

## Church Events for Fall 2017

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

Rev. Lucia Anne Jackson, Pastor

**Facebook: HartlandCongregationalChurch**

Church Telephone: (802)436-2224 or via email at [RevLucia13@gmail.com](mailto:RevLucia13@gmail.com)

*Dear Church Family –*

*Ten Years! Yes, we have been on this wondrous, challenging, joyful, heartbreaking journey together for Ten Years! I am humbled by all that we have shared, recognized and honored together – illnesses, aging, births, open and affirming, confirmation, Habitat work days, weddings, baptisms, surgeries, deaths, national & international crisis, mission trips and life transitions. I was overwhelmed on Sunday by the surprise celebration and by your memories and written notes, by your generosity of spirit and your presence. Thank you. So much has changed in the last Ten Years and so much has stayed the same. We have said the hard good bye to many wonderful friends and so too, we have welcomed delightful new people to the church. We have prayed for young adults heading off into the world and greeted people returning to church. We have worked on issues of justice and wrestled with the bible. We have walked and talked and sat at bedsides in silence. We have worshipped in snow storms and in backyards. We do it together – we grow, challenge each other, ask questions, marvel, worship, praise and pray together. We cry, laugh and encourage each other.*

*I am so grateful to have been called to this church, this community, in this time and in this place. What an adventure and there is still more to come. . . .Hope to see YOU in church – Joy - Lucia*

## Worship Schedule

\*Sun, Sep 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00– Worship with Rev. Constance Moser preaching  
Church School

\*Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – Worship & Church School  
Announcing the Celebration of Apples Coffee Hour!!  
Get out your favorite apple recipe or try a new one and share your treat at Coffee Hour.  
VINS visit – *to cap the “Consider the Birds” series!*  
5:00 Jr Youth Group (UCC) 6:30 Sr Youth Group (UCC)

*In honor of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, we will spend October focusing on some of the key & revolutionary Reformation ideas and how those ideas resonate in our time.*

\*Sunday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – Worship & Communion: “Reformation Basics”  
Church School  
Youth Group to 6 Flags

\*Sunday, Oct 8<sup>th</sup> – Worship: “Sola Scripture” & Church School  
11:30 Reformation Conversation  
6:30 “Luther” – movie and discussion

\*Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> - Worship: “Hymn Singing”  
Church School  
11:30 Reformation Conversation  
5:00 Jr Youth Group (UU) 6:30 Sr Youth Group (UU)

\*Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Worship: “Hot Buttons” & Church School  
Brunch to benefit Youth Mission Trip 2018 (Here)  
11:30 Reformation Conversation

\*Sun, Oct 29<sup>th</sup> - Reformation Sunday Worship: “Saints & Sinners”  
Church School  
11:30 Reformation Celebration! WEAR RED to Church  
5:00 Jr Youth Group (UU) 6:30 Sr Youth Group (UU)

\*Sun, Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Sunday, Worship with Communion,  
Church School

\*Sun, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> – Stewardship Sunday & Church School  
5:00 Jr Youth Group (UCC)  
6:00 Mission Trip Slide Show & Info Session (UCC)  
6:30 Sr Youth Group (UCC)

## Board of Christian Education News and Notes:

We have just started a **New Year at Church School!**

My thanks to all of the volunteers who have returned to help this year! If you are new to the church or would like to join us, please let me know.

The more volunteers we have, the less the load is for each. You will never be alone, and lessons are planned in advance and easy to carry out. And it's FUN!

Our first unit is looking at how we can be stewards to all of God's creations. Check out our bulletin board in the hallway!

*As always, if you know of other young families that would like to join us, please invite them to church.  
We can arrange to have nursery help as well!*

We are planning a trip to VINS on Sunday Sept. 24 to celebrate God's creation, and also as a culmination of the "Consider the Birds" theme this summer.

*Please join us!*

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me at [toucansam54@gmail.com](mailto:toucansam54@gmail.com)

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## **ANNOUNCING . . . FAMILY GAME NIGHTS!**

**An evening of fun for all ages!**

Fridays 7:00 – 8:30 (unless the game isn't finished . . .)

Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> & March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Board Games, Cards, Desserts and Fellowship.

Save the dates – more details to follow!

Do you have a favorite card game that you would like to teach?

Do you like to play trivia games? Or Bingo?

If you have an idea or a game to share – please contact Lucia.

