

# Steeple Minute

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

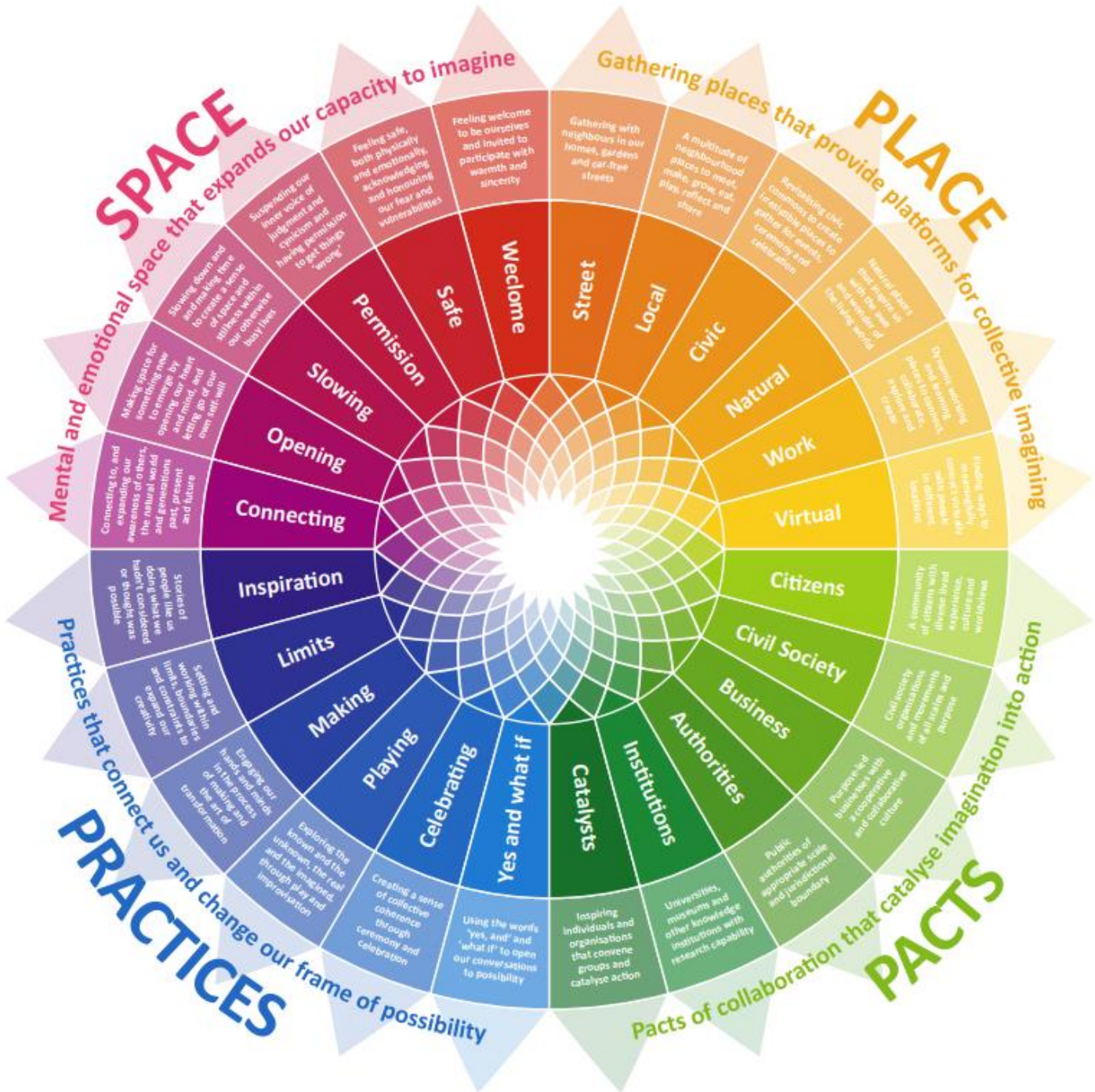
October 1, 2023

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Issue 9

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The Imagination Sundial

# First Congregational Church

## October 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Neighbors in Need</b> <b>Special Offering</b> 9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Minor Prophets 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Mary Menzies</i> <b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>Dottie Bailey</b>	<b>2</b> 3:00 PM – Deacon's - LP 7:00 PM – AA - FH	<b>3</b> <b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>Dudley Bailey</b>	<b>4</b> 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	<b>5</b> 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	<b>6</b> SLLC CLOSED Pastor's Sabbath	<b>7</b> 7:00 PM-AA-FH
<b>8</b> 9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Minor Prophets 10:00 AM- Worship Service <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i>	<b>9</b> OFFICE CLOSED SLLC CLOSED 5:30 PM – SLLC Board via Zoom 7:00 PM – AA - FH	<b>10</b> 6:00PM – Eastern Star – FH	<b>11</b> 1:00 PM – Finance-CR 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	<b>12</b> <b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>Ron Bolt</b> 11:30 AM – Property - Classroom 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	<b>13</b> Pastor's Sabbath 5:00 PM – SLLC Open House	<b>14</b> 8AM – Council Retreat-All Saints' 7:00 PM-AA-FH
<b>15</b> <b>Confirmation Sunday</b> 9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Minor Prophets 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i>	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM – AA - FH	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>Kathy Searles</b> 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	<b>19</b> 9:30 AM – Council – Classroom 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	<b>20</b> <b>Happy Anniversary!</b> <b>Kim &amp; Tom Smith</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>21</b> NHCUCC Annual meeting 7 :00 PM-AA-FH
<b>22</b> 9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Minor Prophets 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i>	<b>23</b> 7:00 PM – AA - FH	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>Geoff Krill</b> 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM – AA – FH	<b>26</b> 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	<b>27</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>28</b> <b>Pumpkin Patch Hangout - FH</b> 2pm-5:30pm 7:00 PM-AA-FH
