

## WLCC Weekly Newsletter 3.31.23

Dear beloved community,

The snow still comes lightly these nights and continues to melt by day. The brooks are rising, and cold nights and warmer days keep the sap flowing taking nutrients to the branches to feed the buds and leaves, soon to unfurl. On one of my visits on a sunny day this week I encountered someone who was on a quest to find the first snowdrops and crocus blooms of the season. The area was alive with activity and smiling faces.

There has been quite a buzz in the church lately too, with plans for spring cleaning, the Easter Egg Hunt, Holy week planning and extended plans for summer activities. It is a joy to see so much excitement and energy. If you have not been invited to help and you want to be a part of things don't be afraid to ask. Many hands make light work.

Thank you to all who have offered to help with readings. Palm Sunday we will move from the Palms to the Passion story. We seldom hear the whole story at one time, and this is an opportunity to become immersed in the story from Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the crucifixion and then go away from worship to spend some time reflecting on the story and what it means for us today. I hope you will join us. Then of course you will have to come back for the resurrection part of the story on Easter!

Maundy Thursday at 7pm April 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a Tenebrae service with communion. Good Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>, the sanctuary will be open from 10 to noon and from 4pm to 6pm for guided meditation that you can follow on your own. Easter Sunday, I have been invited to join some other pastors in leading the 6am sunrise service at Colburn Park in Lebanon. Feel free to join us there!

Hope to see you in worship!  
Amanda

Dear fellow travelers,

As we ready the church for Palm Sunday and Easter by cleaning the sanctuary, how are we preparing ourselves for Holy Week? What practices have we adopted or abstained from? What have you fasted from or feasted on? Are we prepared?

**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 31– April 6

**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 with Communion* 10:00 AM

**April 4-** *Handbell Rehearsal* 5:30 PM

**April 6-** *Women's Fellowship* 9:00 AM  
*Maundy Thursday Service with Communion, 7 PM*

## Upcoming Events

**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 with Flowering Cross* 10:00 AM

## **Bible and Grief Groups**

After Easter pastor Amanda 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.

Pastor Amanda will have drop-in office hours at the church Thursdays from 9am to 1pm or other times at church, or at your home, by appointment.

## **Flowering Cross**

We will once again be having the flowering cross. We ask those attending our Easter service in person to bring cut flowers to put on the wooden cross which will then be brought out to the front steps after the service.

Join us for our Easter Egg Hunt tomorrow (April 1st) from 2pm-4pm!



## **Youth Group**

From your youth group,

Thank you so much to all of you who have already donated to our food/personal care items collection. We will continue it until Easter Sunday.

The can tabs collection remains ongoing.

Thank you again, the boys truly appreciate it!

Christine (and David, Justus, Luke and Paul)

## **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.

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### 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>**

Faithfully  
Nancy Simpson  
for WLCC

