

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
10 Station Road, Hartland, Vermont 05048
Rev. Lucia Anne Jackson, Pastor
Facebook: HartlandCongregationalChurch
Church Telephone: (802)436-2224
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Dear Church Family –

We are entering the time of Lent – a time of spiritual preparation, a time to assess our daily lives. A season for letting go of that which clutters our lives and interferes with our sense of harmony and life of faith. So, too, Lent is a good time to evaluate our life together as a church, as we prepare for the pastoral transition. What is working well and what needs to be let go? Where are there areas in the church and in our ministries that are ripe for renewal or transformation or ready to flourish? What needs to be reappraised and changed?

Lots to ponder this Lenten season – personally and communally.

Finally, as many of you know, my family is handling an ongoing medical situation. I want to thank you for your support and patience throughout. We feel the holding and healing and prayers and love of the community. I am so incredibly grateful. We recognize how blessed we are to have access to good medical care and the freedom to be present to Michael whenever he needs us. I know that many families do not have the privileges that we have and I wish, I pray, that everyone did.

In deep gratitude ~ Lucia

Worship & Church School **for Lent & Easter**

Sunday, March 1 - 1st Sunday in Lent,
Worship with Communion, Church School
Associate Conference Minister, The Rev. Paul Sangree preaching
11:15 Brunch to benefit Youth Mission Trip 2019 (at the UU)

Sunday, March 8 - 2nd Sunday in Lent,
Worship & Church School
****DAYLIGHT SAVINGS****
11:15 Celebration of Maple Season Coffee Hour – bake a batch of your favorite maple treats, or try a new recipe! Come to celebrate and enjoy the sweet treats of the season

Sunday, March 15 - 3rd Sun in Lent, Worship & Church School

Sunday, March 22 - 4th Sun in Lent, Worship & Church School

Sunday, March 29 - 5th Sun in Lent, Worship & Church School
2:00 to 4:00 PM- Gospel of Mark Alive- a storytelling performance by Rev. Bert Marshall at the North Pomfret Church.

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday Processional 6th Sun in Lent,
Worship & Church School
11:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 9 7:00 Maundy Thursday
Service of Tenebrae with Communion

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday Vigil 12:00 – 3:00
Sanctuary open for quiet prayer, music, reflection & scripture

Sunday, April 12 –**EASTER – He is Risen!**
***6:00 Sunrise Service on Hammond's Hill behind Mike's.
***7:00 Easter Pancake Breakfast!
***10:00 Easter Service Celebrate the resurrection!

Sunday, April 19 - 10:00 Worship & Church School

Sunday, April 26 – 10:00 Worship & Church School

Sunday, May 3 - 10:00 Confirmation Sunday & Church School

Search Committee Update

The Church Profile is almost complete! We are meeting with Reverend Paul Sangree after church this Sunday to go over our progress and hear his thoughts on what we have written. There may be some minor edits that come from this meeting, but we expect the profile will be ready for prospective pastoral candidates to view on the UCC website and we are looking forward to interviewing candidates and finding the right person to lead us on our continuing journey together.

I can't say enough about the terrific group of people on the committee who have contributed to the profile, especially Tom Ramsey, who had the task of assembling and editing our individual parts of the profile.

Lastly, we couldn't have put together such a perfect picture of our church family without the input of all of you in the congregation who met with us after church and helped to define who we are.

Thank you all for your trust and patience as we continue with this important task.

**Sincerely, Dexter Cooper,
Chair, FCCH Search Committee**

Amendment to By-Laws

At the Church Annual Meeting on January 26, 2020 the new proposed language describing membership was approved. An amendment was made to replace the old wording with the new in both the church Constitution and the By-Laws. You can read this new version by going to this web address <http://www.hartlandcongregationalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Proposed-membership-changesFINAL.pdf>

Prayer Shawl Group

We have a Prayer Shawl Ministry!! All levels of knitters & crocheters welcome! (anyone doing handwork is invited – quilters??) We have lots of donated yarn, a variety of patterns and willing teachers if you need supplies or help. We gather on **Tues 5:00 – 6:00, March 24, April 28 & May 26** **JOIN US!**

Choir NEWS

Please consider joining the choir for this Sacred Season! Your voice is needed – share your gift of music.

**Rehearsals: Every Sunday at 8:30 plus
Fridays at 5:00: Feb 28th, March 6th & 13th &
Thursdays at 5:00: April 2nd, April 23**

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, April 5th at 8:30 for 10:00 Worship followed by **11:00** Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday & Easter;

Maundy Thursday, April 9th 6:00 Rehearsal for 7:00 Worship Service;

Easter Sunday, April 12th -- **8:30** for 10:00 Worship Service.