*Because really, who doesn't love a good game?*

## **ADULT EDUCATION & STUDY**

*Many opportunities this fall!!*

**Bible Study every Monday 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. You are invited to join us any Monday!*

## **Useful Tools for Aging with Dignity Course -**

*Developed by Seniors for Seniors.*

*This 5 – session course offers tools & tips on:*

- Getting your affairs organized.*
- Staying connected and active and having fun!*
- Planning for when you can no longer speak for yourself to make your desires known to your doctors.*

**Who should attend? YOU, yes YOU**

*(class size limited to 12)*

*Dates? Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Nov 14<sup>th</sup> & Nov 21<sup>st</sup>*

*Time? 10:00 -11:30*

*Where? The Meeting Room in our Church!*

Course facilitators: Vicki Lawrence & Lucia Jackson

**Women's Retreat** November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> At Bethany Birches Camp (in a beautiful cabin) Program/study: 5:00pm on Friday – 8:00pm on Saturday plus you can choose to stay until Sunday to relax!  
*Cost: \$30.00 Give yourself a gift – Set aside a weekend for reflection, laughter, meditation, study, fellowship – before the holiday busyness.  
Sign up on Lucia's bulletin board.*

## 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the REFORMATION!

What is the Reformation? On October 31st, 1517, Martin Luther, an idealistic monk, posted his now-famous 95 theses – a diatribe denouncing the corruption of the Roman Catholic Church which was the medieval world’s largest and most powerful institution. His forerunners had been burned alive for similar statements, but Luther had a new tool at his disposal—the recently invented printing press. Luther’s actions resulted in an upheaval that rocked the western world in the early 1500s. The Reformation became the foundation for Western society as we know it today: sparking the rise of individualism, universal education, religious freedom, new roles for church and state. Because of the Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church experienced dramatic change and renewal, and Protestantism was born. The Reformation marked the end of the medieval and feudal world and was a forerunner of democratic movements.

Why is the Reformation important today? We live in a time when communication has changed dramatically. Just as the printing press revolutionized the dissemination of ideas in Luther’s time, so social media and technology have revolutionized how we share ideas today.

“Church” as an institution is faltering in our time, undergoing tremendous change and transformation. Many people in our day are claiming that the church, and society, are ripe for a new Reformation, perhaps, even that we are already in the midst of one. Studying some of the Reformation’s themes enriches our understanding of the past and helps us to understand how we got to where we are today. . . . and perhaps sheds light on the urgency for reform and renewal in our day. . . . the new Reformation.

### Reformation Plans:

\* In Sunday Worship - We will spend the 5 Sundays in October, leading up to the anniversary, focusing on Reformation themes.

\* Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> - a Reformation Conversation after church.

\* Watch and discuss the movie: Luther . On Sunday, Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 9:00 & on Wednesday, Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 3:30.

## I’d like to recommend to you The Vietnam War Documentary.

From PBS.org: “*The Vietnam War, an immersive ten-part, eighteen hour documentary film series directed by acclaimed filmmakers Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, tells the epic story of one of the most divisive, consequential and misunderstood events in American history, as it has never before been told on film.*”

Michael has had the privilege of participating in the film. We look forward to discussing it with you!

On PBS stations starting Sunday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm.

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## THE CHOIR is Back in WORSHIP!

### YAY!

Rehearsal at 8:30 every Sunday Morning –  
*PLUS*

Some Sundays are ‘directed Sundays’  
(by Choir Director Becky Wood)  
and thus a Friday Rehearsal at 5:00:  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>

*YOUR VOICE WELCOME & NEEDED!*  
*Come for any or all the weeks!*

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*Taking Piano lessons? Learning to play the flute? Do you play the guitar? Like to sing? The Music Committee is looking for people to play /provide music for the offertory – please contact Choir Director Becky Wood ( [rebecca.lee.wood@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.lee.wood@gmail.com) ) or Molly Delaney ( [molly.delaney@valley.net](mailto:molly.delaney@valley.net) ). Have fun playing and sharing music!*

## 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, October 31<sup>st</sup>. *Volunteers are needed. Please contact Carol Withington 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.

Reflecting God's love through your generosity!! We donated 22 new backpacks and tons of supplies to our **PINS partner for children in need in our region** AND **49 Church World Service** kits for children in need internationally!! The CSW bags were made by a variety of people in beautiful colors. JOY! JOY! JOY!

