

# Steeple Minute

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

February 1, 2024

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Issue 2

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## A Worship Series for Lent: A Wandering Heart

This Season of Lent we'll be following the journey of faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples, Peter. Peter is so human and so like us. He's both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and betrayer, a follower and wanderer. By watching his journey with Jesus unfold, we'll see a very normal human being trying to figure out this wonder of walking in faith - just like we are.

I hope this Lent will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to find some more grace and understanding with ourselves and with each another. Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 14** (otherwise known as Valentine's Day this year!). Thanks to Mary Menzies for leading our worship service at 5:30pm in the Ladies Parlor. If you can't join us that evening, we'll also have an opportunity to receive ashes on the First Sunday of Lent, February 19.

Lent provides a particular season for us to grow in faith as people and congregation. We'll offer several special opportunities including a Lenten Devotional booklet (let me know if you'd like one and we'll set one aside for you or mail it to you) and a Bible Study on Sunday mornings.

**The Good Book Lenten Bible Study: Sundays February 11-March 17, 11:45-1:15 in person and on zoom.** Save the dates for a fun plunge into Bible study and exploring the variety of ways Christians read and understand scripture and the difference our reading makes in our lives, relationships and faith. Thanks to Su Schott, Linda Warden, June Davis, Elizabeth Edney and Tina Peabody for their leadership in bringing this study together! And yes, we'll provide some delicious snacks for our in-person crowd!

We hope that when we hear, "The Bible says..." we'll be able to converse with more knowledge and curiosity as we better understand how we interpret and use scripture as a guide in our own faith and lives:

February 11 - The Interpretation of Scripture

February 18 - The Bible and Race

February 25 - The Bible and Anti-Semitism

March 3 - The Bible and Women

March 10 - The Bible and Homosexuality

March 17 - The Bible and Gender

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81649723192?pwd=Ujl4QXN3WUVHYkFLZVhoVS9FSUVJQT09>

Blessings!  
Peter

# First Congregational Church

## February 2024



Sunday

Monday


Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				<p>1 1:30 pm – Diversity Task Group - Zoom 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 7:00 PM-AA-FH</p>
<p>4 <b>221<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING</b>  9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Minor Prophets  10:00 AM-Worship Service 11:00 AM – Business Meeting-FH  <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i></p>	<p>5  7:00 PM – AA - FH</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7  <b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>Lars Nielson</b> <b>Maxine Hadlock</b>  6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP  Pastor Sabbath  7:00 PM-AA-FH</p>	<p>8  <b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>Henny Bogardus</b>  1:00 PM – Finance mtng. – CR 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP  <b>Pastor Away</b>  7 :00 PM-AA-FH</p>	<p>9  <b>Pastor Away</b></p>	<p>10  <b>Pastor Away</b>  7:00 PM-AA-FH</p>
<p>11  9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Minor Prophets  10:00 AM-Worship Service  11:45 AM – Adult Bible Study – The Good Book – CR &amp; Zoom  <i>Mary Menzies</i>  <b>Pastor Away</b></p>	<p>12  5:30 PM – SLLC BOD - Zoom  <b>Pastor Away</b>  7:00 PM – AA – FH</p>	<p>13  <b>Pastor Away</b></p>	<p>14 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>  5:30 PM – Ash Wednesday Service - LP 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP  <b>Pastor Away</b>  7:00 PM-AA-FH</p>	<p>15  9:30 AM – Council – CR/Zoom  6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP  <b>Pastor Away</b>  7 :00 PM-AA-FH</p>	<p>16  <b>Pastor Away</b></p>	<p>17  9:00 am – Noon Council Retreat All Saints church  7:00 PM-AA-FH</p>
<p>18 <b>FIRST SUNDY IN LENT</b>  9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Minor Prophets  10:00 AM-Worship Service  11:45 AM – Adult Bible Study – The Good Book – CR &amp; Zoom  <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i></p>	<p>19  7:00 PM – AA - FH</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21  6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP  Pastor’s Sabbath  7:00 PM – AA – FH</p>	<p>22  6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP  7 :00 PM-AA-FH</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24  8am-4pm – Prepared to Serve Pembroke  7:00 PM-AA-FH</p>
<p>25 <b>SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</b>  9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Minor Prophets  10:00 AM-Worship Service  11:45 AM – Adult Bible Study – The Good Book – CR &amp; Zoom  <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i></p>	<p>26  7:00 PM – AA - FH</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28  6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP  Pastor’s Sabbath  7:00 PM – AA – FH</p>	<p>29  <b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>Emily LaFlam</b>  6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP  7 :00 PM-AA-FH</p>	<p><b>KEY:</b>  FH - Fellowship Hall LP - Ladies Parlor CR - Classroom</p>	
<p><b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>Asa Gould</b></p>				<p><b>Happy Anniversary!</b> <b>Karen &amp; Stuart Lord</b> <b>February 14<sup>th</sup>!</b></p>		

## Financial Report

December 31, 2023	YTD
Member support:	\$198,251
Scheduled w/d from trust funds	\$ 14,000
Other Income:	\$ 18,076
Total Income:	\$198,251
Total Expenses:	\$208,095
<b>Net:</b>	<b>\$ - 9,844</b>

Wireless Guest Account  
 SSID: FCC Guests  
 Password: fcc189main

**TO THE MEMBERS of the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**YOU ARE HEREBY CALLED TO ATTEND**

**THE 221<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

of the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.

**SUNDAY, February 4, 2024 AT 10:00 A.M.**

If you are unable to come in person, join by Zoom! The link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81162332671?pwd=NHJFbGhxYm0rU1VjWmUyMGdyR3VpUT09>



## The Caring Tree

Invites you to check out the books donated by Karen Carbonneau. The topics include cancer, spirituality, and scriptures. They are located in the classroom off the Ladies Parlor.

