

WLCC Weekly Newsletter 6.30.23

Dear Beloved Community,

The sky still looks heavy here as I write this but at least it has not rained every few minutes today. Sometimes we need to water our gardens, but unfortunately there is no way for us to give them extra sunshine!

This summer we are looking at some of the stories in the book of Genesis. These are foundational stories of our faith, even as tragic and frightening as some of them are. Some are heavier than the clouds overhead today. It can be easier to skip over the hard stories because they can really challenge us. I invite you to join me in the struggle as we share not only the joyful uplifting scriptures but also some passages that can leave us with more questions than answers.

I want to share a poem by Todd Jenkins that speaks well to this sermon series:

Flawsome © 2023 Todd Jenkins

*The painful, broken truth
of the biblical characters' flaws
is not hidden,
but clearly spelled out
for us in the narrative.*

*This is not done
so that we may accept,
equate, and codify the profanity
of their actions as divine desire,*

*but that we might
come to realize that,
no matter how flawed we are,
God's love for us
and grace extended to us
have no limits.*

This week we share the story of God's call to Abraham to take his son up the mountain to offer him as a burnt offering. Is this some kind of test? Did Abraham pass the test, or did he fail? Let's talk more about this on Sunday.

Hope to see you in worship!
Amanda

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. **The office will be closed on July 4th**

Deacons News

The deacons are looking for people to be greeters and liturgists on Sundays. If you are interested, please sign up on the laminated board in the hallway. If you have any questions, speak to one of the deacons: Diane Adam, Linda Oidtmann, Judi Strong, Susan Schwarz, Laurie Tostenson, Molly Bonhag, Nan Reed, Peter Simpson, Sam Strong, Earle Woodward or Nancy Simpson.

Upcoming Events

July 6- Women's Fellowship 9:00 AM

July 9- Missions' Community Dinner in the Drake Room 4:00 PM

July 12- Grief Group in the Kilton Room 4:30 PM

(Weight Watchers meets every Friday 7:30am-9am & Saturday 9:30am-11am in the Kilton Room)

Robin's Nest

Please be aware of the robin's nest on top of the wreath on the door and to not disturb it. *The eggs have hatched and the chicks are sleeping soundly in their nest.*



Missions

Greetings from your Missions group,

Our first community dinner will be Sunday, July 9 at 4pm.

There is a signup sheet at the entrance of the church for those of you who would like to bring a dish to share for this potluck dinner. Please, write your name, the dish you will bring (for about 10 people) and your email address.

We hope that all who bring food to share will stay for dinner and enjoy the fellowship of friends and strangers alike.

Please, spread the word (there are posters available) and ask any of us if you have questions.

Thank you,

Your Missions group (Cindy, Diane, Jackie, Dick, John and Christine)



COMMUNITY DINNER

FREE MEAL OPEN TO ALL!

Sunday, July 9th at 4pm

Enjoy the fellowship of friends and strangers alike

No Reservations Needed

West Lebanon Congregational Church
18 Maple St, West Lebanon, NH
603-298-8096

Grief Group

Our next grief group will be on Wednesday, July 12th at 4:30pm in the Kilton Room.

Online Bible Study

(Bible Study has stopped for the summer)

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

Or for the **Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, Call 988**

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>