

WLCC Friday Newsletter 9.1.23

Dear beloved community,

We have had some beautiful days as we come to what most of us consider the end of summer. Labor Day weekend kind of wraps it up for us. People are sharing their children's "first day of school" photos, or the young adults "heading off to college" comments where you can hear the lump in their throat as their children continue their journeys, a little further from home. We are each on a journey as we travel through childhood and youth, to a variety of jobs, parenting, grand parenting, through different health situations, friendships, opportunities, losses and discoveries. No matter how old we are there is always more to learn and more experiences lie ahead. Whether we realize it or not we are also on a spiritual journey throughout our lives. Sometimes things in life make sense and other times they do not. We gain some understanding and then we have more questions about the mystery of our faith. We are not alone. Our gospel reading this week picks up where we left off Sunday. Peter had given a good answer to Jesus question, "Who do you say that I am?" and now with good intentions as always, he is going to say something that is not helpful at all. Peter is such a good example of even the most faithful having good days and not so good days. It's all part of the journey. Let's talk more about this on Sunday.

Hope to see you in worship!
Amanda

The office will be closed on September 4 in observance of Labor Day

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



UPCOMING CALENDAR
WEST LEBANON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- SEPT 7** Womens Fellowship 9am (every Thursday)
- SEPT 10** Community Dinner 4pm
- SEPT 12** Bell Choir Rehearsals Begin 6pm
- SEPT 13** Grief Group 4:30pm
- SEPT 14** Deacons Meeting 6:30pm
Vocal Choir Rehearsals Begin 6:30pm
- SEPT 17** Rally Day Sunday Service 10am
- SEPT 21** LISTEN Community Dinner 4:30-5:30pm
(volunteers there 2:30-5:30pm)
- SEPT 23** Takeout Chicken BBQ Dinner 5- 6:30pm (or sold out)
- SEPT 24** Sunday School Begins
Cabinet Meeting After Worship
- SEPT 26** Hybrid Bible Study 6pm
- SEPT 30** Karaoke Night 6pm

(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,

We will be ending our special fundraiser this weekend to help the victims of the Maui fire.

One of our congregants is matching your gifts up to \$250. Please, be as generous as you can to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Thank you so very much!!

Community Dinner

Our next community dinner will be Sunday, September 10 at 4pm. There is a signup sheet at the entrance for those of you who would like to contribute a dish to share or your time to help set up, serve or clean up. Many hands make light work!

Thank you so much for your continuous generosity.

Cindy, Diane, Jackie, Dick, John and Christine



Handbells & Vocal Choir

If you are interested in joining our handbell and/or vocal choir, contact Aaron. The handbells will rehearse every Tuesday from 6-7pm; singers will rehearse every Thursday from 6:30-7:30pm. Join us to make joyful music!

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. **WHEN THE PANTRY IS FULL WE PUT THE EXTRA IN THE FOOD BIN IN THE SANCTUARY. THESE FOOD OFFERINGS ARE USED TO FILL THE LITTLE FOOD PANTRY AND SOMETIMES TAKEN TO THE HAVEN AND 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. **Thank you for the two baskets that were dropped off the Bazaar. One was a summer fun basket and the other was a pamper yourself basket. They are greatly appreciated! If you would like to create a basket for the basket raffle, we would happily receive it. Baskets are available in the Kilton Room for you to take and fill with items that would make a gift. The basket need to be back by Monday, October 16.**

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!

Hybrid Bible Study (in-person & online)

Our Bible study will be starting again on September 26 at 6pm. All are welcome to join.

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>