

# Steeple Minute

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

July 1, 2024

PHONE 603-444-3376 FAX 603-444-6589

Issue 7

EMAIL: [fstcong189@gmail.com](mailto:fstcong189@gmail.com) WEBSITE: [www.1stconglittleton.org](http://www.1stconglittleton.org)

Find us on Facebook @FirstCongregationalChurchOfLittletonNh

We were so pleased to have Rev. Sara Marean, our associate conference minister, come to be with us in worship on June 16. We had an opportunity to ask questions about our NH United Church of Christ Conference, the national UCC conference and our relationships with both. She also told us some of the many jobs she does that include, but are not limited to, supporting local church pastors, helping churches with the search process, building and maintaining our church partnerships with churches in Zimbabwe. She explained that the funding for the work of the NHUCC and the national UCC comes from local churches who give to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). The website for the UCC is [www.UCC.org](http://www.UCC.org) and for the conference is [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org). Both offer a lot of information.

Just by way of a little bit of history, the United Church of Christ was formed in 1957 by uniting the [Evangelical and Reformed Church](#) and the [General Council of Congregational Christian Churches](#), with each of these being the result of a former union. It took many years of negotiations to get to this point. Back in 1948, our First Congregational Church of Littleton voted to ask the New Hampshire Conference to approve the union. We also voted to continue our relationship with the New UCC as it had with the previous entity, the Congregational Christian Church. And thus, our covenantal relationship with the United Church of Christ began.

Over the past year we have been working in retreats and in worship to clarify who we are, whose we are, and what is God calling us to become. Understanding our relational covenants with each other, our community, our New Hampshire UCC Conference, and the National UCC is another piece of that work.

The new Manual on Local Church, created by a working group appointed by the UCC General Synod in 2019 as a resource for the local church on how to 'do church' as part of the whole, is still in draft, but to be approved at the 2025 General Synod. It states, "The Local Churches of the United Church of Christ live in an interrelated set of covenants. Each Local Church is in covenant with God, the One who calls us together to faith and community and inspires our shared spiritual journey through worship, learning, service, and justice-making. Each Local Church makes covenants among its own members, as they seek to build a healthy and thriving community that demonstrates respect and love for each person. Each Local Church is in covenant with other expressions of the United Church of Christ, recognizing that effective ministry does not happen in isolation." Along with this manual is a 22-page document of resources. We are not alone.

The NHCUCC and the UCC provide many and varied resources as well, responsive to the needs of the local church, working to create and equip disciples for Christ. Some of these take the shape of grants, educational programs, Prepared to Serve, and the new Ministry 21, a collaboration with Vermont and NH that will help address the education of those seeking ordination as well as lay leaders to prepare them for leading worship and congregations. We have two members who will begin classes this fall!

The image of a tree came to me when I was reflecting on our relationships with New Hampshire and national UCC. From being rooted in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit who send nourishment to the whole tree up through the trunk and branches through the national, state, and local churches, then to each of us (the leaves) who then, not only do the work of creating sustenance for the world, but also give back to the tree itself. It illustrates how much we depend on each other for our spiritual health and growth and how much we are all connected, each having a role to play in building God's Kingdom here on earth.

We have the opportunity to take this summer to reflect on this and what it means to us as we live into our future as the First Congregational Church of Littleton, NH, UCC.

