



Tower Tidings

Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ

18 Veterans Square, Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

603-524-0668

www.laconiaucc.org

OCTOBER 2023

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Interim Notes

(Occasional "Food for Thought" in Less than 350 Words)

Interim News and Reviews!

October is a month during which many programs and activities "begin again" at Congregational Church of Laconia. October is also our first full month of autumn. The passage of seasons reflects our shifting moods from the more carefree climate of summer to the more structured schedule of fall. In these next lines, I want to call your attention to events that will build up this community of faith. Other awesome events are listed throughout this edition of Tower Tidings.

Sunday, October 1, is **World Communion Sunday**. The Diaconate is creating a table with breads of the world that will call to mind our siblings in faith from around the globe – and that we can enjoy during Coffee and Conversation following worship.

On October 1, we will also receive the **Neighbors in Need** special offering of the United Church of Christ. We can be proud that we are a "five-for-five" congregation – meaning that we participate in five special offerings of our denomination. This offering helps provide grants to congregations engaging in creative community mission projects (like, Got Lunch), and helps support the **Council for American Indian Ministries**.

October 8 is a **Faith Formation Sunday** when we share educational opportunities for the youngest among us. This will also be **Amazing Grace Sunday**. Come and sing a few different versions of this beloved hymn!

On October 15 Congregational Church of Laconia will begin its annual financial enlistment – or **Stewardship** – campaign. We will learn more about the many ways that our church serves members, friends and the community. Our **Confirmation Experience** will begin in the afternoon with young people from Laconia and surrounding towns.

On the afternoon of October 22, our church will host a world premiere of music by the renowned pianist, **Dr. Henry Wong Doe**. A native of New Zealand, Dr. Doe has travelled the world playing with symphony orchestras on some of music's biggest stages.

An Observance of **All Saints** will take place on Sunday, October 29. This is a community-wide service for those who have lost a loved one in the past year. We will have candles to light, pictures of family members, and a time for sharing names of those now in God's nearer presence. Please invite your friends and neighbors who might appreciate a time to honor the legacy of loved ones.

A colleague once invited me to have a "yeasty fall." In that spirit, I hope we will all get a spiritual rise from our October opportunities for mission and ministry.

With you on the journey,
Campbell Lovett, Interim Minister

Congregational Church of Laconia selected to receive Spirit of NH Award

The Congregational Church of Laconia has been chosen to receive a Spirit of New Hampshire Award. The Spirit of NH Awards ceremony will be held at the Bank of NH Stage in Concord on Monday, October 23. We were nominated by Paula Ferenc, Executive Director of the Belknap House, who believes that our “service to the community goes above and beyond,” specifically highlighting the Thursday night meals that we have provided weekly for the Belknap House since 2020. The Spirit of NH Awards are New Hampshire’s largest volunteer recognition event, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. A slate of more than 60 award recipients spanning all ages, groups and organizations will be recognized. Well done Belknap House volunteers!



<https://www.laconiaucc.org/events/spirit-of-new-hampshire-volunteer-nh-awards-ceremony-bank-of-nh-stage/>



A Statement of Solidarity and Support

The Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ, joins with others of goodwill in condemning the antisemitic graffiti recently found on buildings at the former State School. Antisemitic graffiti is a troubling sign of bigotry and prejudice that has no place in our community or country. Not speaking out against such hate tacitly condones the intolerance it represents. Therefore, this church publicly declares our stand against hatred and violence in every manifestation. We also proclaim our solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters of Laconia in a spirit of friendship and faith, and in the pursuit of justice

and peace.

While law enforcement investigates this heinous crime, we will join local efforts that advocate against antisemitism, promote unity, foster respectful dialogue, and encourage empathy. We pray for a future of shalom where this testament of the ancient prophets will become a reality: “...they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.”