*First Hurricane Harvey, then Irma. Plus Wildfires raging in the west. While it is overwhelming, there are ways to help. **Church World Service (CWS)** responds to disasters immediately to offer relief. CWS distributes **Clean Up Buckets**. Similar to the School kits that we donated this summer, the Clean Up Buckets are built from a very specific list of supplies. To learn more go to:*

<http://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/emergency-cleanup-buckets/>

*Plus I have copied the list below. **Buckets are due in church by Sept 24<sup>th</sup>** to be delivered to a CWS collection point the next day. Consider teaming up with a friend to put together a CWS Clean up bucket. A small, but welcome and practical gesture! Or **you can donate directly to Church World Service for disaster relief work.***

*Additionally, the United Church of Christ focuses on recovery work – emotional, physical and spiritual recovery work -- the rebuilding of lives and hope in the aftermath of a tragedy. If you are interested in donating to the **United Church of Christ Disaster Recovery Ministries** please see the link <http://www.ucc.org/disaster>*

## CWS CLEAN UP BUCKETS

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind.)
- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs non-surgical, non-latex gloves
- One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new – all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

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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, quilters and rug hookers welcome! We have yarn & patterns at the church to share if you need supplies. We will gather on Tuesdays 5:00 – 6:00, Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, Oct 24<sup>th</sup> & Nov 21<sup>st</sup>

**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!

Jeannie & Larry Frazer for hosting the picnic in June!

Connie Moser and Daun Smith for providing worship leadership when Lucia was on vacation.

all those who ushered this summer and to Carol Mowry for organizing (and ushering herself many Sundays).

Carol Withington for leading the Hixon House Team in August.

TO EVERYONE who donated food to the Youth Mission Trip. (best fed teenagers!)

Patty O'Neill & Jeannie Frazer for decorating the sanctuary with birds and to all those who provided birds for the summer.

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Remembrance Sunday is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup>

A time for Remembrance will be held during worship on Sun, Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 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 before Wed, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**Church Council Meeting** on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## YOUTH HAPPENINGS!

**JUNIOR HIGH School Youth Group (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade):** generally meets every two weeks on Sundays at 5:00 – 6:15, however we will sometimes meet at the UCC in Hartland Village and sometimes at the UU in Hartland 4 Corners. *So you will have to note where the meeting is!*

**SENIOR HIGH School Youth Group (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade):** generally meets every two weeks on Sundays at 6:30 – 8:00, however we will sometimes meet at the UCC in Hartland Village and sometimes at the UU in Hartland 4 Corners. *So you will have to note where the meeting is! Snack & dessert donations welcome!*

*If you did NOT go on Mission Trip 2017, you must do a new medical/contact info form – available from Lucia or Paul.*

**\*Sept 24<sup>th</sup> – Youth Group Begins! (UCC)**

6 Flags sign up & money due: \$40 per person (parent chaperones needed)

**\*Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 11:15– 8:00 ALL YOUTH TRIP TO 6 FLAGS New England** Leaving immediately following worship from the UCC church, returning at 8:00pm. Parent drivers/chaperones needed! \$40 per person. Medicals & money due Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Oct 15<sup>th</sup> Youth Group! (UU)**

**Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> BRUNCH to Benefit Youth Mission Trip 2018 (UCC)** all Mission Trip 2018 participants expected to help! Parental support needed! Start prepping at 9:00, stay through Clean up.

**\*Oct 29<sup>th</sup> – Youth Group! (UU)**

The Sr High Youth Group will be doing CARE PACKAGES for recent youth group graduates – please bring food/baked goods/items for packages!

First Congregational Church of Hartland, UCC  
PO Box 454 Hartland, VT 05048

***Finding God in all the Wrong Places*** By Martin B. Copenhaver

*"God has made Christ the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." - Eph 1:22-23*

On a number of occasions I have hiked in the interior reaches of the Grand Canyon. To me it is a holy place, the most vaulted of natural Gothic cathedrals. It's not hard to feel close to God there, not only because of what is present, but also due to what is largely absent—the demands of living in community. The buttes don't quarrel with each other. The California condors make no demands of the living. The rollicking streams offer only comforting words. There is no need to raise money for a sanctuary roof because the blue sky has already supplied it. In such a place I relate easily to those who testify that their surest encounters with God are in the natural world.

Nevertheless, the affirmation that God can be found outside the church has never seemed like much of a claim. The true wonder is that God can be found inside the church, among quirky, flawed and broken people who may have little in common and yet are bound to one another. What an unlikely setting in which to encounter God. But the Christian God seems to like to surprise us by showing up in the most unpromising places, like a Jew from Nazareth and in a motley gathering of people known as church.

God throws us together in the church and says, in essence, "Here is where you get a chance to learn how to live with other people, to forgive, and even come to see God in one another. After all, if you can find God here, you can find God anywhere."

The church, like the family, is the place where we learn to live with people we are stuck with. And when we stick with those we are stuck with, it is a living reminder of the God who is stuck with us all.

**Prayer** God, give me eyes to see you at work, particularly in surprising places. Amen.