

Steeple Minute

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

July 2026

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Issue 7

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Moderator's Report

Here we are, stepping into summer, and it has been almost six months since we accepted the new diversity statement and the new bylaws and structure at our annual meeting. Thank you all for being a part of the process with your input at listening sessions and conversations. So, how are we doing? Obviously, these are both still works in progress. It will take time to live into these new visions of who we are and how we carry out our mission. At each council meeting we are looking at best practices and working on integrating them into the work of the church. When you look at how many people signed up to be a part of this, it is clear that we are a mission-driven church.

Alongside all this, the Personnel Team and Pastor Peter worked on a new call agreement that would call Peter to continue as our settled half-time pastor. They held meetings, asked questions and gave the congregation a chance to express what they see as the most important role of the pastor. Conversations and listening sessions again were held to hear concerns and suggestions. At a special congregational meeting on June 7, we called Pastor Peter to continue to serve this church as a half-time settled pastor by unanimous consent starting September 1, 2026. Copies of the call agreement are on the table under the portraits at the back of the church. This brings new opportunities for the congregation to come together and participate in worship, as well as in all the ways we show love to the community. We are so blessed to have Peter as pastor, teacher, and guide as we step into new territory.

Building use team has met again as new challenges have floated to the top of the list of things to be tended to. Our front steps are in miserable shape. As we look at options on how best to address this issue for the long term, we would suggest folks use the side entry ramp, lift, or Ladies Parlor entries to come into the sanctuary. We are currently researching options for revamping without throwing good money after bad. As this is probably going to be a costly venture, we are also looking at all possible funding sources: loans, grants, capital campaign, and possibly how to engage the Littleton community to save this historic icon and community resource. Our next meeting is July 21 at 9 am if you would like to be part of this venture or if you have some great ideas!!

The Digital Ministry Team is looking at how to better use our worship streaming and social media to share our message outside our walls and grow our online presence. We have contracted with Thaddeus Sieverding to help us pull together a plan through his 'Welcome Workflow Package' that helps churches streamline how they communicate with and welcome in their community. We will work with Thaddeus over the next three months when he will assess what we have and come up with a plan to move us forward that is specially tailored to our needs and capacity. Learn more about Thaddeus and his work with churches at his website: <https://www.faithmesh.io/services/consulting>

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First Congregational Church

July 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
KEY: FH - Fellowship Hall LP - Ladies Parlor CR - Classroom 			1 Pam - out Pastor On Call 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM-AA-FH	2 Happy Birthday! Joyce Krill Pam - out Pastor On Call 7:00 PM – AA – FH	3 HOLIDAY SLLC CLOSED Pastor Away	4 Pastor Away 7:00 PM-AA-FH
5 10:00 AM-Worship Service in the LP <i>Worship Leader</i> <i>Peter Ilgenfritz</i> Happy Birthday! Mark Blodgett	6 7:00 PM – AA - FH	7 Pastor Away	8 Pastor Away 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM-AA-FH	9 Pastor Away 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	10 Pastor Away	11 7:00 PM-AA-FH
12 10:00 AM-Worship Service in the LP <i>Worship Leader</i> <i>Peter Ilgenfritz</i> Happy Birthday! Reg LaFlam	13 11:00 AM – Aging discussion grp. - LP 7:00 PM – AA – FH	14 Pastor Away 6:00 PM – Eastern Star – FH	15 Pastor Away 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM-AA-FH	16 Pastor Away 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18 Happy Birthday! Martha-Jane Aldrich 5:00 pm - Boy Scout Fundraising Dinner - FH 7:00 PM-AA-LP
19 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Worship Leader</i> <i>Peter Ilgenfritz</i> FOOD PANTRY SPECIAL OFFERING	20 Happy Birthday! Judy Oleary 7:00 PM – AA – FH	21 9:00 AM -Building use meeting - CR	22 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM-AA-FH	23 Pastor Away 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	24 Pastor Away	25 Pastor Away 7:00 PM-AA-FH
26 Service Held at United Methodist Church 10:00 AM-Worship Service	27 11:00 AM – Aging discussion grp. - LP 7:00 PM – AA - FH	28	29 Pastor Away 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM-AA-FH	30 Pastor Away 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	31 Pastor Away To August 6th	

Peter's Time Away in July: July 1 -4, July 7-10, July 14-17, July 23-26 and July 29th until August 6th.

As always, let Elaine Pollak from the Caring Tree (802-633-3669) and me know of pastoral concerns, if you would like to have a visit or conversation, and other ways we can support you as your community of faith! When I am away, I am glad to be in touch about pastoral needs. The best way to reach me is to leave me a phone message or text me (206-484-9814) and I will get back to you when I am free or have cell phone service. *Peter*

Dottie Morton will be away on July 12th and July 19th. She will be back in worship on Sunday, August 2nd. We are grateful to Sue Greenwood who will be our musician on July 12th and July 19th!

