

WLCC Newsletter 3.24.23

Dear beloved community,

Spring is here and the sun has been shining! What a joy to see and feel the sun after the dark winter days and the late snowstorms we have had. Last Sunday we talked about Joy and celebration and how our joy sustains us even when life is hard, so fill your tank with joy whenever you have a chance.

We continue our Lenten series this Sunday with the Holy habit of prayer. Prayer is a spiritual discipline that we can all practice, and one that really takes practice. Many of us learned to make prayer part of our daily routine when we were children. Our parents taught us a bedtime prayer and maybe we said a prayer of thanks and blessing before our meals. We probably learned the words to the Lord's prayer in Sunday school or worship. Some of us discovered the power of prayer as we grew older, and it continues to be very much a part of our lives. Others may not think much about prayer unless they are in times of trouble, or in worship. The scriptures are filled with stories of people who prayed and there are some beautiful prayers to be found there. Let's talk more about this on Sunday.

We are getting close to Holy Week and I am looking for several readers for Palm Sunday's 10am worship service, April 2nd. We also need readers for Maundy Thursday's Tenebrae service, which will be at 7pm April 6th. If you are willing to help, please let me know.

After Easter we will start a Bible Study group on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 on zoom. There has been some interest in starting a grief group as well, day and time will be determined by those who are interested. If you would like to participate in either of these groups, or know others who might, please get in touch with me.

I will be at the church Thursdays from 9am to 1pm for drop-in office hours or can meet with you other times at church, or at your home, by appointment.

Hope to see you in worship!

Amanda

Dear fellow travelers,

Spring is here! Yes, spring arrived on Monday despite those cold temperatures on Sunday and the snow banks that remain in many people's yards. There are signs but one has to be careful to slow down, look closely, and pay attention to the natural world around us, a mindful practice. As we move through the Lenten season may we get better at slowing down, looking closely, and paying attention to God, who is here with us all the time.

As we move through this Lenten season, we are going to refrain from doing our "Alleluia" after the benediction at the end of the service. Stay tune for more on this.

Reminders: Masking is optional. We recommend wearing a mask. If you are entering the sanctuary, we ask you to practice physical distancing, use good hand hygiene and stay home if you are not feeling well. We thank you for your cooperation.

Cleaning the Sanctuary

The deacons request your help in readying the sanctuary for the Easter by coming on April 1(yes, April's Fool Day) to clean the sanctuary. We ask you bring your favorite cleaning tools and cleaners. Think of this as spring cleaning of our church. All are welcome for as long as you can. We will start at 10 AM.

Calendar for March 24– March 31

March 26- *Sunday Worship* 10:00 AM

March 28- *Handbell Rehearsal* 5:30 PM

March 30- *Women's Fellowship* 9:00 AM
Vocal Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Upcoming Events

April 1- *Cleaning the church for Holy Week - Time* 10 AM until we are done.
Easter Egg Hunt 2:00 – 4:00 PM (Rain date April 8)

April 2- *Palm Sunday Worship Service*

April 6- *Maundy Thursday* 7:00 PM

April 7- *Guided meditation to the cross taking place in the sanctuary* 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM & 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

April 9- *Interdenominational sunrise service on the Lebanon Green* 6:00 AM
Easter Service 10:00 AM



Youth Group

Thank you very much to those of you who have contributed to our can tab collection for David's House as well as the food and personal care items collection for the Haven. We will continue our collection for the Haven until Easter. The can tabs will remain an ongoing effort.

Thank you very much for your help,
David, Justus, Luke and Paul

Missions

Greetings from your Missions group,
We are ending our Great Hour of Sharing collection this Sunday. Thank you very much to continue to support our missional efforts.

Cindy, Diane, Jackie, Christine, Dick and John

Neighborhood Party

The **Growth Committee** is organizing a neighborhood (and beyond) party on June 10th. We are hoping other committees will share our enthusiasm for this event!

In order for this event to be a success, we will need participation from lots of folks! We envision some combination of segments be included that individual or multiple committees will host.

We are open to your ideas! Following have been suggested:

- Food
- Entertainment
- Games
- Yard sale

Church/parsonage open house tours with historical education (maybe on the hour for a couple of hours).

Please discuss with your committees and let someone on Growth Committee know if there is an "activity" from this list or something different your committee is interested in hosting.

Thank you,

Your Growth Committee

- Donna
- Meghan
- Sarah
- Jackie
- Justine

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship meets at 9 AM on Thursday mornings. . Come join us for coffee and conversation!
Save **October 21, 2023** for our Christmas Bazaar!

Little Food Pantry

Thank you to all who have contributed food, but we are still in urgent need of food for our pantry! Some items that go quickly are peanut butter, cereal, ramen noodles and coffee, also shelf stable milk. As spring is approaching we can again bring can and jar food for our outside food pantry. Food can also be put inside the Food Bin in the sanctuary which is taken to the Haven or LISTEN. Thank you to all who have contributed. Please pass the word on about the availability of food in the Little Food Pantry.

WLCC Giving Options

We have instituted several new electronic (credit/debit/ACH) giving options. Note that these are in addition to the conventional giving methods. **If you are comfortable with the giving method you currently use there is no need to change.** The intent of adding these electronic options is to make giving more convenient, which will hopefully increase our revenue. Note that the church is charged a nominal processing fee with each electronic transaction, so please consider covering that fee if you use an electronic option. The electronic options will allow you to specify where you would like your gift to go (e.g. general fund, memorial gift, missions, etc.). You can access these options by going to the WLCC home webpage (<https://westlebcc.org/> and clicking on the "Give" tab along the top, or go directly to the Giving page <https://westlebcc.org/give/>). If you have any questions or problems, please see Aaron in the WLCC office or our co-collectors Christine Kidd or Sharron Smardon.

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR OUR AREA

Information for lunches, fitness and activities for seniors: <https://www.bugbeecenter.org/>
<https://www.gcsc.org/upper-valley>

DHMC Aging Resources Center offers many courses relevant to Seniors and Caregivers- virtual now- check them out - <https://events.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/>

HELPFUL COVID19 INFORMATION: To stay up to date on information and recommendations regarding the coronavirus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Food

The Upper Valley Haven Food Shelf is open to anyone in need of groceries. It doesn't matter where you live or how much money your household earns. It is available as a one-time resource or for longer periods of time.

Transportation

Local Bus schedule: <https://advancetransit.com/routes/red/>

Other info:

- **Turning Point Recovery Center Wilder 802-295-5206 Springfield 802-885-4678**
- **VT Recovery Telephone Support Service (VTRSS) 802-888-8077**
- **Women's Informational Services (WISE) Tel: 603-448-5922, Domestic and sexual abuse 24 hour crisis line: 866-348-9473**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, Call (800) 273-8255, Chat with Lifeline

- **Disaster Distress Helpline, Call (800) 985-5990, Text TalkWithUs to 66746**
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline: Call (800) 799-7233**
- **StrongHearts Native Helpline: Call 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)**
- **Veteran's Hotline: Call (800) 273-8255 or text to 838255**
- **Crisis Text line to talk in any crisis- Text TALK to 741741**
- * **NAMI, The National Alliance on Mental Health has a 24-hour helpline: 1-800-950-6264.**
- * **Call the local mental health crisis line. Details at <http://www.claramartin.org> or <https://www.hcrs.org/crisis-services.php>**
- * **Health Care and Rehabilitation Services: (HCRS) <https://www.hcrs.org/crisis-services.php> and 1-800-622-4235**
- * **Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the Crisis Text Line**
- * **For local providers visit <https://www.mtascutneyhospital.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/mah21-mental-health-directory.pdf>**