

Church Events for Fall 2015

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
at 10 Station Rd in Hartland, Vermont 05048

Rev. Lucia Anne Jackson, Pastor

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Dear Members and Friends,

Summer is winding down, children are back to go to school, young adults are headed off on new adventures. Whether or not your life is governed by the school schedule, there is in the air a sense of new beginnings, transitions, and rites of passage! With lots happening at the church this fall, you can try something new as well – and this newsletter has lots of ideas.

Looking to connect to the community, to reflect, to feed and be fed? Make a commitment to regular worship attendance – regular worship feeds your soul! Looking for some spiritual growth and great discussion? Join the Monday bible study or the Sunday Adult Study. Looking for a way to serve? Participate in the Hixon House ministry or Habitat for Humanity or volunteer to teach Sunday School. Wanting some time away? Sign up for the Women's retreat. Enjoy music? Come to the Bluegrass Gospel Project Concert and JOIN the Choir. You get the idea – this church is a vital, spirit filled community – you can choose to be a part of it.

My advice to our young adults headed to college is that you get more out of it the more that you choose to put into it. So be open to new experiences, relationships, communities, ideas. The same is true with our faith community!

Hope to see YOU in church – Joy - Lucia

Worship Schedule *WORSHIP at 10:00am starting Sept 13th*

- *Sunday, Sept 13th 10:00– Intergenerational Worship Service with Communion
11:00 *Ice Cream Social for Everyone bring a topping to share! Wear informal clothes to church to play some end of summer games!!*
- *Sun, Sep 20th 10:00–WELCOME BACK SUNDAY w/ Choir Anthem
Our Rotation Church School begins! 8:30 Choir Rehearsal
- *Sunday, September 27th 10:00 – Worship, Regular Church School
11:30 Confirmation Orientation
- *Saturday, October 3rd **FAMOUS ROAST BEEF SUPPER**
- *Sunday, Oct 4th – Worship, World Communion, Reg Church School
Youth Group to 6 Flags
- *Sunday, Oct 11th – Worship, Regular Church School
11:30 Adult Study
- *Sunday, October 18th - Intergenerational Worship Service
11:30 Adult Study
- *Sun, Oct 25th – Reformation & Bible Sunday, Reg Church School
11:30 Adult Study
Youth Mission Trip Brunch to benefit Mission Trip 2016 (Here).
- *Sun, Nov 1st – Remembrance Sunday, Worship with Communion,
Reg Church School
11:30 Adult Study
- *Sun, Nov 8th - Worship, Regular Church School
11:30 Adult Study
- *Sun, Nov 15th – *Stewardship Sunday*, Worship, Reg Church School
11:30 Adult Study
- *Sunday, Nov 22nd – *Thanksgiving Sunday – Combined Worship Service at the First Universalist Society of Hartland 4 Corners.*

Board of Christian Education News and Notes:

In our Sixth Year of Rotation Church School the themes are: Moses, the Ten Commandments, Joseph's Story, Jesus was a Child, Habitat for Humanity, Holy Week - the Last Supper, Lost & Found Parables.

The students will spend an entire unit on the theme, studying and learning in a variety of ways - drama, art, science, games and cooking to name a few. Each age group will have a "shepherd" teacher for the 3-6 week unit and the class will rotate to the workshop teachers. Each workshop teacher is preparing the same lesson for 2 weeks, but adjusting the workshop for different ages. The Shepherd teachers know the students, provide continuity between lessons and lead the opening and closing time.

We are a community blessed with many talents, individual interests, a variety of experiences and creativity. Rotation Church School highlights those diverse abilities and nurtures faith through depth of learning. We can all participate in the growth and nurture of our church school children and youth - and have a responsibility to do so.

How can YOU PARTICIPATE? See a CE Board member **and volunteer**. AND *Please hold the teachers and students in your prayers*. Do you like to cook? Then lead the cooking workshop! How about theater? Then lead the drama workshop! Like science experiments? Then teach the science workshop! These activities are supported in the curriculum with suggestions for projects and detailed instructions. We are open to your ideas also!

Please contact a Christian Education Board Chair Daun Smith or Lucia.

Church School Schedule

Sunday, September 13th – 10:00 Intergenerational Worship Sunday
Followed by Ice Cream Social for Everyone.

FIRST SESSION SUNDAY SCHOOL: Moses -- Exodus 1-4

"Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground" Ex 3:5

Sunday, September 20th –Welcome Sunday Church School begins!
Sunday, September 27th - Regular Church School
Wednesday, September 30th – CE BOARD MEETING 7:00
Sunday, October 4th - World Communion Sun, Regular Church School
Sunday, October 11th – Regular Church School, Fire Drill
11:15 Adult Study Begins

Sunday, October 18th – Family Worship Celebration!

Session 2 - The Ten Commandments Exodus 19:1- 20:20

Learn the Ten Commandments!