Peace and joy be with you all. Alice Muh, Moderator

# First Congregational Church

## July 2024



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
|   | <b>1</b><br><b>Pam - Vacation</b><br><b>Pastor On Call</b><br><br>7:00 PM – AA - FH                           | <b>2</b><br><b>Pam - Vacation</b><br><b>Pastor On Call</b><br><b>Happy Birthday!</b><br><b>Joyce Krill</b> | <b>3</b><br><b>Pam - Vacation</b><br><b>Pastor On Call</b><br><br>7:00 PM-AA-FH | <b>4</b><br><b>HOLIDAY</b><br><b>SLLC CLOSED</b><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><br>7:00 PM – AA – FH   | <b>5</b><br><b>SLLC CLOSED</b><br><b>Pastor On Call</b><br><br><b>Happy Birthday!</b><br><b>Mark Blodgett</b> | <b>6</b><br><br><b>Pastor Away</b><br><br>7:00 PM-AA-FH                            |
| <b>7</b><br>10:00 AM-Worship Service<br><br><i>Worship Leader</i><br><i>Mary Menzies</i>  | <b>8</b><br><b>Pastor Away</b><br><br>7:00 PM – AA - FH   | <b>9</b><br><b>Pastor Away</b><br><br>6:00 PM –<br>Eastern Star – FH                                       | <b>10</b><br><b>Pastor Away</b><br><br>7:00 PM-AA-FH                            | <b>11</b><br><b>Pastor Away</b><br><br>6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP<br><br>7:00 PM-AA-FH   | <b>12</b><br><b>Pastor Away</b><br><br><b>Happy Birthday!</b><br><b>Reg LaFlam</b>                            | <b>13</b><br><br><b>Pastor Away</b><br><br>7:00 PM-AA-FH                           |
| <b>14</b><br><b>BRUNCH CHURCH!</b><br>10:00 AM-Worship Service<br>in the LP<br><br><i>Worship Leader TBD</i>  | <b>15</b><br><b>Pastor Away</b><br><br>11:00 – Spinning<br>Grp. (June Davis) -<br>LP<br><br>7:00 PM – AA – FH | <b>16</b><br><b>Pastor Away</b>  | <b>17</b><br><b>Pastor Away</b><br><br>7:00 PM-AA-FH                            | <b>18</b><br><b>Pastor Away</b><br><br>6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP<br><br><b>Happy Birthday!</b><br><b>Martha-Jane Aldrich</b>  | <b>19</b><br><b>Pastor Away</b>   | <b>20</b><br><br><b>Happy Birthday!</b><br><b>Judy Oleary</b><br><br>7:00 PM-AA-FH |
| <b>21</b><br>10:00 AM-Worship Service<br><br><i>Worship Leader</i><br><i>Lars Nielson</i>   | <b>22</b><br><br>7:00 PM – AA - FH  | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b><br><br>7:00 PM-AA-FH  | <b>25</b><br><br>6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP<br><br>7 :00 PM-AA-FH  | <b>26</b><br><br><b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>  | <b>27</b><br><br>7:00 PM-AA-FH   |
| <b>28</b><br><b>Welcome First United Methodist Church and Community Church of Christ</b><br><br>10:00 AM-Worship Service<br><br><i>Worship Leader</i><br><i>Peter Ilgenfritz</i><br><br><b>FOOD PANTRY SPECIAL OFFERING</b> | <b>29</b><br><br>7:00 PM – AA - FH  | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b><br><br>7:00 PM-AA-FH  | <b>KEY:</b><br><br><b>FH - Fellowship Hall</b><br><b>LP - Ladies Parlor</b><br><b>CR - Classroom</b><br><br><b>Would you like your birthday and/or anniversary listed on the church calendar?</b><br><b>Please contact Pam in the office if you would like to be included! Thank you!</b> |   |  |

### Financial Report

| May 31, 2024                   | YTD               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Member support:                | \$65,522          |
| Scheduled w/d from trust funds | \$ 0              |
| Other Income:                  | \$ 4,992          |
| Total Income:                  | \$70,514          |
| Total Expenses:                | \$85,062          |
| <b>Net:</b>                    | <b>\$ -14,548</b> |

Curran Smith recently attended a Confirmation Retreat in Biddeford, ME



### Community Band concert in Lancaster in June



JoBeth Dudley, Kim and Curran Smith

### July Summer Worship at First Congregational!

We have a fun summer of worship planned to continue to deepen our faith and connections with each other!

**Sanctuary Worship:** On the first and third Sundays of July, July 7 and 21, we'll gather in the sanctuary for worship. Communion will be on July 7.

**Brunch Church:** On the second Sunday of July, July 14, we'll gather for "Brunch Church" in the Ladies Parlor for a simple worship service of fellowship and feasting.

**Worshipping Together:** On the fourth Sunday, July 28, members of First United Methodist and the Community Church of Christ in Franconia will join us for worship here. A team member from each of our three churches will be planning and leading worship on each of these Sundays based on scripture texts from the Revised Common Lectionary.

**Scripture Focus:** In July we are turning our scripture focus to the "Narrative Lectionary" which provides an opportunity to learn more about a particular book of the Bible. In July and August we'll read through one of the "Epistles", 1 John.

