

Steeple Minute

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

August 1, 2026

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Issue 8

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Living in the Light

I just returned from a fabulous fun three day adventure in the Presidential Range. My friend Kate had never been up Mount Washington before and I told her if you live in New England you have no excuse not to make your way to the top of our tallest peak and the worst weather in the world. Instead of taking the train or driving to the top, Kate opted for walking up. Last Thursday we set out from the Highland Center (after most delicious lunch!) to hike the three miles to Mizpah hut. It had been a while since I'd been up the rocky, rooted Crawford Path and Mizpah Cut-Off and I was surprised by how it had gotten much harder than I remembered. After replenishing over a delicious supper and conversation with Appalachian Trail thru-hikers, we started out Friday morning again on the Crawford Path, the oldest continually used hiking trail in the country and a gorgeous Presidential Traverse ridge walk over Pierce, Eisenhower, Franklin (not a President) and around Monroe to the Lakes of the Clouds hut and the headwaters of the Ammonoosuc River.

I have been in the Presidentials in all kinds of weather and most of the time wet, windy, cold and foggy. In fact I've often forgotten that there is any kind of view up here other than the endless procession of craggy rock. This weekend however shone bright and beautiful - the best weekend of the year the hut crew proclaimed! We climbed the mile and a half rock pile path up Mount Washington from Lakes in sparkling blue skies, 70 mile views, 55 degrees, and a whisper of a two mile-per-hour wind! Needless to say there were lots of happy people hiking, running and taking in the beauty of the day.

I hope this season you have found your own way to put yourself out in the light of the gift of these summer days that I for one refuse to admit are sailing by far too fast. Which brings me to the actual point of this piece which is to talk about the gift of light, and the light we receive each Sunday in our church sanctuary. In the early 20th century, in the height of a boom time in the North Country, the congregants of First Congregational decided to replace their plain glass windows with something sparkling, beautiful and bright that would add a distinct quality of light and depth of beauty to a sanctuary that we continue to bask in today. Thanks to the investment of more recent generations, the windows have been cleaned and restored and shine with something akin to that original light of the windows.

Continued on page 4

First Congregational Church

August 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:00 PM-AA-FH
2 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Mary Menzies</i>	3 Pastor Away 7:00 PM – AA - FH	4 Pastor Away Pam - Out	5 Pastor Away 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM-AA-FH	6 Pastor Away 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	7 Pastor's Sabbath	8 7:00 PM-AA-FH
9 10:00 AM-Worship Service Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz	10 10:00 AM – Fall Worship Planning Mtng. – LP 11:00 AM – Aging discussion grp. - LP 7:00 PM – AA - FH	11 6:00 PM – Eastern Star – FH	12 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM-AA-FH	13 10:00 AM - Sanctuary & Building Use Vision Team - CR 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	14 Pastor's Sabbath Happy Birthday! Kristjar Nielson	15 10:00 AM – Nature's Calling – Ski Hearth Farm, Franconia 7:00 PM-AA-FH
16 10:00 AM-Worship Service Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz Happy Anniversary! Cynthia & Lars Nielson	17 Shining Lights 7:00 PM – AA - FH	18 School Closure	19 Week & Staff Development 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM-AA-FH	20 Noon – Council – FH & Zoom 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH	21 Pastor's Sabbath Happy Birthday! Phil Krill	22 7:00 PM-AA-FH
23 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Kathy Searles</i> Pastor Away FOOD PANTRY SPECIAL OFFERING	24 11:00 AM – Aging discussion grp. - LP 7:00 PM – AA - FH	25 Pastor Away	26 Happy Birthday! Brayden Smith Pastor Away 8:30 AM – Bible Study & Prayer - Zoom 7:00 PM-AA-FH	27 Pastor Away 7:00 PM-AA-FH	28 Pastor Away	29 Pastor Away 7:00 PM-AA-FH
30 10:30 AM Worship at Franconia Community Church of Christ Pastor Away to September 2nd	31 7:00 PM – AA - FH		KEY: FH - Fellowship Hall LP - Ladies Parlor CR - Classroom			

Financial Report

June 30, 2026	YTD
Member support:	\$ 79,249
Scheduled w/d from trust funds	\$ 16,000
Other Income:	\$ 5,246
Total Income:	\$ 100,495
Total Expenses:	\$109,354
Net:	\$ -8,859

Wireless Guest Account
SSID: FCC Guests
Password: fcc189main

Sunday Transportation: Would you be willing to take someone from Riverglen to church? If you would be willing to help drive some new folks from Riverglen to church on Sunday, they would be most appreciative! Thanks to Rachel, we are able to have Lucy, Betty, Joyce and Ruth join us for worship. And the news has spread that we are a good place to come for worship! Thanks for letting Elaine or Peter know if you could help with providing a ride for a couple of others who would like to come!