<b>29</b> <b>FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY</b> 9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Minor Prophets 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i>	<b>30</b> <b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>Wendell Buffington</b> <b>Pastor Away</b> 7:00 PM – AA - FH	<b>31</b> <b>Pastor Away</b>		<b>KEY:</b> FH - Fellowship Hall LP - Ladies Parlor CR - Classroom		

Wireless Guest Account  
 SSID: FCC Guests  
 Password: fcc189main  
 Enjoy!

Welcome new members!

*David Boyle     JoBeth Dudley*

*Amy Greene     Mike Russell*

*Miriam Russell     Marion Schlosser*

**Financial Report**

August 31, 2023	YTD
Member support:	\$87,612
Scheduled w/d from trust funds	\$ 14,000
Other Income:	\$ 13,661
Total Income:	\$115,273
Total Expenses:	\$133,958
<b>Net:</b>	<b>-\$18,685</b>



Look who it is! Peter visited our friend, Ed, at his new home recently

Plans are underway for the  
**Pumpkin Patch Hangout!**

The afternoon of October 28<sup>th</sup> to complement the main street trick-or-treating and before the Gathering of the Jack O' Lanterns event in the evening. Warm food and kid friendly activities are being planned.

More information on how you can help will be sent via emails, bulletin & church announcements, word of mouth and smoke signals! Kim Smith will be chairing the event this year. (Thank you, Kim!) Donations of candy, food and help on the day of the event are needed.



A sign-up poster will be available at the back of the sanctuary soon

## From What Is to What If?: A Fall Worship Wondering

Our world needs imagination. Climate change and other crises facing us today have been called by some a “failure of the imagination.” What was working before wasn’t “bad”, it just isn’t life-giving or working in the way it used to before. A new way is being asked of us but we are not sure how to step into and find that new way. What’s needed? Imagination. The ability to see things as if they could be otherwise. The ability to wonder and be curious about what we are doing and why and play with different ways to live into our call and joy.

It’s both an exciting and challenging time to be living and to be church. One of the most exciting things for me is that it’s a time that asks all of us to step into the work of imagination. We all can name places in our wider world where new and yet undiscovered ways of living together and on our planet are needed. And we need that same imagination in our personal lives as well.

