

## WLCC Weekly Newsletter 4.14.23

Dear beloved community,

We are in the season of Eastertide. When I was younger, I never realized that there were seasons like this. We traveled through Lent, which brought us to Holy Week and Easter. And there is a whole Easter season in which to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! This week we celebrate with JOY as we observe Holy Humor Sunday. Bring your sense of humor as we offer our *jokes*, joys and concerns to share in worship.

I like the term Eastertide (didn't someone mentioned going to the ocean?). The tide, like our faith, changes the landscape. The ocean waves may crash, or gently roll in. And sometimes we feel like a bit of sea glass as we are tossed about, our rough and broken edges being smoothed, over time, as God's grace washes over them and changes us.

Have you ever explored tide pools? There is life hidden there, mysteries uncovered, delivered, or holding on, left exposed to be discovered by those who take the time to explore.

Eastertide is a time when we learn more about what came after Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. The disciples were hidden away and losing hope until Jesus returned to them behind locked doors, or beside them along the road, and their hope was renewed, a mystery uncovered. The Holy Spirit blew over them like an ocean breeze and their lives were changed, hopes renewed.

The Spirit still moves among us. *"Jesus said to [Thomas], 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'"* (John 20:29 NRSV) Our questions and even doubts can help to strengthen our faith in the long run. I appreciate Thomas for his honesty as he was willing to admit his need for reassurance. We will talk more about this on Sunday. We gather every Sunday as faithful followers, doubters, questioners and pursuers of the truth. All are invited, and all are welcome.

Hope to see you in worship!

*Amanda*

Dear fellow travelers,

It has been over 3 years since we started doing this newsletter. Back then I wrote about the beauty I found in nature and how it reminded me of God's love for us. Though many things have changed I still look to nature to provide that concrete evidence of God's love. Where do find God?

As we past the Lenten season, we are now able to do "Alleluia" after the benediction at the end of the service.

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.

### **Holy Humor Sunday**

If you have jokes or any humor you would like to share for Holy Humor Sunday on April 16<sup>th</sup>, call or email the church office.

### **Calendar for April 14-21**

**April 16-** *Holy Humor Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM*

**April 18-** *Online Zoom Bible Study 6:30 PM (More info & Zoom link to be sent out on Tuesday morning.)*

**April 20-** *Women's Fellowship 9:00 AM*  
*Listen Community Dinner 2:30- 5:30 PM*

### **Upcoming Events**

**April 22-** *Takeout Chicken & Biscuits Supper 5:00 PM-6:30 PM or sold out*

### **Communion**

We will be changing how we do communion. The deacons decided at the meeting last night we will be serving people in the pews both bread and cup.

### **Bible and Grief Groups**

Pastor Amanda will start a Zoom Bible Study group on Tuesday evenings at 6:30. It will begin on April 18. 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.

### **WLCC Church Parsonage Information**

Since Pastor Amanda will continue to live in her Cornish NH residence, to help begin the WLCC's discussion on how to best use the parsonage the attached memo summarizes information gathered by the Trustees.

Please contact any Trustee or Pastor Amanda with your questions, ideas, and opinions.

Your Trustees,

Chair Amy Stebbins, Peter Bickford, Tracy Bickford, Dave Donley, Phil Gomez, Tom Kahl, Linda Maynard, Dana Michalovic,

### **Chicken & Biscuits Dinner**

We will be having a takeout Chicken & Biscuits Supper with homemade pies on Saturday April 22, from 5pm-6:30pm (or until sold out).

### **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)

### **Save the Date:**

### **The 2023 Annual Gravitz Lecture**

**Sunday, April 23rd at 1:00 PM in-person & Zoom.**

Betty Lauer, a Holocaust survivor, will speak about her book "Hiding in Plain Sight". It is available for purchase from Amazon or to lend from the Synagogue office (first-come, first-served basis). Reading her book before the lecture is highly recommended.

There will be a reception following the lecture. Please join us for a memorable afternoon.

Zoom Instructions:

Join by Computer

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2199028045>**

Meeting ID: 219 902 8045

Passcode: Dg8WLC

### **WLCC Cover Project**

As a follow-up to Jeff Dumont's Sunday service Cover presentation in January, we have been asked if the WLCC would help with a Cover Home Repair Project. As Jeff explained, Cover uses volunteer effort to help our fellow community members make housing improvements that they are unable to do by themselves. It's a hands-on opportunity to personally help and make a positive difference in others' lives.

We would help with a low to the ground project that would probably be either adding insulated skirting to a trailer or building an outdoor access ramp for folks unable to climb stairs. No previous experience or building skills is needed as the work is organized into simple tasks. Cover provides all materials, tools, and expertise. Work occurs between 9am to 4pm, and tasks, work durations, and exertion levels are adjusted to an individual's abilities.

Cover does projects on Thursdays thru Saturdays and we can select a day in May or June that best fits folks schedules. We are thinking of the Saturdays of either May 20th or June 3rd.

### **Neighborhood Party**

Growth, Amanda and Missions Committees held a meeting to collaborate on the June 10th event. It will be called a Community Fair. Hours will be 10am to 3pm. Thank you Amanda and Missions!

It will include a carry in, carry out yard sale where church members can rent a table for \$20 to sell their own goods. This will help Growth Committee offset event costs.

There will be lawn games, Mac's Maple Creamees, the Gerrymanders, musical duo, lunch prepared by Missions, face painting and (hopefully) historical tours of the church and/or parsonage.

Over the next couple of weeks, there will be sign ups on the bulletin board. Thank you, in advance, for your participation!

Growth Committee

### **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 here 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>**

Faithfully  
Nancy Simpson  
for WLCC