Summer Worship Series: Living Questions

Each Sunday we'll consider a question that has come from the congregation!

Sunday, August 2 - What is the relationship of Christianity to Judaism? (Does God condemn people who don't believe the same way we do?) (Psalm 46, Isaiah 1:10-20) Thanks to Mary for leading worship and preaching today! (Communion Sunday)

Sunday, August 9 - Have I Done All I Need to Do to Get into Heaven? (Psalm 23, John 14: 1-7). Thanks to Jo Beth Dudley and Kim Smith for the special music today!

Sunday, August 16 - What did I do wrong to deserve this?...What did I do right to deserve this? (Job 1:20-22, 2:3-13, 19:21-22, 38: 1-12)

Sunday, August 23 - What is food insecurity and how does it affect us? Thanks to Kathy Searles for leading worship and preaching today! We'll have our Special Offering for Little Free Pantry today. Grateful to Chris Sundman who will provide our special summer music today!

Sunday, August 30 - Ecumenical Worship Service - Franconia Community Church of Christ - Worship today is at 10:30!

Saturday, August 15 – Join us for Nature's Calling! Join our wider spiritual community to listen to the Spirit's voice in the natural world. We'll gather at Ski Hearth Farm in Sugar Hill for a morning exploration on Saturday, August 15 from 10-11:30am. Let Peter know if you have questions or would like a ride!

Help Wanted:

Would you like to read scripture, lead the prayer of dedication after the offering, share a story or preach at one of our summer services? If so, our Worship Team would love to have you take part! Contact Mary Menzies or me to sign up or learn more!

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, September 13th

**Shining Lights 20th
Anniversary**

A special worship including blessings of the backpacks (stuffies or diaper bags!), brunch in the fellowship hall, entertainment and crafts!

A sign up board is at the back of the sanctuary for help with the event!

Continued from page 1

This fall we are going to be spending some time in worship wondering on our windows and the light streaming through them. To ponder the stories depicted and the people who dedicated the windows. One of them, a “terrible man who destroyed the North Country” and paradoxically led to the founding of the White Mountain National Forest which contains the Presidential Range today. Who was this ancestor in faith and what might he have to say to us today?

I am grateful for our planning group for our fall worship series on the stained glass windows: Rachel Clark, Dick and Kathy Searles, Lars Nielson and Phil Krill. They’d love to hear from you on what strikes you about the windows, what you appreciate about them and what you wonder about as you look at them. And come join us as we continue to brainstorm and plan for the fall. We are meeting again, Monday, August 10 at 10am in the Ladies Parlor.

In the meantime, step out into the light! You don’t have to go to a mountain top to see in a new way. In fact all that is required is to pay attention in new ways to what is right here around us and before us that we can miss seeing all the time.

Peter

Peter Time Away - I will be serving at our New Hampshire Conference Church Camp, The Horton Center in Randolph as the co-dean at Pride on the Mountain, summer youth camp from Saturday August 1-Thursday, August 6. I will also be away Sundays August 23 and 30 and joining my backpacking friends for some hiking in the Smokies August 25-September 1.

Know once again that when I am away you can be in touch and leave me a message at 206-484-9814 and I will return your call when I’m free.

Mondays, 11AM Growing Old Gracefully - We’ll meet August 10 and 24 in the Ladies Parlor. Come join our lively and fun conversations!

Wednesday Morning 8:30-9:15 Zoom Bible Study: Join us each week for a chance to learn and talk together about the upcoming scripture in our Sunday morning worship service.

Here’s a Zoom Meeting link to join the Bible Study on Wednesday mornings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85167459117?pwd=On3atUkvaEb8iaizLkIYYyOa3bsjbi.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! You can reach Peter on his cell phone at 206-484-9814. If he doesn’t answer your call, leave a message and he will call you back.

Students have been enjoying their summer with lots of walks, ice cream outings, and visits to the Book Store!



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AUGUST 2026



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A brief newsletter of the
First Congregational Church
of Littleton

Page 6

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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

