

WLCC Weekly Newsletter 8.18.23

Dear beloved community,

Our gospel reading this week follows another interaction with the leaders of Jesus day. When we are immersed in negative talk from or about people and groups of people it can be like an infectious disease. Jesus had just been questioned by the pharisees again. Why were his disciples so careless about ritual hand washing? Didn't they know the importance of cleanliness rules?

Jesus replied that it is not what goes into your mouth but what comes out of it that defiles you. That upset them even more. He then had to explained to his disciples that what goes into the mouth goes to the stomach, is processed in your body, and the waste is expelled. What comes out of the mouth comes from the heart.

The psalmist says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit" (Psalm 51:10-12: NRSV).

It is a bit surprising when we read next that Jesus dismissed the Canaanite woman who asked him to help her daughter. His response wasn't even particularly polite, the way I hear it. (You can read this in Matthew 15.) 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.

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 Oidtman, Judi Strong, Susan Schwarz, Laurie Tostenson, Molly Bonhag, Nan Reed, Peter Simpson, Sam Strong, Earle Woodward or Nancy Simpson.

Upcoming Events

August 20- *WLCC Community Dinner* 4:00 PM

August 24- *Women's Fellowship* 9:00 AM (Every Thursday)

September 13- *Grief Group* 4:30 PM in the Kilton Room

September 23- *Takeout Chicken BBQ Dinner* 5:00 PM-6:30 PM (or sold out)

September 30- *"Karaoke Night" in the sanctuary* 6:00 PM

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

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TWO MISSIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fundraiser for Maui

Greetings from your Missions group,

Thank you so much to all of you who have signed up to bring a dish this Sunday for our community dinner. Please, make sure to bring them by 4pm and feel free to stay as well!

In light of the dramatic fires on the island of Maui, we would like to do a special fundraiser until Labor day week-end to raise funds and send them to the UCC disasters mission who is working with the Hawaiian UCC conference. If you would like to contribute, please mark your checks with WLCC-Missions/Fires.

Community Dinner

Thank you very much to those of you who have already signed up to bring a dish to share for our upcoming community dinner on Sunday, August 20 (at 4pm). We need more dishes to share, I get the feeling that we will be popular! Please, try to bring dishes that would easily keep in warm temperatures. A lot of our guests take food to bring home. Thank you in advance,

Christine (for Missions)

Save the Date!

Free Community



Sunday, August 20 at 4pm

West Lebanon Congregational Church

18, Maple Street, West Lebanon
Any questions, call 603 298 8096

Takeout Chicken BBQ Dinner

Come by on Saturday, September 23 from 5:00 PM- 6:30 PM (or sold out) to pick up a delicious chicken BBQ dinner with coleslaw, potato salad, dinner roll and brownie for dessert.

**Takeout
Chicken BBQ Dinner**

With Coleslaw, Potato Salad & Dinner Roll

Brownie for Dessert

\$15 Per Meal



Saturday, September 23

5:00 PM-6:30 PM (or sold out)

**West Lebanon Congregational Church
18 Maple Street, West Lebanon, NH**

Questions? Call 603-298-8096

Karaoke Night

Get ready to sing! We will be having a Karaoke Night in the sanctuary on September 30th at 6pm. All are welcome to join us for this fun free event. Come to just listen and cheer on the singers or get up and belt out your favorite song! Light refreshments will be available.



TIME TO CLEAN!

Dear committee members,

It's time to clean out the mailboxes in the administrative assistant's office. If each committee could have someone come in during office hours to clean out their mailboxes, this would go a long way to making the office a more inviting space for all. We are working to move other clutter out as well.

Thank you,
Nancy Simpson & Aaron Richter

Little Food Pantry

Thank you to all who have contributed food, but we are again in urgent need of food for our pantry this summer! Some items that go quickly are peanut butter, cereal, ramen noodles and coffee, also shelf stable milk. Food can also be put inside the Food Bin in the sanctuary which is taken to the Haven or LISTEN. Please pass the word on about the availability of food in the Little Food Pantry.

Christmas Bazaar News

Women's Fellowship will be holding its Christmas Bazaar, October 21 at which we will be selling hand crafted items, Christmas decor, food and candy, jewelry, and basket raffle. In order for this to be successful we will need **all** hands on deck! How can you help? If you make things or cook, please consider working on something that you would be willing to donate or fill a basket that we can have in our raffle. We will have a table set up with baskets of various sizes that you might choose from to fill and provide a return date for the filled basket. The women thank you in advance for your generosity.

Nancy Simpson for Women's Fellowship

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!

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 collector Christine Kidd.

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR OUR AREA

Information for lunches, fitness and activities for seniors: <https://www.bugbeecenter.org/>
<https://www.qcsc.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>