

## **WLCC Weekly Newsletter 6.2.23**

Dear Beloved Community,

This is Trinity Sunday, the one day we assign to a church doctrine rather than a person, story, or event from the scriptures. We will share some familiar scripture readings. I am always challenged to find something new in the familiar and the scriptures never seem to disappoint. We will read through the first creation story in Genesis, and the commissioning of the disciples from Matthew. I wonder if you hear these differently from the first time you ever heard them. I wonder if you have ever noticed that the creation story Genesis 1:26 says, “Then God said, “Let us make humans[c] in our image, according to our likeness.” We talk about God as Three in One (Trinity), which can be confusing. How much does it really matter if we fully appreciate all the names for God, and understand all the beings of God? Maybe it is more important that we consider that we are all created in the image of God, every single one of us. God is complex and so is humanity. We were created with instructions to take care of all the rest of creation. And then Jesus made it even more clear when he commissioned his followers to go and make disciples of all to the ends of the earth. Out of chaos came all things, even us. Let’s talk more about this on Sunday.

Hope to see you in worship!

Amanda

PS If you want to see and hear a wonderful interpretation of the Creation Story please take a few minutes to watch and listen to this: Will Vinton Studio - Creation (1981)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcHxNZlvfh4>

Based on a poem by James Weldon Johnson Narrated by James Earl Jones Animated by Joan C. Gratz Directed by Will Vinton 1982 Academy Award Nominee

Dear fellow travelers,

The warm temperatures requires us to take steps to slow down and seek cooling measures. Quiet time provides the time to be still and listen. Listen for the noises in the world around us including the sounds of nature and listen for the voice of God who is still speaking to us.

### **Rev. Amanda’s Office Hours**

Rev. 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.

### **Upcoming Events**

**June 4- *Worship 10:00 AM with Communion***

*Cabinet after worship  
Trip to The Haven 1:00 PM*

**June 6-** *Zoom Bible Study 6:30 PM (link & info in newsletter)*

**June 7-** *Grief Group 4:30 PM in the Kilton Room*

**June 8-** *Women's Fellowship 9:00 AM*

**June 9-** *KANDAHAR TREASURE Project Discussion at Kilton Library 6:30pm-8:00pm  
(more info in newsletter)*

**June 10-** *WLCC Community Fair 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM  
KANDAHAR TREASURE Project Discussion at Meriden, NH UCC 3pm-4:30pm  
(more info in newsletter)*

**June 11-** *Children's Sunday 10:00 AM  
Discussion with Former UCC Economic Justice Minister Edie Rasell at Meriden, NH  
UCC 5:00- 6:30pm (more info in newsletter)*

### **Richard Gage**

A graveside service for Richard Gage will be on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at West Lebanon Cemetery. There will be no reception afterwards.

### **Celebration**

*June 3<sup>rd</sup> marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Dave & Lois Cooley!  
June 7<sup>th</sup> is also Lois' 95<sup>th</sup> birthday!*

### **Christian Education**

A quick reminder that the youth group, and anyone who would like to join, will go deliver your self-care gifts and get a tour of the Haven this Sunday at 1pm. We can meet at the Haven at 1pm directly.

Thank you again for your generosity,

Dave, Justus, Luke and Paul

***Mark your calendars for Children Sunday on June 11! This will be Heroic!***

### **Missions**

Greetings from your Missions group,

We will conclude our Strengthen the Church fundraiser this Sunday. Thank you so very much to all of you who have already contributed to help make the UCC, locally and globally, a more welcoming and inclusive place!

Cindy, Diane, Jackie, Dick, John and Christine

### Online Bible Study

Scripture for Tuesday June 6

We will be talking about the Book of Ester. Since the children will be presenting "Bible Heroes" I have chosen Ester's story to share.

You can read/skim through the whole book if you like. If you do not have time (and even if you do) maybe watch this 9 minute video which is a fun summary by "The Bible Project"

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/esther/>

### Grief Group

Our next grief group will be on Wednesday, June 7th at 4:30pm in the Kilton Room.

### Community Fair

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 cost.

