

Steeple Minute

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

June 2026

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Issue 6

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Find us on Facebook @FirstCongregationalChurchOfLittletonNH

Living Questions

I have been loving Spring this year and watching the surprise of new wildflowers blooming each day. We are living in a season and time in our history together of deep change among us and within us. It's a good season like always to stay open and awake to what is happening without a need to run to fix or make it different. A good time to pause and discern what is ours to respond to and how to do that.

A good season in other words, for wonder and curiosity. In May we had a coffee hour conversation on possibilities for our summer worship. What came up were great questions to ponder together this summer in worship. I'd love to hear what questions you'd add to our list. Is there a question here that you'd like to help us craft a conversation around?

What makes church music meaningful?

Is what I have done all I have to do to get into heaven?

What is the role of doubt?

How do faith and words exist together?

What is the intersection between faith and politics and how do we live as Christians in these fractious times?

What did I do wrong to deserve this?

What is the Holy Spirit?

What is contentment?

What is the relationship of Christianity to Judaism?

Does God condemn people who don't believe the same way we do?

Does God exist? How do we know?

Why are we reserved about our faith?

Why aren't we signing the old songs?

What does it mean to have a contagious, attractive faith?

What are the stories that are told in our stained glass windows?

What do we do with all the knowledge we've accumulated?

What is your experience with death and dying?

How do you engage with scripture honestly and hear what is there?

What is food insecurity and how does it affect us?

As I've reflected on these questions, I thought of Rainer Maria Rilke's reflection on living the questions:

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers which could not be given to you now because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer. (Rainer Maria Rilke)

This month may you keep your heart and imagination open to what is being revealed around us. May you know that you are carried in hope, love, beauty, prayer, and a song of God's presence with you that can never and will never let you go.

Peter

First Congregational Church

June 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11:00 AM – Aging discussion grp. - LP 7:00 PM – AA - FH	2 Happy Birthday! Emma Greene 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM-AA-FH	3 Happy Birthday! Bob Muh 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM-AA-FH	4 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	5 3:00 PM – Preschool Graduation – FH Pastor's Sabbath	6 7:00 PM-AA-FH
7 10:00 AM-Worship Service 11:15 AM Special Congregational Meeting <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i>	8 7:00 PM – AA - FH	9 6:00 PM – SLLC BOD - Zoom 6:00PM – Eastern Star – FH	10 Happy Anniversary! Kathy & Richard Searles 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 1:30 - Finance Mtng. - CR 7:00 PM – AA – FH	11 Happy Birthday! Bonnie Boswell 9:30 AM – Council – Zoom & CR 11:30 AM – LFP Grant Mtng. – CR 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	12 Happy Anniversary! Linda & Bob Warden Pastor Away	13 Pastor Away 7:00 PM-AA-FH
14 Pastor Away 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Worship Leader: TBD</i>	15 11:00 AM – Aging discussion grp. - LP 7:00 PM – AA – FH	16 Happy Birthday! Rachel Clark	17 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM – AA – FH	18 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	19 Pastor Away	20 Pastor Away 7:00 PM-AA-FH
21 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Kathy Searles</i> Pastor Away	22 Happy Anniversary! Alice & Bob Muh Pastor Away 7:00 PM – AA - FH	23 Pastor Away	24 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer – Zoom 7:00 PM – AA – FH	25 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH	26 Happy Anniversary! Christine & David Sundman Pastor Away	27 Pastor Away 7:00 PM-AA-FH
28 Ecumenical Worship Service Here 10:00 AM FOOD PANTRY OFFERING	29 11:00 AM – Aging discussion grp. - LP 7:00 PM – AA - FH	30 Happy Birthday! Dottie Morton Pam Vacation		KEY: FH - Fellowship Hall LP - Ladies Parlor CR - Classroom		



Through the **Strengthen the Church Offering** you supported the formation of new congregations and the renewal of existing ones, fund new programs for youth and young adults and sponsor leadership development for the whole church. Thank you for your gifts!

Thank You! \$902 was raised!

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

Wireless Guest Account
SSID: FCC Guests
Password: fcc189main

Monday, June 1, 15 & 29 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 in the Ladies Parlor.