We also encourage you to contact us for those needing prayers, cards, visits, and help with errands. We are happy to help!

If your loved one needs cards for caring and encouragement please send us the address. Contact via email:

<mailto:laneylou41@gmail.com> or phone 802-274-4670

The Caring Tree Committee: Rachel Clark, Karen Lord, and Elaine Pollak

**Growing Lay Worship Leadership – Saturday, February 2, 10:00am** – Our Worship Leaders are meeting this Saturday with other lay worship leaders from the Community Church of Christ (UCC) in Franconia and First United Methodist Church in Littleton to talk about how we might support each other as lay worship leaders. Come join us to learn more about what we love about worship leadership, where we are challenged and how we can support each other!

**Pastoral Care:** I talked with David Sykes this week and he wanted you to know that he is so grateful for all the notes and cards he has received as he has been dealing with some debilitating back pain. He really appreciates your outreach and encouragement and looks forward the day he will be able to come back and play the shofar in church like he did last Easter!

I saw Ed O'Brien last Sunday and he too is so grateful for your cards. He's settling in well and getting the good support he needs. And I'm headed out now to visit Tina at the Morrison in Whitefield. She's so grateful as well for your cards and would welcome a visit with you too!

## Prepared to Serve 2024 February 24, 2024



Prepared to Serve is back, and we're ready to take your learning experience to new heights! This annual event, proudly organized by the New Hampshire Conference UCC, is dedicated to equipping our congregations with invaluable tools and resources to empower your local faith communities.

### What's New in 2024:

**Pathways for Deep Learning:** This year, we're introducing an exciting feature -

Pathways. These are extended courses that span 3 or 4 workshop blocks, delving deeper into specific topics. Each Pathway builds on the previous one, offering a comprehensive exploration of your chosen subject.

**Hybrid Participation:** We understand that not everyone can join us in person. That's why we're thrilled to offer a new hybrid experience. You can now attend "Prepared to Serve" from the comfort of your own space. The hybrid option includes captivating panel discussions during each workshop block, covering a diverse range of topics sure to pique your interest.

**Revised Pricing:** We have tried to make our pricing more affordable to families and youth. Because of this we have created a \$100 family cap for any family with 3 or more family members and given youth a 50% discounted rate of \$25.

### Event Highlights:

**Four Workshop Blocks:** Each lasting 75 minutes, giving you the flexibility to attend up to 4 workshops or 3 workshops if you prefer to take a break for lunch.

**Panel Discussions:** Engage with our dynamic panelists who will delve into thought-provoking topics.

You'll also have the chance to ask them questions, making these discussions interactive and insightful.

**Theme:** Building upon our 2023 Annual Meeting theme, "Turning the Tables," we're committed to providing your congregations with the tools to act on the Annual Meeting charge to turn tables and "Create new Tables." Prepared to Serve 2024 is your opportunity to expand your knowledge, connect with like-minded individuals, and take-home resources that will enrich your congregational experience.

Join us for a day of growth, transformation, and empowerment. Together, let's create new possibilities and explore new horizons.

### Location Information

Pembroke Academy

Address

209 Academy Rd, Pembroke, NH, 03275

**To find all the workshop offerings and to register go to:**

**<https://nhcucc.regfox.com/prepared-to-serve-2024>**

**Let Pastor Peter or Alice Muh know if you would like to carpool with us to the event!**



## A Prayer Walk Invitation

Our community is hurting. Up until recently, no matter how divided the rest of the world felt, we were the “Glad Town.” In a very short period of time, hateful words have alienated our neighbors, encouraged good people to resign from their jobs and threatened the livelihood of members of our community. Our neighbors are scared, hurt, and/or embarrassed.

How can our church help heal our community? In the past we have turned to the healing power of prayer. Today, we once again invite you to join us in a Prayer Walk – to pray for the community, out in the community. Invite others from church or from the community to walk or drive with you.

Our last Prayer Walk was for Covid in 2020. The message on the sign was changed to “Walking around town/praying for you./Will you pray for me, too?/Thanks.” We prayed for people in their homes, each dealing with unique struggles. Pastor David offered these suggestions for prayer, written for Covid in 2020, but somehow also fitting for the hate and division of 2024:

*God, we're going to be walking today, and as we do, we'll be praying for our neighbors. Bless us with your Spirit. Fill us with your love. Open us to hear the needs around us, and make us instruments of blessing; channels of your peace. We pray in the name of Jesus, our kind Savior and our Friend.*

*Amen.*

*God, we walked today, and we prayed for our neighbors, our town, our world. Let your kindness, forgiveness, healing and strength continue to flow through the channels of prayer we have opened as we walked today. We pray in the name of Jesus, our walking companion. Amen.*

Suggestions for where to pray:

- Places that say “Littleton” to you – Main Street or the Riverwalk, for example.
- Town Hall, the Opera House, Emma & Co, Jing Fong- places where hate was directed and/or pain was felt. Those places may inspire prayers of healing.
- Residential neighborhoods – in our very divided world, many choose to make their viewpoints known to all. Look for signs which suggest views that differ from your own. Pray that while we may not see eye to eye we can live with kindness, side by side.

If you can share about your experience on 2/4, please do!



**Church Ski Wednesdays:** We are gathering a great group from church to go skiing on Wednesdays at Bretton Woods and Cannon. We'd love to have you join us any Wednesday morning or early afternoon. Let me know if you'd like to meet up with our group and I'll add you to our text message string to coordinate where we'll be.

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

# ***STEEPLE MINUTE***

## ***FEBRUARY 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**

Minister, Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz  
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