Wireless Guest Account
SSID: FCC Guests
Password: fcc189main

Online giving:

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



As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe in celebrating the rich diversity of human experiences and creating a place where everyone feels valued, respected, and fully included. Accordingly, our community of faith wholeheartedly welcomes all people regardless of their race, gender, age, nationality, economic circumstances, physical or mental ability, or sexual orientation. The welcome and affirmation we extend reflects God's grace and love made known in Jesus Christ.

Financial Report

April 30, 2026	YTD
Member support:	\$50,273
Scheduled w/d from trust funds	\$ -
Other Income:	\$ 3,553
Total Income:	\$53,826
Total Expenses:	\$76,579
Net:	\$ - 22,753

Monday, July 13 and July 27 at 11am: Conversations on Aging - Come join us every other week for what's been a lively and fun conversation on the joys and challenges of aging!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study and Prayer: 8:30-9:15am — on Zoom: Join us each week for a chance to learn and talk together about an upcoming scripture in our Sunday morning worship service. Join Zoom Meeting: Bible Study Wednesday Mornings:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85447221746?pwd=DgeZr6nocjpmn0bb4arss3m8UHYwaM.1>

"A Vigil for the Soul of the Nation on the Eve of Our 250 Anniversary"

Please join our MultiFaith Community for a Prayer Vigil on Friday, July 3 from 4:30-5:30pm at the Littleton Community Center.

Continued from the cover

The Little Free Pantry (LFP) has served our community well over the last seven years- since Sept. 7, 2019. The LFP has been very successful with lots of people putting food in as well as taking food out. Along with our church members, the community has really embraced this resource and has supported it since its inception. However, now the shed, being plastic, is at the end of its life and needs to be replaced. Can you help?

Watching God at work through our little church with gratitude, Alice Muh

Spring Cleaning in the Pantry! Thank you to Dave Boyle, Su Schott, Linda Warden, Sue Greenwood, Elaine Pollak and Pam Nute for their continued dedication to the pantry.

**July Summer Worship Schedule 2026**

Sunday, July 5 - What is the intersection between faith and politics and how do we live as Christians in these fractious times? (Micah 6:8, Matthew 22:21, Romans 13:1-7)
Communion Sunday

Sunday, July 12 - How do you engage with scripture honestly and hear what is really there? (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Acts 8:26-40)
Dottie Away - Thank you Sue Greenwood for playing! Sue's niece, Angela Possinger will be providing the special music!

Sunday, July 19 - What is the role of doubt? (John 20:19-31, Matthew 27:45-50, Luke 23:46)
Dottie Away - Thank you Sue Greenwood for playing!
Special Offering for Little Free Pantry (One week early)

Celebrating the 20th year anniversary of Shining Lights Learning Center!

Please join us on **Sunday, September 13th** as we welcome the parents and children of SLLC to come and celebrate with us! There will be a special worship service (including “Blessing of the Backpacks” [or lunch box, blanket or stuffy!]) and following there will be a brunch and activities for the children in the Fellowship Hall. We opened this important mission in 2006. It has had many bumps in the road, but by the grace of God, the support of this church and the community, it continues to serve the children and families of the Littleton area where childcare is a much-needed resource.

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE SIGN-UP POSTER IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY!

Here is installment number five of the SLLC history that all began in 2006. 2018 is featured this month.

The need for more space was reported at the 2018 Annual Meeting. SLLC needs to grow its smaller toddler program (ages 1-3) to act as a feeder program for the larger capacity pre-school (ages 3-5). Expansion outward into the lawn area has been ruled out due to poor conditions of the subgrade. One idea was to put the pre-school upstairs in the nursery/CE room, freeing up space downstairs for the toddlers. The upstairs bathroom and back staircase would need to be expanded. At that time there was not enough information to make any decisions.

The Center was enrolled in the Quality Investment Initiative; National Association for the Education of Young Children. The entire staff received training and completed the program. The program increased the amount of child care opportunities available to families and has a system of supports in mentors and specialists available to the Center and families. SLLC was also provided \$1,500 in educational toys and supplies. The toddler program was full and had a waiting list but pre-school numbers remained down. A new computer software system (Brightwheel) for billing and communications with parents was in place in 2018, and is still to this day! A new energy saving programmable thermostat was installed to improve control of the heating system. Spring and fall fundraisers resulted in new toys/supplies for the playground and classrooms. State mandated repairs were accomplished: adding a gate, replacing a broken latch, and two painting projects.

Congratulations to the 2026 Graduates on June 5th!