The Church Council
Congregational Church of Laconia
September 20, 2023

THE LACONIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

invites all concerned citizens and organizations to

JOIN US IN A VIGIL OF SUPPORT

**for Temple B'nai Israel, its members and Jewish people everywhere
in response to the despicable graffiti found on buildings located on
the state school property in Laconia.**

The vigil will be held on

**Sunday, October 8, 2023, at 1:00 pm at Opechee Park
adjacent to the North Main Street parking lot.**

– ALL ARE WELCOME IN LACONIA –

Come and stand against all expressions of

HATE and INTOLERANCE

**Stand for the INCLUSION
of all members of our community**

Temple B'nai Israel thanks the Laconia Human Relations Committee for their support.



CONFIRMATION

The Congregational Church of Laconia is offering a Confirmation Experience during the 2023-2024 schoolyear.

Where? At the Congregational Church of Laconia

When? Beginning on Sunday, October 15 and once a month on the third Sunday of the month (not December) concluding on May 20.

What Time? Sundays 2:30 - 4:30 in Nov and Dec/2024 times TBA

Who are the participants? Youth in grade 7 and older who attend churches in the Merrimack Association.

If you know of anyone who is interested, contact Diane Tinkham at tinkhams@metrocast.net.

LUNCH AND LEARN HAS RETURNED!

Our first Lunch and Learn this fall will be on **Thursday, October 19, 12-1 p.m.**

We'll be enjoying a presentation by our favorite organist, **Bob Bengtson**! We'll meet in the Church Hall at noon to have a quick lunch and then travel upstairs (elevator available) to learn about the amazing Austin Organ. How does it actually work? How do all of those pipes make so much noise? What does Bob do with his feet? So many questions - so little time. Our official end time is 1 p.m. but Bob has agreed to stay longer if there are more questions.



Volunteers Needed for Pumpkin Festival!

October 27th & 28th

The sign up sheet for working Pumpkin Festival will be in the Pleasant Street foyer and Coffee Hour, beginning October 1st. Volunteer slots are available on FRIDAY, Oct 27th in



two-hour increments (4-6 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.). Volunteers are also needed on Saturday 10/28: 10-12, 12-2, 2-4 & 6-8. We will be setting up canopy tents, power supply, serving tables and chairs, and tables for customers. We are in need of volunteers to bake pumpkin rolls or cookies and make chili. We also need volunteers to purchase food items (Fritos, hotdogs and buns, apple cider, shredded cheese, cut up onions for topping, hot chocolate mix, and large cookies).

Show Your Creativity — Bring a Carved Pumpkin! Carve a pumpkin and bring it to the church on Friday, October 27th to be part of the exhibit of jack-o-lanterns displayed close to our food booth on October 28th.



PUMPKIN ROLL RECIPE

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup powdered sugar (to sprinkle on towel)
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2/3 cup 100% Pure Pumpkin
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar, sifted
- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar (optional)

Directions

- PREHEAT oven to 375 degrees F. Grease 15 x 10-inch jelly-roll pan; line with wax paper. Grease and flour paper. Sprinkle towel with powdered sugar.
- COMBINE flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves and salt in small bowl. Beat eggs and sugar in large mixer bowl until thick. Beat in pumpkin. Stir in flour mixture. Spread evenly into prepared pan. Sprinkle with nuts.
- BAKE for 13 to 15 minutes or until top of cake springs back when touched. Immediately loosen and turn cake onto prepared towel. Carefully peel off paper. Roll up cake and towel together, starting with narrow end. Cool on wire rack.
- BEAT cream cheese, powdered sugar, butter and vanilla extract in small mixer bowl until smooth. Carefully unroll cake; remove towel. Spread cream cheese mixture over cake. Reroll cake. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least one hour. CAN BE FROZEN.

Volunteers needed for Hands Across the Table, Oct. 11th

About 12 volunteers are needed to help with serving and clean up duties at the Hands Across the Table weekly community meal on Wednesday, Oct. 11. If you would like to help out, please contact Hollis.



The Dorcas Fund

In 1960, the Diaconate of Congregational Church of Laconia established the Dorcas Fund. The fund is named for the biblical figure, Dorcas, who was known for her good works and acts of mercy. Our church's Dorcas Fund is used in that same spirit - helping church members and friends to meet emergency needs that unexpectedly confront them. The Fund also assists non-members of the church in three specific areas: gas for medical appointments, heating oil, and assistance to avoid shut-off of electricity. While the Diaconate still provides oversight of the Dorcas funds, it is confidentially administered by the Pastor and/or the Financial Secretary.