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=DgeZr6nocjmpln0bb4arss3m8UHYwaM.1>

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!

June Summer Worship Schedule 2026

Sunday, June 7 - The Other Side of the Mountain - special congregational meeting following worship. Mark 4:35-41, Mark 5:18-20

Communion Sunday

Sunday, June 14 - Living Questions

Worship Leader to be determined. Would you be willing to help lead worship today?

Peter Away

Special Music! David Saiken



Sunday, June 21 - "What Makes Church Music Meaningful?" Psalm 100

Peter Away

So grateful to Kathy Searles preaching today!

Special Music! Bill Tobin



Sunday, June 28 - Ecumenical Worship Service Here!

Special Offering for Little Free Pantry

Mary Menzies worship coordinator



Thank you Choir! Celebrating you on 5/24



A beautiful concert was held here on Mother's Day featuring Peter and Kathy Searles!

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting By the Church Council

- Sunday June 7, 2026, 11:15am right after worship in the sanctuary
- For the purpose of voting on a new call agreement for Pastor Peter for half time ministry starting Sept. 1, 2026
- Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87072220063?pwd=YQyo47bagQN4TkSpJkKdnZUrqirkSf.1>

Thank You Dinner Bell Participants!

May is the end of the 2025/2026 season. New dates will be available in the fall for the upcoming season.

Thank you to Cynthia Nielson for heading this mission and to everyone who donates, cooks and helps on the day.

Cynthia is seeking a partner for the 2026-2027 year to help with planning and executing. Please contact her if you are interested in helping her 3 times a year.

Also, a suggestion box is located at the back of the sanctuary for suggestions for upcoming meals.





Happy Memorial Day from Shining Lights!

The children enjoyed a trip to Remich
Park recently!



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

Here is installment number four of the SLLC history that all began in 2006. As promised, the final two years of stabilization (2014 & 2015) and into 2016 & 2017, yet more years of change, is featured this month.

2014 was a year of growth and introspection brought on by the Director's health challenges. The staff did an excellent job in her absence. Fundraisers continued to be an element of revenue, either by staff or parents. A fence on the side lawn and insulation of duct work and/or walls had been advised.

In 2015 payroll increased due to the student-teacher ratio for toddlers, as required by law. The staff had developed professionally and earned deserved reimbursement. The ducts of the heating system were insulated in the cellar, and the cellar area treated with foam insulation and rock layer for drainage. Volunteers provided child care at SLLC so that the adults could enjoy "date nights".

2016 was a year of change with shifting of positions providing better care and education while allowing more staff flexibility. Pam provided more record and bookkeeping. A pre-school model, Creative Curriculum, was implemented to guide the educational component making it more consistent and sequential. The Center adopted a Sunday school program, Shine, at the pre-school level that had been praised by the parents and enjoyed by the children. There was more outreach into the community with students making visits to Riverglens residents and the Senior Center. The children planted and ate from their new raised-bed garden. Digital communication was becoming the norm with parents. The Center adjusted rates and tightened belts with the above mentioned expenditures and remained solvent and running in the black.

Expenses continued to climb in 2017 with the advent of some part-time personnel and continued education of staff. The Toddler Room was full but the pre-school numbers were down due to a smaller amount of children in the North County in that age bracket that year. The disparity between revenue and expenses was a concern and the board brainstormed and discussed options. The only way to effect change was to increase the size/capacity of the school. The Center also experienced fluctuation in the form of new state regulations and this put the child care provided in NH under much stress. These included directions on more outside play time, more safety drills, less screen time, and additional training for staff. The Director coped well with these changes and how they affected how we did business. Gutters were installed above the playground area to deal with frequent flooding. Drainage pipes were repaired, replaced and donated by volunteer, Jeff Nute, so that the yard drained properly and a layer of mulch was added. A formal agreement was agreed for trash and garbage removal, and repairs were made to the gate.

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 13th**. 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. A third planning meeting has already taken place for this joyous event and we hope you will help celebrate with us. Karen Lord and Pam will be heading up the kitchen so look for upcoming ways you can help like donating syrup, making pancakes or cleaning up!

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

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.

STEEPLE MINUTE

JUNE 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

