

Weekly Friday Newsletter 8/15/23

Dear beloved community,

We had another successful community dinner on Sunday and it was wonderful to see so many show up to help with serving and clean up, as well as all who donated food! Thank you missions committee for your vision, and thanks to all who helped fulfill it. It is a wonderful way for us to not only serve but connect with those in our own neighborhood, as we sit at the table together. Jesus often ate with people. Kindness and understanding was served up too as people came together. Sometimes lives were changed. Mark your calendar for the second Sunday of each month and join your neighbors at the table.

Sunday will be a fun and full day in our church. This is our Rally Day worship service. Rally means "to come together again to renew an effort" according to Webster. We will come together to learn, teach and celebrate the start of a new season of Sunday school, youth group and Bible Study. We have a special family friendly service planned to kick off our program year. You won't want to miss it. Our Sunday school classes and Bible study will resume next week. The youth group will meet the first Sunday of the month after worship and fellowship. Bible Study will meet at 6pm on Tuesday in person and on zoom. Let us know if you want the link to join us for Bible Study on zoom.

Sunday at 2pm our church will host the Grafton Orange Sullivan Association fall meeting and Daniel Adam's ecclesiastical council (EC). This is another big step on his path to full ordination. You are welcome to come and support Daniel and take part in his EC.

Hope to see you in worship!

Amanda

We are in need of ALL committee reports. Please send in reports to Aaron in the office at office@westlebcongo.comcastbiz.net by MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH.

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.

UCC Daily Devotional

If you would like to subscribe to the UCC daily devotional, here is a link to the website. It comes to your email each morning.

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>



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

Ecclesiastical Council of Daniel Adam

Daniel Adam will be having his *ecclesiastical council here at WLCC on Sunday, September 17th at 2 PM. Daniel grew up in this church and is currently serving at the South Congregational Church in Newport, NH. His ordination paper is attached to this email. The paper is written in conversation with the UCC Statement of Faith. It shares his spiritual journey as it relates to his call to ministry in the UCC. Please take the time to read the paper, and any questions about it are welcome to be asked to Daniel during the Council. Come on September 17th to support Daniel Adam's continued journey in faith! The council will be in person and on Zoom. A special zoom link will be sent out with the weekly Invitation to Worship email.

**"The Ecclesiastical Council is the opportunity to hear and interview candidates for authorized ministry in and on behalf of the entire United Church of Christ. In collaboration with laity and clergy, you will discern if an individual has been called by God to ordained ministry."-- (UCC.org)*

CROP Walk

Join and/or support the **WLCC CROP Walk Team on Sunday October 8th**. CROP is an annual program of the interdenominational Church World Services (CWS) that raises money to help fight hunger. The WLCC Team will meet at **12:30 pm at Lebanon's Colburn Park** to participate with others from the Upper Valley in the afternoon walk. The total walk length is 2.2 miles, but you can walk any distance that you want, or just meet us at the Park and enjoy a pleasant fall afternoon.

Further information about CROP, registration for the WLCC team, and a way to electronically donate can be found on the Lebanon CROP Hunger Walk webpage, or just sign up on the WLCC bulletin board by the back door. Donations can also be put in the Sunday offering or sent to the WLCC office.

So join us for a fun afternoon walk that helps fight hunger. Thanks for your support. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the hall. Please feel free to contact Tom Kahl tomlinda.kahl@gmail.com or Pastor Amanda a_swoyer@yahoo.com with any questions.

THREE MISSIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Greetings from your Missions group,

Community Dinner

First, thank you so very much to all of you who helped with another successful community dinner. Some of you provided food, helped set up, serve or clean up. Your gifts were and are truly appreciated by us and those we served. We served over 40 people and about half of them were community members, including new faces. These dinners are clearly fulfilling a need and we are so glad that we can start providing this service. The next one will be on October 8. The signup sheet will go up a couple of weeks before the date.

Maui Relief Fund

Second, thank you very much to all of you who donated to the Maui relief fund, the church could send \$835 total to the UCC Global HOPE team. You are truly amazing!

Neighbors in Need

Lastly, we are kicking in the Neighbor in Need (NiN) fundraiser this week-end and will run it until World Communion Day on October 1.

From the UCC: "The NiN offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. Working with members of the OCC Justice and Peace Action Network, Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties and environmental justice. NiN also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today, there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, MN. These churches and these pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the US."

Please, be as generous as possible.

Thank you,



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

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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!

WLCC MUSIC PROGRAM

NO MUSICAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!

WLCC CHOIR

Come Sing With Us!



✦ The vocal choir rehearses every Thursday at 6:30 PM and sings every Sunday morning during Worship at 10:00 AM
Rehearsals Begin September 14

Come Ring With Us!



✦ Handbells rehearse every Tuesday at 6:00 PM and play monthly during Sunday morning Worship at 10:00 AM
Rehearsals Begin September 12

*If you would like to join our music program
or have any questions*

Please contact our music director, Aaron

Email: westlebcongo@gmail.com

Phone: 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. \$15 per dinner. No reservations needed.

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

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.

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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>*