Church members are invited to seek assistance when needed – or to offer financial support of the fund when possible.

Christmas Fair

Saturday, November 4th

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Volunteers are needed on the day of the fair
and for set up on Friday, November 3rd.

- a cookie walk
- silent auction
- country kitchen
- plant sale
- ornament sale, and more.

To volunteer or donate items, contact Hollis
or call the Church Office.



Save the Date...Again!

On the afternoon of Sunday, October 22nd, we will host a

Piano Concert featuring

Henry Wong Do

followed by a meet-and-greet with appetizers.

Worship & Music hopes you will again mark your calendars for this musical event! Stay tuned for more information!



Thank you for your generous donations! Our Blazing Paddles Dragon Boat Team raised **\$3161.10** to help the Lakes Region Cancer Support team with their mission of providing social and emotional support to those going through cancer and as well as their families.

Blessings,

Team Blazing Paddles!

“Scarves and Hats in the Square”

As we prepare for the colder seasons, Stitches of Love is getting ready for Scarves and Hats in the Square on Friday, November 3.

In addition to scarves, this year we are adding knitted or crocheted HATS to our local fall Outreach project. Any styles or colors are welcome - for kids, women and men! If you would like to contribute your hand-stitched projects, they can be dropped off in the Church Office. And we have plenty of free yarn available.



Wednesday, October 11th

8:30 a.m.

Please RSVP to Betty Bergstrom

bettobergstrom@gmail.com

Need a ride to church?

Don't have a ride to church but would like to attend? The Caring Connection Program would like to offer you a ride. Church begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. Send an email to mvkreitler@gmail.com



PEACE DOLLS for UKRAINE

The Stitches of Love Ministry Group is asking for your help to sponsor Peace Dolls for Ukraine. These dolls will be personally delivered to an Orphanage in Ukraine by Alex Ray's non-profit Common Man for Ukraine. They are departing for Ukraine on November 6th. You can choose any amount to sponsor a doll (cash or checks made out to Common Man Restaurant for Ukraine) and attach a tag to the doll of your choice with your name or any message you want to include. The group will send back pictures to share with us of children in Ukraine with the dolls. Stitches of Love members will deliver the dolls to the Ashland Common Man on Friday, October 27th @ 11:00 AM. Dolls will be available each Sunday in the Narthex and at coffee hour.



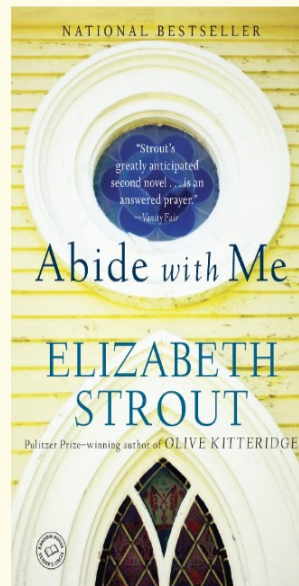
October Book Discussion

Wednesday, Oct. 18th

12 p.m. in the Church Library



Abide with Me



CHAPTER 1

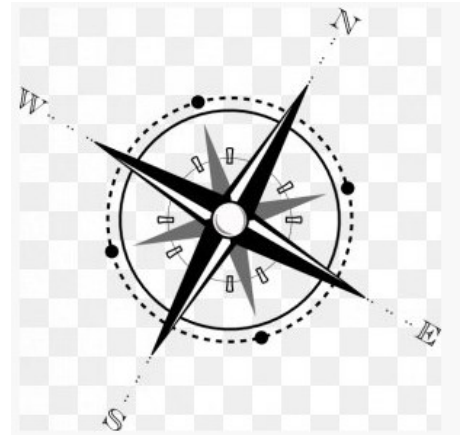
ONE

Oh, it would be years ago now, but at one time a minister lived with his small daughter in a town up north near the Sabbanock River, up where the river is narrow and the winters used to be especially long. The minister's name was Tyler Caskey, and for quite some while his story was told in towns up and down the river, and as far over as the coast, until it emerged with enough variations so as to lose its original punch, and just the passing of time, of course, will affect the vigor of these things. But there are a few people still living in the town of West Annett who are said to remember quite clearly the events that took place during the wintry, final months of 1959.

