

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**March 10, 2024**

*Wandering Heart – A Worship Series for the Season of Lent*  
*Facing Difficult and Inconvenient Truths*

Welcome and Announcements and Opening Prayer

\*Hymn #469      “O Grant Us Light”      *New Century Hymnal*

Gathering

**Holy God,**  
**We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense.**  
**Like Peter, we want to yell out, “This should not happen!”**  
**We want to control scenarios beyond our reach.**  
**We want to hold your world in our hands.**  
**Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity.**  
**Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.**  
**Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves to many.**  
**Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.**

Anthem

Scripture Reading    Matthew 16:21-23

Engaging the Word

**Share a story of when your focus on your own concerns and anxieties got in the way of your listening to God’s hopes and dreams for you.**

*Thank you Mary Menzies, this week’s Deacon and Worship Leader*

Prayer:

**God, so often we focus on our lives and the concerns of our world. We think that it is all up to us: to take care of our families, to save for the future, to make the world a better place through our actions. Not that there is anything wrong with these things, but you have told us that while you know we have practical needs, that you will provide us with what we really need. Not everything we want but everything we need.**

**It is our both pride and our lack of faith in you that leads us to believe that it is up to us to fix the world and to believe that we can do so on our own. We want to be in control.**

**God, help us have humble hearts and patience. Help us open our hearts and minds. Help us follow you. Help us accept that if we seek your kingdom first that you will take care of the rest and will use us in ways that we can’t even imagine. Help us grow in our dependence on you, much as we hate that word! Amen.**

\*Hymn#463      “I Look to You in Every Need”

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*See back of bulletin for words*)

Stewardship Moment – Special Offering for *One Great Hour of Sharing*

\*A Doxology for Lent

**Praise God throughout these forty days**  
**Praise Christ our Lord whom God did raise**  
**And praise the Spirit who imparts**  
**God’s love in Christ into our hearts!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn #485    “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

Blessing

*Those who are able may stand where marked (\*).*

**Prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen

*Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

*It is our sincere hope that all who gather in this place will know and experience the love, forgiveness, hope, and new life available through Jesus Christ.*

**Calendar:**

Monday, March 11: Shining Lights Board Meeting – Zoom – 5:30pm

Tuesday, March 12: Eastern Star – Fellowship Hall – 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 13: Finance Meeting – Classroom – 1:00PM  
Choir rehearsal – Fellowship Hall – 6:00pm

Sunday, March 17: Adult Bible Study – Classroom – 9:00am  
The Good Book - Adult Bible Study – Classroom/Zoom – 11:45am

Peter is away until Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

Pam will be out of the office on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

**March Prayer Requests**

Barbara Holland	Linda and Bob Warden	Virginia Hyatt
Roberta Lavoie	David Sykes	Bill Mellekas
Christina Waddell	Michelle Seekamp	Polly Ehrman
Jennifer Hines	Rolla Gerlack	Jason Plummer
Jeb Kenison	Sue Peabody	Tina Peabody
Donna Moulin	Karen Proulx	Mike Matz
Paul Damiano	Family of Robert McGhee	Mike Boswell

*After 4 weeks names will be removed unless requested to continue.*

*Please contact Elaine Pollak, Caring Tree chair, at (802) 633-3669 or laneylou@gmail.com*

**Online giving: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YR4H/home>**

*First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Littleton, New Hampshire  
March 10, 2024*

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Facing Difficult and Inconvenient Truths*



<b>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</b> Pastor	189 Main Street Littleton, NH 03561
206-484-9814 (cell) peter@1stconglittleton.org	603-444-3376, Fax: 603-444-6589 E-mail: fstcong189@gmail.com
<b>Music Director &amp; Organist</b> Dorothy Morton	www.1stconglittleton.org
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	~~~~~ FCC Shining Lights Learning Center 444-7379

*Our Mission Statement:*

*As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people at various stages of their spiritual growth.*