Sometimes we know we need to make changes, but aren’t sure how to step into them. We know that we are in some stuck places and we need to find a new way through, but don’t know how. Imagination is what opens the doors to what if and what is possible. Imagination asks, “I wonder how I might live with more joy today even amidst the challenges of life?” Imagination asks, “I wonder how I might get the support I need and yet keep the things in my life that I treasure and don’t want to lose?” So many questions we all live with in our own ways.

In October we will help each other make space for our imagining. We will introduce the “Imagination Sundial” based on the imagination work of Rob Hopkins in his book, [From What is to What If](#). Hopkins has identified four key components that help stir our imaginations:

**Space** - Mental and emotional space that expands our capacity to wonder.

**Place** - Gathering places that provide platforms for collective imagining.

**Practices** - Routines that connect us and change our frame of possibility.

**Pacts** - Collaborators and partners that catalyze imagination into action.

It’s striking how these four elements are embodied in our everyday life as church. We gather in a sacred place each week, both in person and in our connection on-line; we take time in that hour to make a special space together and opening ourselves to the Spirit’s presence with us; we engage in practices like singing, prayer, scripture, stewardship, communion among so many others that connect us and change us; we depend on our neighbors in the wider community to help us live out our call and ministry.

In the next four weeks, we’ll wonder on each of these particular ways that imagination takes root and grows. We’ll think about practices that can help each of us grow in our imaginations and as a community together.

For more information on The Imagination Sundial see:

<https://www.robhopkins.net/2020/06/30/introducing-the-imagination-sundial/>

Each Sunday we’ll focus on a text from the Minor Prophets. The prophets often speak in a strong “counter-voice” to the very things we are seeking. They speak forcefully against empty practices and shallow connections that neglect the real needs and dreams in our community. In speaking against the “false idols” they name, they seek to clear the way forward to all that is possible in God’s imagination. The prophets were never popular and for sure some of these texts are harsh and disorienting. But the point of their words is not to shut their hearers down but to open them up. As we ponder their words, may they stir us to open our imaginations so together we can dream of all that God is calling us to be as people and the church.



Artist: Alexis  
 Age: 15  
 Congregation: Trinity United Church of Christ, St. Louis MO

# Behold!

*"God saw everything God made  
 and behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31*

**Special Offering  
 October 1st**

**With your generous support, The United Church of Christ,  
 through the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering,  
 helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service.**

**Please donate today!**

**For more resources and to share and learn best practices for  
 environmental justice, visit**

**[ucc.org/nin](http://ucc.org/nin)**

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Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming,  
 and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

**[www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin). Thank You!**

## Food Collection Sundays are Back!

After a long hiatus, food collection Sundays will start again in October. Every 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month (October 22<sup>nd</sup> this month) please bring food items (or cash donation) to help stock the food pantry. Any surplus will go to other organizations in the area. A cart will be available at the back of the sanctuary on most Sundays in case you want to bring items or forget to bring them on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

Cans of protein (tuna, chicken, hash, spam, ham, etc.)  
 Cereal, canned (hearty) soups, stews and fruits, and juices are the most needed items at this time, but any food to fill the shelves will be appreciated.

**Thank you!**

### Community Happenings



## Church Happenings



Thank you to Cynthia Nielson and the many volunteers who helped with the September 19th **Dinner Bell** at All Saints' Church!

There were 73 meals served!

The meal consisted of roast pork tenderloins, ginger maple gravy, carrots, mashed potatoes, green peas, rolls, and an assortment of desserts.

Host dates in 2024: January 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 7th



Pam enjoyed meeting folks on a bus tour who visited the sanctuary on Monday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and a small group sang *Amazing Grace* for the others.

It was beautiful!

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

# ***STEEPLE MINUTE***

## ***OCTOBER 2023***



### **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: Tina Peabody  
Property Management: Laurie Boswell

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

Board Chair: Suzanne Schott  
Director: Melissa Kam