Stewardship Committee Update

Autumn is here and we are three-fourths of the way through 2023. I don't know about you but to me it seems like Y2K was only last year! There are times I must stop and take a deep breath, watch the sunset, reorient myself.

This wonderful church family helps me put my feet back on the ground and give me direction. That is why stewardship is so important - we all need help to keep our compass needles from spinning aimlessly. By contributing our time, our talents, and our treasure we continue to make sure the Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC, will always be here to provide that North Star.



Beginning in October the Stewardship Committee will be providing us opportunities to hear how some of us reorient ourselves and how important the church has been in that process. So get your compasses ready; the journey will start soon!

— Pat Wood



October Birthdays

10/1	Hunter Lovisek	10/17	Thai Outhoummontry
10/2	Warren Clement	10/17	Carolyn Jorgensen
10/7	Betsy Fosburgh	10/19	Paxton Bossey
10/9	Catherine Tokarz	10/20	Everly Hellen Smith
10/9	Grace Southworth	10/21	John Burbank
10/10	John Walker Jr.	10/22	Lu Ann Darling
10/11	Daniel Makely Jr.	10/23	David Barth
10/13	Carol Gable	10/28	Jean Frost
10/14	Michael Marshall	10/30	Dawn Gilbert
10/14	Alison Bryant	10/30	Shawn Prescott
10/15	Mary Lou Gravatt	10/30	David Prescott Jr
10/15	Ila Mattila	10/31	Betty Bergstrom
10/15	Richard Hancock		
10/16	Adrienne Curtis		

OCTOBER COFFEE HOURS

10/1	Outreach
10/8	Parish Activities*
10/15	Property & Finance
10/22	Worship & Music
10/29	Diaconate

*Full Coffee Hour w/beverages & refreshments



Turning the Tables

Matthew 21:12-16



2023 ANNUAL MEETING

- ✓ Engaging Theme
- ✓ Inspirational Keynote
- ✓ Vital Business
- ✓ Diversity and Inclusion

On Saturday October 21
Grappone Conference Center, Concord
LEARN MORE AND REGISTER NOW
AT [NHCUCC.INFO](https://nhcucc.info)!



New Hampshire Conference
United Church of Christ

A Just World For All

Recital by
JOHN DIXON
ORGANIST and COMPOSER

Sanbornton Congregational Church
Friday, October 13th, 2023 7PM

21 Meeting House Hill Rd., Sanbornton, NH



Born in England in 1957, John Dixon learned to play the pipe organ at his high school which, amazingly, still has today, a fine two manual organ in the assembly hall. Although he did not choose to make music his major field of study, he was active in music and theater while studying for his bachelor of arts degree at Oxford University and later at Harvard for his MBA. John eventually filled the organ bench at his church, Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, during an emergency in 1998 – and, twenty-five years later, is still there.

He has been composing seriously since 1990 and now has more than 900 compositions to his credit, many of them published. His recital, featuring a selection from his organ works, will include explanations of how and why the pieces were written.

His current project is to share his own music in person in all 50 states between his 60th and 70th birthdays – the 50-60-70 project. *New Hampshire is the 32nd state.*

In 2003, John was appointed executive director of the Academy of Music, a non-profit community music school, headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia, a position he still holds.

In addition, he is the current Treasurer/Councillor for Finance and Development of the American Guild of Organists, in which capacity he enjoys connecting with organists throughout the USA.

John's organ music is a perfect repertoire addition for the every-Sunday organist. His compositions are accessible by both organists and congregations. Come hear John as he demonstrates, in the most entertaining way, his music and why it might be a good addition to *your* library.

This event is free and open to the public. Donations accepted

For more information, email Laura Belanger (Laura.bela@icloud.com)