To my church family:

I want to start by thanking you all for supporting my scout adventures in the past! With your help, my scouting journey has now brought me to the point where I am now, working on my Eagle Scout project!

I have always loved conservation and have wanted to do a project that involved local trails. Last summer I really enjoyed working on camp staff at Camp Carpenter where I did weekly conservation projects with young scouts. For my project, I am working with the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) to make improvements at the Gale Family Forest in Lyman. The project consists of three main parts.

Part 1 is to host a “Celebrate Conservation Day” at the Gale Family Forest in Lyman on July 25. Participants will be able to take part in breaking a new trail and we will also have food and games.

Part 2 is to make and hang signs for an interpretive trail along a preexisting trail at the Gale Family Forest. The signs will be based on the 7 Leave No Trace Principles: (1- Plan ahead, 2- Walk and camp on durable surfaces, 3- Trash your trash, 4- Leave what you find, 5-Minimize campfire impacts, 6-Be kind to wildlife, and 7- Be considerate of other visitors.)

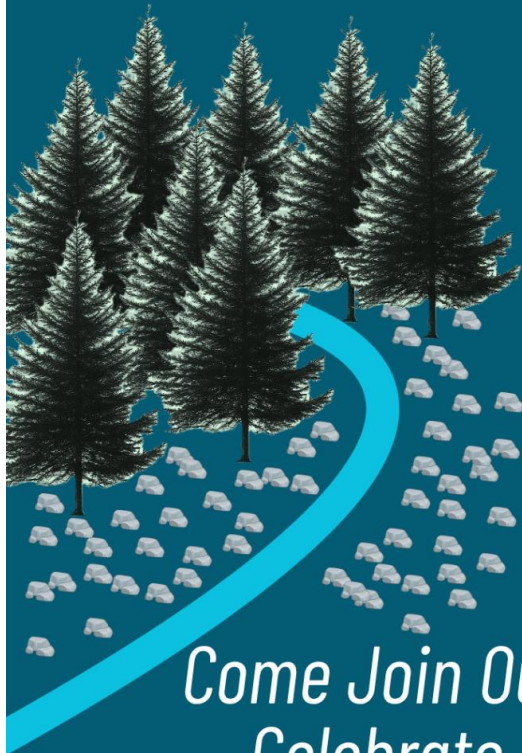
Part 3 is to raise money and purchase picnic tables for a really pretty overlook portion of the existing trail. I will be hosting two spaghetti dinners with a family favorite spaghetti sauce recipe. One will be at our church on July 18th at 5:00 with a silent auction and the other at the white church in Lisbon on August 1, also at 5:00. Both dinners will be by donation.

I hope you will consider attending my Celebrate Conservation Day and/or coming to one of my dinners! Also, please consider sharing this information with others!

I very much appreciate your support!

Curran Smith





Like The Outdoors?
You can help start a new
trail and celebrate
conservation with food and
games!

*Come Join Our
Celebrate
Conservation Day*

- Saturday, July 25, 2026
from 9:30-3:00
- Gale Family Forest,
Gannon Rd Lyman, NH
- Bring Gloves and Loppers
if you Have them



And...
Come Join our
Spaghetti Dinners



July 18th at First
Congregational Church in
Littleton
August 1st at The Lisbon-Landaff
Federated Church

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

STEEPLE MINUTE

JULY 2026



Steeple Minute

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

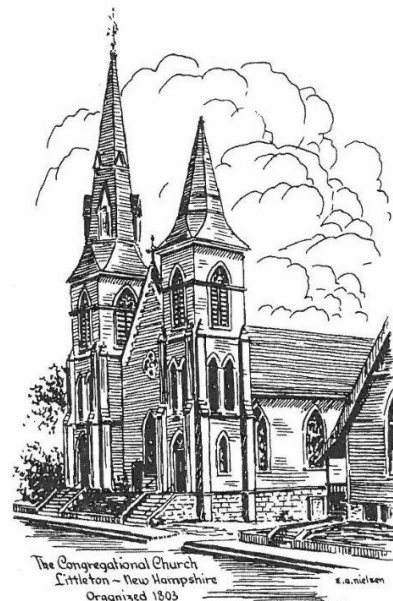
Moderator: Alice Muh
Secretary: Jo Beth Dudley
Treasurer: Joyce Krill
Council: Tim Gould, Elaine Pollak, Kim Smith
Mary Menzies

Team Leads

Administration: Laurie Boswell/TimGould
Caring: Elaine Pollak
Christian Formation: Kim Smith
Worship: Mary Menzies

Shining Lights Learning Center

Board Chair: Suzanne Schott
Director: Vanessa Neuroth



The Congregational Church
Littleton - New Hampshire
Organized 1805