

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**March 17, 2024**

*Wandering Heart – A Worship Series for the Season of Lent*

*I am Forgiven*

Gathering Music “Morning Has Broken” *Eleanor Farnjean*

**Morning has broken like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven,  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light, Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God’s recreation of the new day!**

Welcome and Announcements and Opening Prayer

\*Hymn #450 “O for a Closer Bond with God” *New Century Hymnal*

Gathering

**Holy God,  
We long to be lifelong learners.  
We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.  
Instead, we often live as if we know best.  
We forget that the disciples called you “Rabbi, Teacher.”  
Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.  
Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.  
Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning  
is done and that we have all the answers.**

**Like Peter – who was brave enough to ask, “How many times  
should we forgive?” – make us brave. Spark a desire in us to  
learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.  
With hope and humility, we pray, Amen.**

Song “Streets of London” *Ralph McTell*

Scripture Reading Matthew 18:15-22

Engaging the Word

**Who in your life needs forgiveness? Is there anything you need  
to forgive yourself for? What would be different if you forgave  
yourself?**

Prayer:

**God of grace, I am quite the work in progress. Why is it often  
easier to forgive someone else than it is to forgive myself? I can  
be quick to offer grace to my neighbor while doling out harsh  
words to myself. Allow me to grant myself the same grace and  
patience that I would grant my neighbor. May that unfurling  
grace be a reminder that we are called to love our neighbors as  
ourselves. With growing pains and constant hope I pray, Amen.**

\*Song “A Lenten Prayer” *Robert J. Powell*

Prayers of the People

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

Stewardship Moment

\*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 #456 "More Love to You O Christ"

Blessing

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

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

**Many Thanks to Suzan Derby for the special music today!**

*Thank you to Lars Nielson, Deacon today!*

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.*

### 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*

*First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Littleton, New Hampshire  
March 17, 2024*

*Wandering Heart – A Worship Series for the Season of Lent  
I am Forgiven*



<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.*

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

**Calendar:**

- Wednesday, March 20: Choir rehearsal – Fellowship Hall – 6:00pm
- Thursday, March 21: Council Meeting – Classroom – 9:30am
- Sunday, March 24: Adult Bible Study – Classroom – 9:00am

# CAKE WALK

March 24th after the service

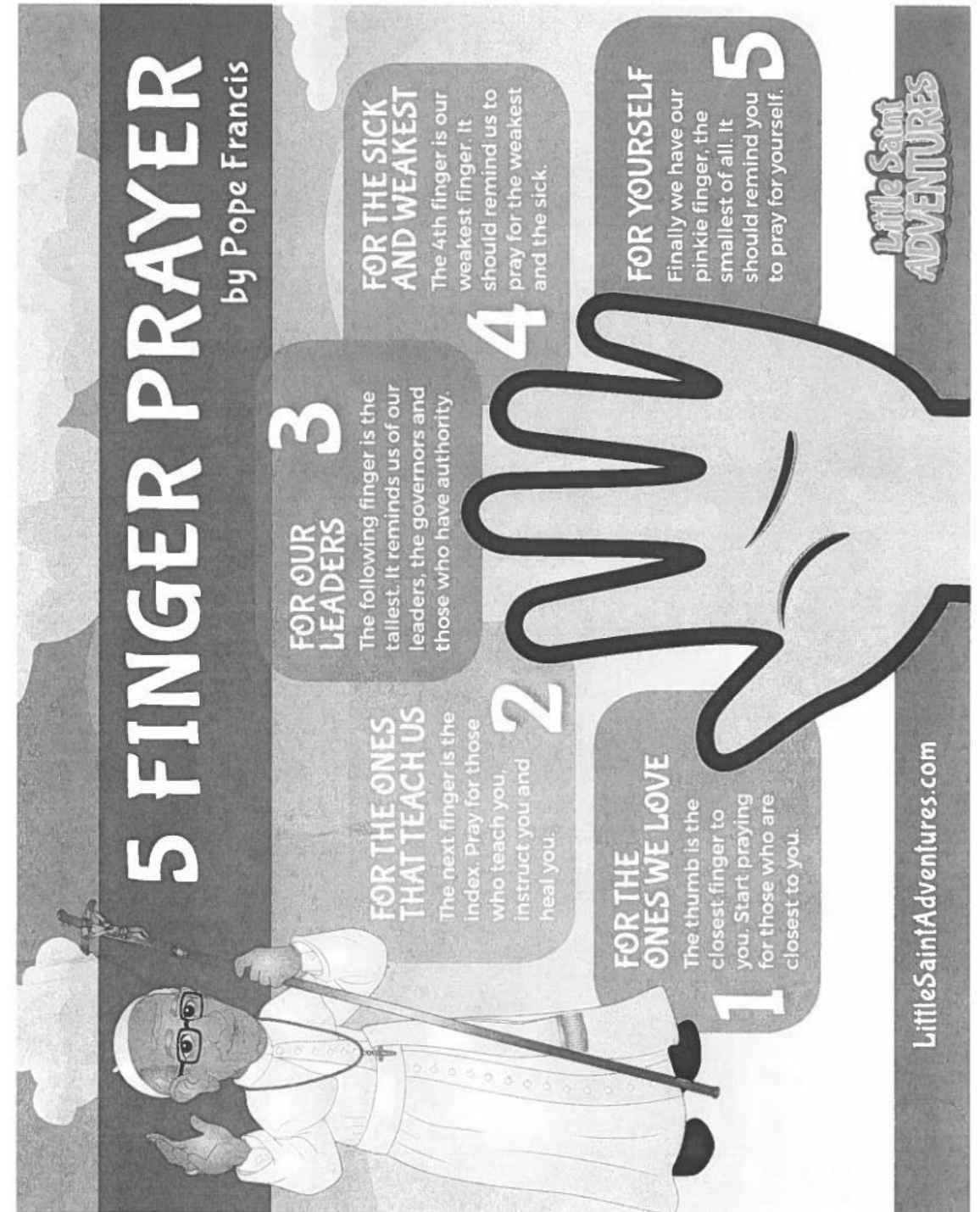
Please join us in the fellowship hall for the cake walk!

Plans are underway to hold the annual cake walk after the service on Palm Sunday. Yes! The space is challenging now that Sunday service is being held in the fellowship hall, but we will make it work! 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.

Benefitting Shining Lights Learning Center!



Thank you! \$60 was Raised for One Great Hour of Sharing!  
There is still time to donate!



## 5 FINGER PRAYER

by Pope Francis

- 1 FOR THE ONES WE LOVE**  
The thumb is the closest finger to you. Start praying for those who are closest to you.
- 2 FOR THE ONES THAT TEACH US**  
The next finger is the index. Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you.
- 3 FOR OUR LEADERS**  
The following finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority.
- 4 FOR THE SICK AND WEAKEST**  
The 4th finger is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for the weakest and the sick.
- 5 FOR YOURSELF**  
Finally we have our pinkie finger, the smallest of all. It should remind you to pray for yourself.

Little Saint ADVENTURES

LittleSaintAdventures.com