HS degree or equivalency, and demonstrable experience with websites, social media, and Microsoft Office. Reply with resume to: pastor@laconiaucc.org.

LUNCH & LEARN — The Inca Trail THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7th Church Hall—12 p.m.

The Inca Trail is one of the most fascinating historical treks in the world filled with beautiful sites built by the Incas in a lush, mountainous landscape. Follow along with Jean and Mikayla Clarke as their journey of 26 miles taking thousands of rocky steps through high altitude passes to reach the infamous Sun Gate and the hidden City of Machu Picchu or “Old Mountain”. We will cover all the details including training, packing, the challenges we faced, the ups and downs of sharing a tent, Peruvian hiking tips, and more!



Poinsettias for Christmas!

It's time to order Poinsettias to place on our Advent/Christmas altar. You may give a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or simply wish the congregation a Merry Christmas. Fill out the form below and place it in the church offering. A donation of \$20 is suggested, but give as you can. If you are writing check, please note *Christmas Poinsettia* in the memo line. You may also email Louise Bastille,

elrevs@earthlink.net or call her at (603) 630-8804 with what you would like to say, no later than Sunday, December 17th.



Poinsettias for Christmas

Given by: _____

Message (In loving memory of In honor of....or another message....)

I will take the flower home after the Christmas Eve Service _____

Please give my poinsettia to a shut-in _____

Join us for Christmas Caroling!

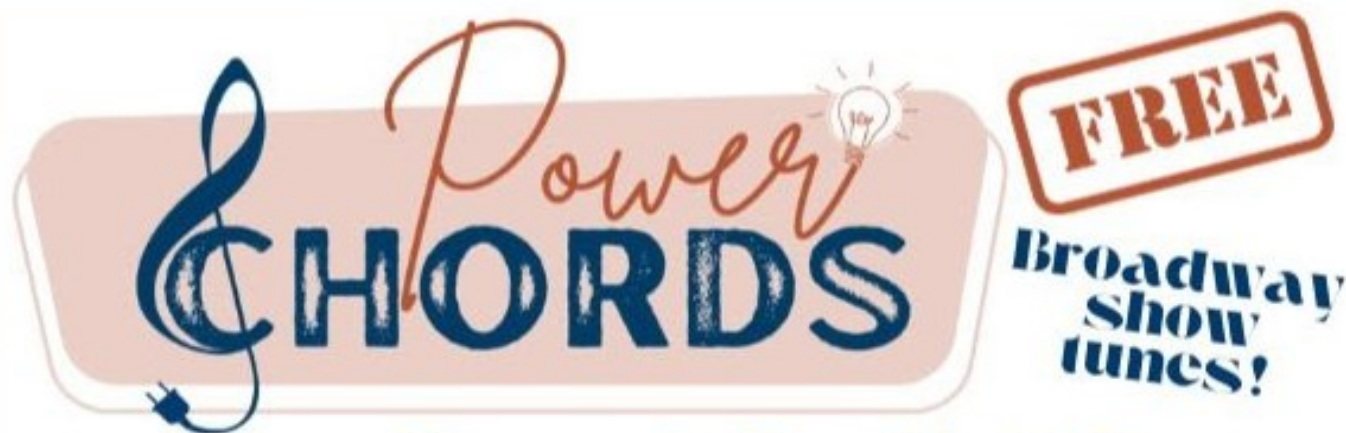
December 17, 4-6 p.m.

Gathering in Fellowship Hall at 4 p.m.

All are invited to join us **for Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 17 from 4-6 p.m.** We'll meet in Fellowship Hall and break up into groups to sing for some of our church members who can't get to church. Bring jingle Bells if you have them!

After the caroling, Hollis will be at the church to welcome us back with Christmas Cookies and Hot Cocoa!





Concert Dec 3 at 4pm
Congregational Church of Laconia



CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD SUPPORTS THE CAMBERSHIP FUND

The Educational Ministries Committee invites you and your family to sign the Church Christmas Card.

All donations will go directly to the church's Campership Fund. Over the past three years, the Campership Fund has provided close to \$7,000 in registration fees to support 20 people including kids, parents, grandparents, and friends of the church. If you attended camp as a child, we're sure that you can speak to the many ways a camp or retreat experience can be a life changing experience.

See us after any worship service in the Pleasant Street foyer. Or send your donation to the Church Office indicating in the memo line "Campership Fund" and email:

CatherineTokarz603@gmail.com so we can add your name to the Christmas Card. Thank you!





For those who may not know our daughter, Dr. Stephanie Onguka and her husband Andrew Onguka, started OneLife Africa 2011 in Kenya Africa. LUCC Outreach sponsored our first high school student, Frances Muteti, in 2016. LUCC paid for his 4 years of High School, room and board, books and uniforms. In Kenya, free education ends at 8th grade. Many students are unable to get out of poverty and living in the largest slum in Africa in Nairobi because of the lack of education. We received this photo on Sunday right after Pastor Lovett's moving sermon "You Did It!" so we wanted to share the great news about Frances. He was very successful in high school so the Kenyan Government helped subsidized his college. He graduated with a degree in Commerce and got a job working for a surgical equipment supply company. LUCC has sponsored a high school student each year since Frances. "You Did It!" — Linda & Ted Tunnicliffe

Confirmation: Dec. 3- The group will be meeting at Sacred Heart Catholic Church to experience the first of several visits to other Houses of Worship.