**Summer Music:** We are treated to Summer Musicians who will provide special music for worship. Thank you to Jo Beth Dudley, Kristjar Nielson and Bill Tobin who will provide music in July! On Sunday, July 28, join us at 9:45 to hear Bill play an extended harp prelude.

**Thank You!** We are grateful to Mary Menzies, Lars Nielson and Amy Greene who will provide worship coordination this summer. Thank you as well to Elaine Pollak and Dottie Morton who are coordinating summer musicians.

**Join the Fun!** And finally, we'd love for you to get involved in our summer worship!

- **Worship:** Let Peter, Mary, Lars or Amy know if you'd be willing to help out in leading part of a worship service or share a Why Church reflection on your faith and life journey.
- **Why Church?** We are continuing sharing stories our own faith and life journeys this summer. Do let Peter know if you'd be willing to share yours!
- **Church Openers:** We are compiling a list of simple tasks that are needed each Sunday to open the church and get ready for worship. It takes about 15 minutes to do and we'll be offering some simple instructions after worship in June for all who might take a Sunday or two to help out. Thank you!
- **Greeters:** Sign up at church or talk with Dottie Bailey to take a Sunday to welcome us to church and provide some simple refreshments after worship in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Summer Worship Schedule**

#### **July: A Summer Worship Series: 1 John**

July 7 - 1 John 1:1-2:2 (Our Joy Can Be Complete). We'll celebrate communion today and Jo Beth Dudley will provide our special music.

July 14 - 1 John 3:1-7 (See What Kind of Love). Join us for Brunch Church in the Ladies Parlor! Bring something delicious to share!

July 21 - 1 John 3:16-24 (Loving Each Other). Thanks to Kristjar Nielson who provides today's special music!

July 28 - First United Methodist and Community Church of Christ will join us here for worship! Come early at 9:40 to enjoy Bill Tobin's harp music before worship! Today is our special offering for The Little Food Pantry.

**And Coming Up:**

Sunday, August 18 - Summer Outdoor Worship at Remich Park at 10am! Bring something delicious to share for gathering!



On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 40 of us gathered for a wonderful picnic lunch on a gorgeous afternoon at the Community Church of Christ in Franconia to celebrate three churches worshipping on the fourth Sunday of the month together this summer. We made some wonderful new connections as we begin this adventure together.



# NATURE'S CALLING!

*In partnership with The Rocks*

**Are you feeling the call to return to Nature and  
CommUnity?**

*Then join to gather in diversity and like-heartedness!*

Bring **Your** own unique perspectives and life experiences; your kindness and acceptance in your hearts and your love of the natural world.

*Together, we will call in ...*

*Presence! Wonderment! Imagination! Fulfillment!*

*Joy! Inspiration! Diversity!*

*Togetherness and celebration!*

## Dates, times and location:

📅 Tue, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 4-5:15pm, Theme: Summer

📅 Wed, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 6-7:15pm, Theme: Abundance

📅 Sun, August 18<sup>th</sup> 4-5:15pm, Theme: Harvest

Meet in **The Rocks parking lot** a few minutes before the start time  
113 Glessner Road, Bethlehem, NH 03574

## What to expect:

The format of this 1 hour 15 min gathering:

1. Opening circle
2. Invitation to a 20-minute Experience in Nature (*easy!*)
3. Sharing and reflection circle (*optional*)
4. Closing and refreshments (*provided*)



Dress weather appropriate: Bring lawn chair, mug, water bottle, bug spray, etc. \* a journal (*optional*)

*Is Nature calling YOU?*



SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS  
**THE ROCKS**



Every Tuesday at 5 pm  
June 4th- August 27th

Littleton Community Center Parking Lot  
and All Saints' Church Parish Hall

Contact

[littletoncommunitycookouts@gmail.com](mailto:littletoncommunitycookouts@gmail.com)  
to sponsor a cookout!

First Congregational Church, UCC  
189 Main Street  
Littleton, NH 03561  
Return Service Requested

# ***STEEPLE MINUTE***

## ***JULY 2024***



### **Steeple Minute**

A brief newsletter of the  
First Congregational Church  
of Littleton

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[www.1stconglittleton.org](http://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: Tim Gould  
Property Management: Laurie Boswell

#### **Shining Lights Learning Center**

Board Chair: Suzanne Schott  
Director: Melissa Kam