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

**WLCC**  
**COMMUNITY FAIR**  
**Join us for a community fair**  
**with activities for all to enjoy!**  
**All Day Events**

- Yard Sale
- Bake Sale
- Lawn Games
- Face Painting
- Historical Tours of the Church

**10:00 AM**  
Coffee and Refreshments available by donation

**11:30 AM**  
Lunch available for purchase

**1:00 - 3:00 PM**

- Live Music from local artists, The Gerrymanders
- Mac's Maple Creamees available for purchase

**JUNE 10TH**  
10:00 - 3:00 PM

## The Way of Abundance: Economic Justice in Scripture and Society

Dear Grafton/Orange/Sullivan UCC Colleagues --

On June 11 & 12, the NHCUCC Economic Justice team has the distinct pleasure of hosting **former (and much beloved) UCC Economic Justice Minister Edie Rasell** in New Hampshire, including at a gathering at the Meriden Congregational Church Parish House (5 Mitchell Drive, Meriden) on **Sunday June 11 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.**

After serving our denomination with distinction for about 15 years, Edie left her position with a book bubbling up in her heart that she wanted to write. The result: [\*The Way of Abundance: Economic Justice in Scripture and Society\*](#), published last year by Fortress Press. On June 11th, Edie will share the concepts in her book in an informal 90-minute roundtable discussion that will include plenty of opportunity for dialogue. We'll have light snacks, too.

We at the Meriden, NH UCC enthusiastically invite our Grafton/Orange/Sullivan clergy and lay colleagues to join us for this special event. If you plan to attend, please email [economicjustice.nhcucc@gmail.com](mailto:economicjustice.nhcucc@gmail.com) to let us know.

Edie will also be providing a presentation on Monday June 12, from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at the NH UCC Conference Office, 140 Sheep Davis Road in Pembroke (a Zoom option is also available). Use this [link](#) to register for the Monday June 12th event.

We indeed hope you can join us to meet Edie so we can explore together the call for economic justice that is embedded in our faith.

Blessings --

*John & Susan Gregory-Davis, Co-Pastors*  
*Gail Kinney, Worker Justice Minister*  
Meriden, NH Congregational Church, UCC



**The Way of Abundance:**  
Economic Justice in Scripture and Society  
**Conversation with Dr. Edie Rasell**  
Author, Economist, former Minister of Economic Justice with  
the United Church of Christ and Authorized UCC Minister

**Sunday June 11, 2023**  
5:00 — 6:30 p.m.  
in the Parish House  
of the Meriden (NH) Congregational Church, UCC  
5 Mitchell Drive, Meriden

Please email [economicjustice.nhcucc@gmail.com](mailto:economicjustice.nhcucc@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.



Jesus said he came so that all may have abundant life, notes Edie Rasell in her 2022 book, *The Way of Abundance: Economic Justice in Scripture and Society*. For Jesus, she adds, abundant life did not encompass only the spiritual realm but also people's material circumstances — food, housing, health care, education, economic security, and other necessities.

As our state and nation face troubling economic inequality, join us for a presentation and engaging discussion with Edie about the scriptural call to create a society in which all thrive.

**THE WAY  
OF  
ABUNDANCE**  
Economic Justice in  
Scripture and Society

## **KANDAHAR TREASURE Project**

IMAGINE A WOMEN'S CENTER IN AFGHANISTAN TODAY!

Rangina Hamidi, former acting Minister of Afghanistan, will be visiting the Upper Valley June 9 and 10, 2023. She is the founder and driving force behind the successful women's artisan group in Kandahar, Afghanistan, KANDAHAR TREASURE (<https://kandahartreasure.com>). She will be speaking about her plans to expand the project to include a school to teach business courses to women and girls, a marketplace for women to do business and a shelter for widowed and at-risk women.

Join us to hear this inspiring woman at

The Kilton Library,  
W. Lebanon, NH,  
June 9, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 PM

Meriden Congregational Church,  
Meriden, NH,  
June 10, 2023, 3-4:30 PM.

### **Women's Fellowship**

Women's Fellowship meets at 9 AM on Thursday mornings. We will be doing a bake sale during the Community Fair from 10- noon. 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