

WLCC Weekly Newsletter 4.7.23

Dear Beloved Community,

It is Holy week and for Christians that means a time of reflection, perhaps deeper reading of the scriptures that may be very familiar to you but always seem to break forth with new meaning for us as individuals. The United Church of Christ says, "God is still speaking." And that means that God can speak to us, can change hearts and open minds, if we are listening. One of our forebearers, John Robinson, said, "I am verily persuaded the Lord hath more truth yet to break forth out of His Holy Word." Together we seek that truth for our lives.

And so, this week we gather in community to hear again the wonderful and heartbreaking stories of Holy week. I hope you will join us for our Maundy Thursday service. Friday the church will be open for you to spend time in silent reflection, with a guided meditation available. Sunday morning at 6 AM there will be a sunrise service at Colburn Park in Lebanon offered by area ministers, and then worship in our sanctuary at 10 AM as we remember and celebrate the resurrection. I hope you will join us this week as we celebrate the joy of community, the unending love of God, and the hope that we find in the Good News that we seek and share.

Hope to see you in worship! Amanda

Dear fellow travelers,

Here we are at Good Friday! Are we ready? Are we ready to go out and spread the news of the resurrection? May we be filled with thankfulness this Easter for Christ's sacrifice on the cross and Resurrection that has set us free.

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.

Holy Humor Sunday

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

Calendar for April 7-13

April 7- *Guided meditation 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
Continental Breakfast at FCCL following the service on the green.
Easter Service with Flowering Cross 10:00 AM*

April 10- *Game Night 5:30 PM*

April 13- *Women's Fellowship 9:00 AM
Deacons' Meeting 6:30 PM*

Upcoming Events

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

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

Sanctuary Cleanup

Thank you to everyone including the Daisy Scouts and their parents that helped with the Sanctuary Cleanup!



Easter Egg Hunt

WLCC's 2nd annual Easter Egg Hunt was a great success! We were blessed with a couple of warm, rain-free hours for listening to Amanda's telling of the Easter story, egg gathering, photo ops, crafts and raffles. Growth Committee (Jackie, Donna, Meghan, Sarah and Justine) thank all those who helped us with this event, Dick, Amanda, Christine, Cindy and Diane! We appreciate this collaboration with Missions Committee. Free Raffles included 2 Easter baskets for kids and a basket for a family that included all of the fixings for an Easter dinner with a ham, potatoes, veggies Amanda's homemade rolls and a pie. Thank you Diane, Amanda, Christine and Jackie for donating the ingredients!

Thank you Donna, Sarah and Meghan for the kiddos baskets and adorable Easter bags.



Missions

Greetings from your Missions group,
Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$332 for the One Great Hour of Sharing program.
Thank you so so much and Happy Easter!

Cindy, Diane, Jackie, Dick, John and Christine

Sonrise Service & Continental Breakfast

There will be a Sonrise service at 6 AM in Colburn Park with a breakfast at First Congregational Church of Lebanon following the service.

A free-will offering will support Listen Community Services. Please leave your contributions in the basket as you leave worship.

A free-will continental breakfast of donuts, juice, and coffee will be served in the parish hall of First Congregational Church immediately after the service. All are Welcome.



Leading Worship

The Rev. SangChurl Bae, Lebanon and White River United Methodist Churches
The Rev. Amanda Swoyer, West Lebanon Congregational Church
The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, First Congregational Church of Lebanon

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.

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)

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 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>**

Faithfully
Nancy Simpson
for WLCC