Steeple Minute

First Congregational Church of Littleton
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November 1, 2026 Issue 11

Dear Members and Friends,

Grace and peace to you in this season.

As we look back over this past year, we have so much to be thankful for. Through your prayers, presence, and generosity, our community has continued to be a place of refuge, worship, and service. From our weekly worship gatherings to our many outreach programs, God has been at work through the hands and feet of this congregation.

Because we operate independently through the faithful support of our members, your annual commitment is vital to sustaining our ministries. A pledge is more than a budget line item – it is an active spiritual practice of gratitude, trust and partnership in the work God has called us to do together.

As we prepare our budget for next year, we are asking members and friends to make a financial pledge. Your commitment allows us to plan responsibly, support our staff, and keep our doors and outreach programs open to the community.

You will find a pledge card for the upcoming year on page 5. We invite you to pray over your financial support and consider how you might commit – whether a proportional gift, a step-up from last year, or a first-time pledge.

Please return your completed pledge card during our Consecration Sunday, November 15th, or mail it back to the church office by November 29th.

Thank you for your continued love, prayers, and generosity.

In Christ's service,

Phil Krill
Stewardship Chair

First Congregational Church



November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **All Saints Day** 10:00 AM- Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship *Karen Lord*	**2** 7:00 PM – AA - FH	**3**	**4** 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	**5** 6:00 PM-AlAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	**6** **Pastor In**	**7** **Pastor In** 7:00 PM-AA-FH
8 10:00 AM- Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship *Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz*	**9** 11:00 AM – Conversation on Spiritual Comfort for those Living with Dementia & Brown Bag lunch 12:15PM- LP 7:00 PM – AA - FH	**10** 6:00 PM – SLLC Board via Zoom 6:00PM – Eastern Star – FH	**11** OFFICE CLOSED SLLC CLOSED 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	**12** 6:00 PM-AlAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	**13** **Pastor In**	**14** **Pastor In** 7:00 PM-AA-FH
15 Consecration Sunday 10:00 AM-Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship Noon – CPR Class – LP *Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz* 6:00 pm – Marching Band Rehearsal – FH	**16** 6:00 PM – CPR Class - LP 7:00 PM – AA - FH	**17**	**18** 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	**19** Noon – Council – FH & Zoom 6:00 PM-AlAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	**20**	**21** 7:00 PM-AA-FH
22 *Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service* **FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY** 10:00 AM-Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship *Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz* 6:00 PM – Holiday Fundraising Dinner- FH	**23** **Pastor In** 11:00 AM – Aging discussion grp. - LP 7:00 PM – AA - FH	**24** **Pastor In** 5:00 PM - "All Call" Dinner Bell – All Saints	**25** OFFICE CLOSED SLLC CLOSED No Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM – AA – FH	**26** **HAPPY THANKSGIVING** OFFICE CLOSED SLLC CLOSED  7 :00 PM-AA-FH	**27** SLLC CLOSED	**28** 7:00 PM-AA-FH
29 First Sunday of Advent 10:00 AM-Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship *Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz*	**30** **Pastor In** 7:00 PM – AA - FH		**KEY:** FH - Fellowship Hall LP - Ladies Parlor CR - Classroom		**Happy Birthday!** Doug Menzies 1st Jeff Nute 4th Tom Smith 11th Tina Peabody 16th	

Financial Report

September 30, 2026	6YTD
Member support:	$117,895
Scheduled w/d from trust funds	$ 28,000
Other Income:	$ 8,408
Total Income:	$154,303
Total Expenses:	$154,939
Net:	**$ -636**

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



Neighbors in Need

… It's not too late to donate!

$935 was raised last month.
THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Caring Tree!

As always, let Elaine Pollak from the Caring Tree (802-633-3669) and Peter know of pastoral and prayer concerns, if you would like to have a visit or conversation, and other ways we can support you as your community of faith!

From the Moderator

Sunday, November 1, is All Saints Day. This church celebration goes back to the 8th century was created as a day to honor all the saints and martyrs of the Christian Church. In 837 AD Pope Gregory IV ordered the observance of All Saints' Day to be on November 1 across the entire Church . We continue this tradition today in our protestant churches on the first Sunday of November, focusing on the Communion of Saints in services that highlight the unity of the entire global and historical church. We give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age.

This struck me as having particular meaning in this season as we celebrate the history of our church through our stained-glass windows. It is important to understand our church's history and those who impacted it. While we are looking back and honoring our past, we are also moving forward with our new church structure and new challenges that will lead us into the future. We continue to be a work in progress finding our way as the body of Christ in this new stage and age.

The Alban Weekly newsletter, on October 25, 2026, published a series on the church as a "A Work in Progress" quoting Philippians 1:6, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Doug Van Meter says of this "The local church is spiritually a work in progress. Much work has been done (over the lifetime of a church) yet much work remains. The Christian, individually, is a work of God—a work in progress—as are Christians corporately in the local church. It is a product of God and it perseveres by God." This is good for us to remember as look at next steps for our church. The Church Council met in September for a retreat to continue to grapple with what is next. We face real-time issues (crumbling front steps, cost of oil, covering costs) that need to be dealt with as well as coming up with a vision for our future.

It is also important to remember that we are in covenant with the United Church of Christ as well as the New Hampshire Conference of the UCC and the Granite State Association. Phil Krill, Rev. Peter, and I went to the conference annual meeting on October 24 and celebrated the conference 225th anniversary and what it means to be the part that history. Our UCC General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, gave the keynote address reminding us that we are not alone and we still have work to do. She emphasized how we can be a welcoming presence in a state that is listed as #2 in the nation for unchurched individuals. Many of the things she spoke of you will hear about later as they were included in the assessment and report from Thaddeus Sieverding, who the council commissioned to improve how we welcome people into our church digitally and physically, and how we help these people find a loving community in Christ in our church.