Sunday, October 25th - Reformation & Bible Sunday!
Regular Church School
Wednesday, October 28th - CE BOARD MEETING 7:00
Sunday, November 1st – Communion, Regular Church School
Sunday, November 8th - Regular Church School
Sunday, November 15th – Stewardship Sunday, Regular Church School

Sunday, Nov 22nd - Combined Worship Service at the FUSH (UU)
Youth Mission Trip Brunch

Sunday, Sept 13th Ice Cream Social after church - bring a topping to share! Wear informal clothes to church to play some end of summer games!!

To be a more welcoming church, the Board of Christian Education is seeking a nursery attendant for Sunday mornings to be ready when young families attend our church. Please speak with Daun Smith with any questions or if interested.

SAVE THE DATE: Adult Retreat November 6th - 7th
At Bethany Birches Camp (in a beautiful cabin)
5:00pm on Friday - 8:00pm on Saturday
Give yourself a gift - Set aside a weekend for
reflection, laughter, meditation, study, fellowship -
before the holiday busyness.
Hope that you will give join us this year!
Cost: tba

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

What a welcoming and wonderful time of year. Vermont is as green as ever, gardens are spilling out their wealth and the evenings bring a breath of cool air. Summer schedules are winding down and we return to business as usual and we hope that usual includes fulfillment of your 2015 pledge. To date we have received just over 60% of the promised pledges for 2015. We would like to see a higher percentage of the total but realize lots of folks travel during the summer months. Hope you haven't forgotten! We're open for business. Hope to see you in church. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact our treasurer, Linda Genovese, genovese2137@comcast.net.

Choir Begins on Welcome Sunday, Sept 20th
Rehearsals at 8:30 on Sunday Mornings -
YOUR VOICE WELCOME & NEEDED!

Clydene Trachier & Becky Wood are
directing anthems & leading rehearsals:

Choir Rehearsal Schedule:

Fridays 5:30 - 6:30 on Sept 18th
October 2nd & 16th & 23rd & 30th and Nov 6th

TWO Ongoing Bible Studies - you are invited to drop in any time!

Bible Study Starts on Monday, Sept 28th at 5:00! The Monday Bible Study Group focuses on the worship scripture for the following Sunday. We study the text to see how God might be speaking to us today, and to recognize how our own stories and the bible stories speak to one another. Everyone welcome.

Adult Church School Sundays 11:30-12:30 beginning on October 11th - *Join us for our Adult Class* based on thoughtful discussion and careful questions. We will spend the fall focusing on the Book of Acts - stories of the early church and the Apostle Paul - and how the Book of Acts speaks to us today. You are welcome to come any Sunday - no experience necessary!

CONFIRMATION class will be offered to all youth grade 9 and higher. We will be meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings, 6:00 - 7:15 starting September 30th. Lucia and Daun Smith will be leading the course with the help of interested adults and Mentors. We will be using the Affirming Faith curriculum and ask that each student purchase the book for \$12.00.

Kick off class: Wed, Sept. 30th 6:00 - 7:15.

There will be an **orientation meeting** for interested confirmands and parents on **September 27th at 11:30** in the fellowship room. During Confirmation, students are expected to attend worship each Sunday or help in an assigned Church School classroom, usher and read scripture, volunteer 10 hours of service to the church, and participate consistently in the Confirmation classes. *Confirmation is a wonderful experience, a time of faith nurture and growth, fellowship and faith commitment. I am anticipating a terrific year for all of us! Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns or to sign up! -Lucia*

UNDER THE TREE RACE REPORT Under the Tree 5k/10k Road Race had another great race. The weather was perfect for 67 runners with many running the 10K this year. Great raffles prizes, including a grand prize of Keltly Tent and sleeping Bag!! *With donations included, raised around \$2,000 for the Hartland Christmas Project!!! A huge thank you to all.*

Ladies Benevolent Society

Saturday, October 3rd - **The Famous Roast Beef**

Supper will be served 4:30 – 7:00.

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We have a Prayer Shawl Ministry!! We have blessed and delivered several shawls in the past few months – what a gift for someone living with illness, or grieving a loss, or homebound, or new grandparents or for a wedding. All levels of knitters & crocheters welcome! We have two totes of yarn at the church to share if you need supplies. We will gather on Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:00, Sept 30th, Oct 21st & Nov 18th.

From the Altar Committee: If you would like to provide flowers for worship, please call Martha McGlinn 436 - 2159 or Emily Silver or Linda Genovese for scheduling. If you have garden flowers, or wild flowers, call Martha, Emily or Linda. Thanks, fellow gardeners!!

A THANK YOU

Many church members volunteer their time and talent to keep our church doors open, our building systems operating and the church grounds attractive as well as running the suppers, singing in the choir, teaching Church School and providing altar flowers (to name a few!)

Many folks make efforts to volunteer – just doing what needs to be done. So, here are just a few of the people to thank for efforts in the last few months

Thank you to:

Bradley & Scott Bowers for mowing the lawn this summer!

Elaine Brousseau for the beautiful plantings and landscaping of our church grounds.

Roger & Clydene Trachier for hosting the church picnic in July and to Jeannie & Larry Frazer for hosting the picnic in June!

