

Steeple Minute

First Congregational Church of Littleton
189 Main Street, Littleton, NH 03561

April 1, 2024

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Issue 4

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Find us on Facebook @FirstCongregationalChurchOfLittletonNH

Why Church?

Why is First Congregational Church important to you? Why are you part of the church? What difference does it make in your life? What difference do we make in the life of the communities we are part of and serve? Who is God calling us to be?

During the Season of Eastertide between Easter and Pentecost Sundays (April 7 - May 19) we will explore, wonder and learn together about WHY we are here as church and what keeps us saying YES to be part of this community of faith.

A highlight of our exploration is an **All Church Retreat on Saturday, April 27 from 9-1** at All Saints Episcopal Church. Together we'll share stories about why the church is important to us and the difference it makes in our lives. Together we'll come up with a draft mission statement that we'll be bringing back to the church council and the congregation for discussion and discernment and eventually a congregational vote and affirmation that it says why we are here and who God is calling us to be.

Each Sunday morning we'll hear stories of why the church is important to us. We'll hear a few of the key stories in our faith journey and what has led us to say yes to this church and community today. So grateful to Judy Beals who will begin our sharing on Sunday April 14! If you haven't yet met Judy you are in for a treat! Judy lives at Riverglen and is a wonderful artist and you'll get to see some of her artwork on April 14. **Do let me know if you'd be willing to share your story with us!**

And on April 14 we've invited Rev. Linda Fraser to join us to start a conversation on Aging Gracefully! Linda will be with us for a conversation after church as well and a chance to bring issues and questions important to us including challenges like grief, memory loss, physical disability, etc.

Why Church: A Worship Service for Eastertide

April 7 - Brunch Church! Join us for a fun and delicious way to gather as we share brunch, conversation and worship together! Our scripture today is John 21:1-19. We'll have a chance to share what we learned in our Lent worship series following Peter's journey of faith. What has his journey shown you about your own faith? This will be held in the Ladies Parlor!

April 14 - Why Church? Acts 3:1-10. Special Guest - Rev. Linda Fraser, "Aging Gracefully" and Judy Beals sharing her "Why Church?" story.

April 21 - Acts 17:1-9

April 28 - Acts 18:1-4

May 5 - 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

May 12 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57

May 19 - Pentecost Sunday! Acts 2:1-4

Blessings! **Peter** 206-484-9814

First Congregational Church

April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pastor Away 7:00 PM – AA - FH	2 Pastor Away	3 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP Pastor Away 7:00 PM-AA-FH	4 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP Pastor Away 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	5 Happy Birthday! Karson Kam Pastor Away	6 Pastor Away 7:00 PM-AA-LP
7 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER BRUNCH CHURCH IN THE LADIES PARLOR 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i>	8 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM – AA - FH	9 Happy Birthday! Bob Oleary 6:00PM – Eastern Star – FH	10 11:30 AM – Property – LP 1:00 PM – Finance - CR 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	11 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13 Happy Birthday! Curran Smith AND David Boyle 7:00 PM-AA-LP
14 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 10:00 AM-Worship Service 11:30 AM – Discussion on Aging w/Linda Fraser – FH <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i>	15 1:00PM – Community Conversations – All Saints Church 5:30 PM – SLLC BOD - Zoom 7:00 PM – AA - FH	16	17 Happy Birthday! Su Schott 2:00 PM – Wedding – Sanctuary & FH 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM – AA – FH	18 Happy Birthday! Ross Fairweather Noon – Council – LP 7 Zoom 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	19 Pastor's Sabbath	20 7:00 PM-AA-LP
21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10:00 AM-Worship Service 11:30 AM - CAKE WALK -FH TBD 6:00PM – Marching Band Practice – FH	22 7:00 PM – AA - FH	23	24 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM – AA – FH	25 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27 9 AM – Council Retreat – All Saint's Church 7:00 PM-AA-FH
28 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10:00 AM-Worship Service 11:45 AM – Adult Bible Study – The Good Book – CR & Zoom <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i>	29 Pastor Away 7:00 PM – AA - FH	30 Happy Birthday! Chris Sundman Pastor Away			KEY: FH - Fellowship Hall LP - Ladies Parlor CR - Classroom Please be sure to let Pam know if you would like your birthday and/or anniversary included!	

Financial Report

February 28, 2024	YTD
Member support:	\$27,796
Scheduled w/d from trust funds	\$ 0
Other Income:	\$ 1,412
Total Income:	\$29,208
Total Expenses:	\$32,351
Net:	\$ -3,143

“Asteroids, Stars and the Love of God”

The skies will begin to darken at 2:14 PM on Monday, April 8 with a total eclipse just north of us in Lancaster and St. Johnsbury at 3:28pm on April 8. The Littleton Chamber of Commerce has been preparing for crowds of visitors. What might we do to welcome and engage them that weekend? Let me know if you’d like to make something happen! To peak your imagination, here’s a fascinating conversation in the link below on life, faith and the universe with Father George Coyne and Brother Guy Consolmagno, astronomers at the Vatican Observatory:

<https://onbeing.org/programs/guy-consolmagno-george-coyne-asteroids-stars-and-the-love-of-god/>

Where will YOU be during the eclipse? We want to know!