Faith Formation: Dec. 10- We'll be staying in the church sanctuary for the entire service to listen to and get to know the Ministerial Candidate who will be leading the service that day. Prayground is available for use during any service for any age child!

Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC (Church)

Notice and Call to

Special Meeting of the Congregation

To be held on

Sunday December 10, 2023

In accordance with Article IV, Section 1 (b) of the Bylaws of the Church, the Executive Committee hereby notifies the Members and Associate Members of a Special Meeting of the Congregation in the Church Sanctuary commencing at approximately 10:45 am, (promptly following the conclusion of the 9:30 am service). All are cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

The purpose of the meeting:

To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee to call our next settled Pastor and Teacher of the Church. All Members and Associate Members shall be entitled to vote in person or by electronic means.

Wayne Domin,
Moderator

Congregational Church of Laconia UCC

18 Veterans Square
Laconia, NH 03246 phone
(603)524-0668

www.laconiaucc.org

Nomination Form for Church Service Award

This award is presented each year at the church's annual meeting to
"Honor and reward those persons or person whose service to the church is above the call of
duty."

Person(s) nominated:

Reasons why you are making this nomination:

Your Name (please print)

Date

PLEASE RETURN BY January 7, 2024

Mail to: The Congregational Church of Laconia UCC, 18 Veterans Square, Laconia, NH 03246
Attn: Wayne Domin - or email to: WDomin@metrocast.net



THE CHRISTMAS FUND: "GRACE UPON GRACE"

"From Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."

John 1:16

Grace is truly at the center of everything for us humans. Grace shapes our faith, our family, our friendships, and our identity. Grace is not just being given the benefit of the doubt, or God bestowing favor on the less than worthy. Grace is also the root of gratitude and thankfulness. It is at the heart of our thanksgiving/eucharistic meal. "Grace upon grace" is a reminder of the great gifts of God to us, and an expression of our grateful response to that fullness.

Your gifts to the Christmas Fund allow the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance to provide grace, hope, and joy through financial relief to UCC pastors, lay church leaders, and their families. Thanks to you, no request goes unfulfilled. Your graceful response to the Christmas Fund appeal ensures the flow of loving support will not be interrupted.

In 2022, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 218 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,042,726)
- Health benefits supplementation for 86 retired clergy and lay employees (\$181,389)
- Emergency grants for 55 individuals and families (\$138,022)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 479 retired clergy and lay employees (\$278,500)

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund
Give online at www.christmasfund.org.

Upcoming Book Discussion Groups

Do you want to get a head start on your winter reading? Here is a list of titles for November, January and February.

January 17: **The Silkworm** by Robert Galbraith (pseudonym of JK Rowling).



https://www.amazon.com/The-Silkworm-Robert-Galbraith-audiobook/dp/B00IMLDGIM/ref=sr_1_1?crid=22ZEU0QU5ENQZ&keywords=Silkworm&qid=1698076360&s=books&sprefix=silkworm%2Cstripbooks%2C79&sr=1-1

February 21: **Tom Lake** by Ann Patchett

<https://www.amazon.com/Tom-Lake-Novel-Ann-Patchett/dp/006332752X>



Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, Dec. 20th

8:30 a.m.

Water St. Cafe. RSVP to Betty Bergstrom at bettobergstrom@gmail.com.

Men's Breakfast

Friday, Dec. 8 & , Dec. 22nd

8:00 a.m.





December Birthdays

12/2	Patricia Williams	12/13	Rev. David Williams
12/2	Anne Peckett	12/14	Stephen Austin
12/3	David Frost	12/16	Noah Marshall
12/3	Mary-Ellen Azem	12/17	Peter Tibbetts
12/3	Andy Hazelton	12/19	Carson Tucker
12/5	Stephen Tucker	12/23	Sylvia Quackenbush
12/6	Mike Colcord	12/23	Debra Nugent
12/7	Jack Weeks	12/24	Ella Forsburgh
12/7	Robert Durfee	12/25	Rita Krupp
12/7	John Intorcio	12/25	Betsey Wilder
12/9	Diane Maher	12/27	Jean Davey
12/9	John Marcel	12/27	Matthew Wood
12/10	Marilyn Lynch	12/28	Bill Birch
12/10	Rev. Paula Gile	12/30	Martha (Muff) Kruse
12/11	Delano Kennard	12/30	Brenda Tokarz
12/13	Corissa Solomon	12/30	Jocelyn Degler

DECEMBER COFFEE HOURS

12/3	Worship & Music
12/10	Diaconate
12/17	Educational Ministries
12/24	Merry Christmas!
12/31	All Church Coffee Hour
12/31	Outreach
*Full Coffee Hour w/beverages & refreshments	