Vicki & Jim Lawrence for organizing the local mission trip with Habitat for Humanity.

our flower committee – Emily Silver, Martha McGlinn and Linda Genovese for providing beautiful floral arrangements week after week!

Asher Heaney who made the lower stairs a welcoming and inviting church entrance for his Eagle Project.

Christopher Hartell who painted the back fence for his Life Project.

And to all those who ushered this summer!

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Church Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 27th at 7:00 for all Boards and Committee Chairs. Please contact Moderator David Hale with any agenda items and make sure that your Board or Committee member is represented at the meeting.

Remembrance Sunday is scheduled for November 1st
A time for Remembrance will be held during worship on
Sunday, November 1st for members, loved ones and friends
who died during the past year. Please give the names of
persons you wish to have included in the Litany of
Remembrance to Lucia or any deacon before Tues, Oct 27th.

Board of Missions & Outreach

Neighbors in Need Offering will be received throughout the month of Oct. Neighbors in Need is an offering of the UCC and is used locally for non profit organizations and for peace and justice issues.

Serving the evening meal at the Hixon House: we are scheduled for
Tuesday, September 29th *Volunteers are needed. Please contact
Kristi White for more information or to donate food/help serve.*

Always: Hartland Local Food Shelf – non perishables can be
dropped off here anytime. Garden produce may be donated to the
food shelf at the UU in 4 Corners on Fridays 8:00-10:00.

Making Mission a Habit, working with God's people in need.
*In July, our church had a tremendous week volunteering with Upper
Valley Habitat for Humanity. We worked the entire week at Sierra's
House here in Hartland. Lots of good work was done by many
volunteers. And we had delicious lunches provided by our Lunch
Volunteers. THANK YOU!*

Reflecting God's love through your generosity!! We donated many
backpacks and tons of supplies to our PINS partner for children in
need in our region AND 18 Church World Service kits for children in
need internationally!! The CSW bags were made by a variety of
people in beautiful colors. JOY

YOUTH HAPPENINGS!

JUNIOR HIGH School Youth Group (7th & 8th grade)

Junior High youth group generally meets twice a month **at 5:00 - 6:15**, however we will sometimes meet at FCCH (UCC in 3 Corners) and sometimes at FUSH (UU in 4 Corners). So you will have to note where the meeting is!

SENIOR HIGHS (9th - 12th grade)

High School youth group generally meets twice a month **at 6:30 - 8:00**, however we will sometimes meet at FCCH (UCC in 3 Corners) and sometimes at FUSH (UU in 4 Corners). *So you will have to note where the meeting is! We will have pizza, and dessert donations welcome!* (please tell Lucia if you can provide dessert one evening and please donate \$20 in the fall and again in the winter/spring to cover the cost of pizza for our meetings)
If you did NOT go on Mission Trip 2015, you must do a new medical/contact information form which is available from Lucia.

*** Sunday, Sept 27th Youth Group Meetings at FCCH (UCC)**

Jr Highs 5:00 - 6:15, Sr Highs 6:30 - 8:00 (\$20 pizza donation)
SIX FLAGS sign up (cost: \$35)

***Sun, Oct 4th 11:00 - 8:00pm ALL YOUTH trip: 6 FLAGS New England!!** We leave immediately following worship and will return at 8:00pm. Medicals & Money are due by Sun, Sept 27th. Medicals available from Lucia or Paul. Cost:\$35.00

Parent Drivers/Chaperones are NEEDED!

***Sun, Oct 18th Youth Group Meetings at FCCH (UCC)**

5:00 - 6:15 Jr Highs 6:30 - 8:00 Sr Highs

***Sunday, October 25th 9:00 - 1:00 - Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch** here - all Mission Trip 2016 participants expected to help! Parental support needed!

VT Conference October concert

Bluegrass Gospel Project! At Chandler Music hall in Randolph on **Friday, September 25th at 7:30pm** sponsored by the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ.

What better way to gather friends and enjoy fellowship than around gospel music!

The Bluegrass Gospel Project described in the Burlington Free Press: "They infuse their sound with one part melancholy, two parts celebration, giving their music depth that's never heavy."

Ticket cost \$25. Please speak with Lucia if you are interested in a wonderful evening of fellowship and music!

CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE TO DAMON HALL SAVE THE DATES FOR A GREAT CELEBRATION

**Saturday, September 26
2 PM – 5PM Open House**

Old photos, exhibits, self-guided tours of Damon Hall

5 PM – BBQ (by donation), anniversary cake

6:30 PM – ‘The Moonlighters’ Big Band & entertainment by Dancers’ Corner Charleston Chicks, Butch Howe Cloggers and more

Sunday, September 27

2:00 PM – “A Fine Community Building”

Musical tribute – Pierre Fournier, skits from 1915 Dedication Program, music by Hartland Community Arts, Retrospective with Hiram Allen, and more

3:00 PM – Ice Cream Social and self guided tours

First Congregational Church of Hartland, UCC
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