Peter will be reaching out soon with ideas about talking about where you were, what you experienced and what how you felt about this once in a lifetime experience!

Rescheduled To:

CAKE WALK

April 21st after the service

Please join us downstairs in the fellowship hall for the cake walk!

A cake walk is a fun event for all ages. Donate \$1 each round to walk around a circle on numbers while music is playing (or watch!). Once the music stops, everyone stops on a number and someone picks a number from a basket. Whoever's number is picked gets to choose a cake to bring home! Several rounds are played.

The following day is Earth Day, which rhymes with Birthday! What a fun CAKE holiday!



Come meet the parents and children of Shining Lights
And help fundraise for the center!

Church Happenings

Remembering Warren Havens: Ron and Alison Bolt let us know that Warren Havens, 91, passed away quietly among family members this past Sunday:

Warren and Marilyn attended services at First Congregational for several years. This winter they relocated temporarily to North Carolina to be closer to family, with plans to return to Sugar Hill in the spring. It is not clear now if Marilyn will come back. No arrangements have been announced yet.

Marilyn's address: 140 Carriage Club Dr.
GSW2
Mooresville, NC, 28117

For all of Warren and Marilyn's family and friends, for friends here at church and in Sugar Hill, my deep sympathy on hearing of Warren's death. I am so glad we got to visit last year. In deep gratitude for Warren's life and prayers with all who grieve this day. May the love of God that holds and never lets us go, be with you all.

Brayden Smith's on stage in The Sound of Music on Friday and Saturday April 5 and 6 at 6:30 at the Lisbon Town Hall. Come join me on Saturday April 6 and we can have an early supper and I'll give you a ride over!

To see March 24th Sunday's Zoom Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/LqzIY8TW0yxVLU5UZFJLZ1bx3aOYHACBI1KmoW1hNZSmFRWmo_WYIJHop_nOJG4c.jQJKCeCpBAZ5bxqh

Passcode: 3\$kRwjCy

Wild Earth Community: Peter has been working with The Rocks (Society for the Preservation of NH Forests) in Bethlehem and local community members to develop an experimental outdoor connection/immersion gathering. The folks who have expressed interest in the idea come from a variety of faith traditions or no particular tradition but share a similar passion for finding grounding, connection, peace, centeredness in being in nature. We are planning to offer gatherings at the Rocks once or twice a month to nurture community and develop practices to engage with the more-than-human world.

We are hosting two opportunities next week to share the idea and brainstorm about moving it forward. We'll meet at The Rocks in the Conference Room at 10am on Tuesday, April 2 and 10am Friday, April 5. If you or family or friends share a passion for the woods and might be interested in learning more about this idea, we'd love to have you join us on either date! And if you can't make either of those times and would like to stay updated on our progress, just let Peter know.



Church Brunch ~ April 7th
The entire service will be held in the Ladies Parlor!

MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.



Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your

contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Thank you! \$660 Raised!

Pantry Update

Several outside donations have been received recently to support the efforts of the pantry along with support from members of the church. Thank you to Dave Boyle who consistently cleans the pantry and stocks it and to Su Schott for getting items in bulk at Sam's Club and stocks it on the weekends she is home. Due to the recent generosity of many, Pam was able to make three trips to Walmart to stock the empty shelves during Holy Week. Kim Smith is taking care of the Pantry's Facebook page and sends out an SOS when the pantry is low. Pam and Linda Warden are at the helm doing thank you notes. The pantry is seeing constant turnover, especially at the end of the month. **Thank you to everyone who contributes their time and resources to this much needed resource in our community!**

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Return Service Requested

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APRIL 2024



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A brief newsletter of the
First Congregational Church
of Littleton

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www.1stconglittleton.org

Church Staff

Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz, Pastor
Office Manager: Pam Nute
Organist & Choir Director: Dottie Morton
Sexton: Reg LaFlam

Officers

Moderator: Alice Muh
Vice Moderator: Dan Kiefer
Treasurer: Joyce Krill
Assistant Treasurer: Rachel Clark

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Kim Smith
Deacons: Mary Menzies
Finance: Phil Krill
Mission: Linda Warden
Music: Tina Peabody
Personnel Relations:
Property Management: Laurie Boswell

Shining Lights Learning Center

Board Chair: Suzanne Schott
Director: Melissa Kam