Yes, the First Congregational Church of Littleton, FCC is a work in progress – from its past, to the present, and into the future. We are here by the grace of God and continue with the grace of God and by our best efforts to make us the church God intends.

For this All Saints Day, I am reminded of the hymn " I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" by Lesbia Scott published in 1929. Here is the last verse:

"They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, on the street, in the store,
in church, by the sea, in the house next door,
they are saints of God whether rich or poor,
and I mean to be one too."

Alice Muh, Moderator

A Fall Worship Series – Forward Through the Ages

There is yet more light and truth to break forth from God's Holy Word. (John Robinson, pastor of the Pilgrims)

This fall we look back at the rich history of the church through the lens of the Memorial Windows in the sanctuary. We look to the past as a way to remember and highlight values and commitments that can strengthen us to move forward with faith, hope and love into the future unfolding before us.

November 1: The Resurrection Window
We'll celebrate communion today and All Saints Sunday as we light candles and remember loved ones who have died.
Speaker: Karen Lord
Window: Resurrection Window (Luke 24:1-11)

November 8: Madonna and Child
Speaker: Lars Nielson
Window: Madonna and Child (Luke 2:1-7)

November 15: The Healing Window Consecration Sunday *(see commitment card below)*
Speaker: Eric Trafford
Window: The Healing Window (Mark 10:46-52)

November 22 – Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service here at First Congregational.
Special Offering for the Little Free Pantry.

An Advent Worship Series: The Thrill of Hope

November 29: First Sunday of Advent
Mark 13:24-37

We light the candle of hope and celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. Pick up a copy of our daily Advent booklet!

Commitment Card // For Church Records

Name (s) _____

Address_____

I plan to give $ _____ each ☐ week ☐ month ☐ year
For an annual total of $ _____

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the church Treasurer.

With others in my congregation, I commit myself to give in proportion to what I have for the ministries of the church and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Other Events coming up:

Conversations on Aging: Mondays, November 9 and 23 at 11am in the Ladies Parlor
Join us for a lively and fun conversation on the joys and challenges of aging.

Spiritual Comfort for Those Living with Dementia - Our Conversations on Aging group will welcome guest, Rev. Donna Marie Vuilleumier on **Monday, November 9** at 11 am. You are also invited to continue the conversation with Donna at a brown bag lunch 12:15-1:30 where we'll welcome other community members to join us.

Donna Vuilleumier is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School and has been the pastor of Smith Memorial Church, UCC in Hillsborough since 2019. Prior to this call, she served as a full time hospice chaplain and part time church pastor in eastern MA. Throughout her years of ministry, Donna has led support groups as well as workshops:

-The Comfort and Peace of Spirituality for Those Living in the World of Dementia
-Caregivers Giving and Receiving Care
-Spiritual Needs Nearing the End-of-Life
-Caring as a Congregation
-In the Beginning: A Conversation for Those Newly Diagnosed
-In Sickness and in Health: A Conversation for Spouses
(Details are available on her website: https://www.alwayswithyou.org/workshops)

These workshops became the Covid-era project, *Always With You: Spiritual Comfort for Those Living in the World of Dementia* (Pilgrim Press, Jan 2026). While writing this book, she became aware of the increase of youth care partners helping to care for relatives. This was the catalyst for a middle grade novel, *Pippa Keeps Her Keys in the Sock Drawer*, which is now seeking a publisher. Donna recently enjoyed a sabbatical research project for her next project, *Equipped for Every Good Work*, a book geared to congregations and community partners to support those with dementia and their caregivers. She was able to visit and participate in various programs in CA, TN, and MA, with the goal of sharing information on these programs and how they can be reimagined and recreated in other locations.

Donna's passion for this ministry grew out of a single afternoon encounter in 2004 with Sarah, a Holocaust survivor living at the farthest end of the disease process who became her first teacher as a Dollar Store plastic menorah on Sarah's lap carried her back to a priceless time in her past and opened Donna's eyes to the spirituality that never lets go.

Nature's Calling at Ski Hearth Farm

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

To gather in diversity and like-heartedness!

A monthly gathering to nurture a community to explore and deepen our connections with each other and the more-than-human world.

Bring …

…. Your own unique perspectives and life experiences.
…. Kindness and acceptance in your hearts.
…. Your love of the natural world.
…. Journal/pen.
…. Mug for coffee or tea / water bottle .
…. Whatever you need to be comfortable in the elements (all seasons / all weather).

…. We are always grateful to receive a reading or song you'd like to share with us!

Together, we will call in …

… wonderment, play, and curiosity.
… spaciousness, enchantment, aliveness, and presence.
… vitality, inspiration, diversity, and togetherness.
… imagination, fulfillment, joy, and celebration!

Where: Ski Hearth Farm
392 Streeter Pond Rd. Sugar Hill, NH 03586

Saturday, November 7 – 10-11:30 AM

Between All Saints' Day and Thanksgiving we'll give thanks for the gifts of November.

Monday, December 21 – 4-5:30 PM

We'll celebrate the Gifts of the Dark and Winter Solstice!





Thank you to everyone who made the **Pumpkin Patch Hangout event on October 31st** such a success!!

Thank you for the donations of candy & money to cover food supplies!











Shining Lights Learning Center

Annual Halloween Parade at RiverGlen!

Thank you Su Schott and Kim Smith for joining in the fun!









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NOVEMBER 2026

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A brief newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Littleton

www.1stconglittleton.org

Church Staff

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Office Manager: Pam Nute
Organist & Choir Director: Dottie Morton
Sexton: Reg LaFlam

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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