The Lady Bs/Ladies Benevolent Society

This is an active, fun fellowship in our church – consider dropping in for any meeting that fits your schedule! If you have an idea for future programs – please share it with Carole Williams or Janie White.

March 19at 1 pm--Lady B's meet in the dining room. Bring what you can for quilting; scissors, rotary cutters, cutting mat, irons, sewing machines. We will be doing as much as possible on the quilt for raffle for "Old Home Day." There will be some part of this YOU can do, so please come.

Call Carol W. 674-5274 or Jan Hewes 436-2069 with questions.

April meeting is the 16th--we will discuss that in March.

Christian Education News and Notes

Our Church School year is going well! We continue to read lessons from the Bible, followed by arts, crafts, and outreach projects. We honored Dr. Martin Luther King with our 2nd annual silent peace march, performed a "Creation" skit, and had a very fun Advent Pageant, The Living Advent Calendar. Our nursery is being used almost every Sunday!

Thank you to all nursery workers and volunteers in Church School! I am thrilled to announce that we have 2 new members on the CE Board; Amy Hoisington and Kevin Dreyer. Both members have children in our program! Welcome Amy and Kevin! I also wish to thank Jill Allegretti for the time she served on the board!

~**Mary Jo Ramsey, Director of Christian Education**

THANK YOU!

**to Mark Dow & Matt Dow
for keeping the drive way plowed!**

**And to all of the Roast Beef Supper
Volunteers!**

**And to Janet Hewes for providing wonderful
music to those waiting for the Roast Beef
Supper!**

**And to Carol Mowry for greeting and signing
folks in to every supper!**

Welcome to New Members!

Dexter Cooper - Having served as a trustee, Dexter is currently chairing the Search Committee. Dexter and his wife Molly are long time members of the choir.

Larissa Dreyer – Serving as a deacon, Larissa is mother to Otis and Emmett, partner to Kevin and a PA at DHMC. They live in Quechee.

Sheila Barber – New to our church family, Sheila is interested in Climate Justice. She was raised Southern Baptist.

Debi Hart Smith – Debi has been an adult advisor on two youth mission trips and remembers going to Sunday School in our church.

Laura Waters – Mother to Maya and Coleman, Laura recently completed her RN training. She grew up UCC in Keene, NH.

Caroline Lee – Serving as a deacon and on the Search Committee and singing in the choir, Caroline and daughter Scout are avid game players.

Hylene Devoyd – Hylene organizes line dancing at Damon Hall. She and her husband live in Hartland Village.

Sherri Greeley – A new member of the Board of Mission and Outreach, Sherri has volunteered on many Habitat projects. She and husband Brian live in Windsor.

Board of Missions & Outreach

Hartland Local Food Shelf –Our food shelf is participating in the HES backpack program – sending home backpacks of food with children in food insecure homes so that those children have food for the weekend. You can participate by donating non-perishable foods. What an important ministry right here in our own community!

<https://hartlandfoodshelf.com/>

Gospel of Mark Alive

A storytelling performance by Rev. Bert Marshall.

Sunday March 29 at 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the North Pomfret Church - You won't want to miss it! We will meet here at 1:15 for those who want to car pool.

“The gospel – the good news of Jesus Messiah – was the whole story. And it was told aloud in the early Christian communities. The Word was animated. It had sound and presence. The church gathered around that Word, and the gathering was sacred, and the Word was power and life. May it be so to you as well.”

For more info on the performance see

<http://www.gospelofmarkalive.com/>

YOUTH GROUP

March 1 (UU)—9:00 am–1:00 pm—Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at the UU Church.

March 8 (UU)—Youth Group Meetings

March 22 (UU)—Youth Group Meetings

April 5 (UCC)—Youth Group Meetings. Mission Trip Youth—Mission Trip commitment and \$100 due to Lucia! Mission Trip paperwork will be available.

April 19 (UCC)—Youth Group Meetings

May 3 (UU)—Youth Group Meetings

May 17 (UU)—5-6:00 pm—Last Junior Youth Meeting
6:00 pm—Mission Trip Logistics Meeting—All Paperwork Due!
6:30–8:00 pm—Last Senior Youth Meeting

Mission Trip 2020 July 26-August 2!

Mission Trip Commitment and \$100 Registration Due to Lucia on

April 5

Mission Trip Logistics Meeting and Forms Due to Paul on **May 17** at the UU

Mission Trip Worship Service at the UU Society **August 2, 10 am**

Up to Date Church Calendar

<http://www.hartlandcongregationalchurch.org/calendar>

Church Officers, Boards and Committees

2020

Officers

Clerk	Joe Reilly	436-2564
Assistant Clerk	Cindy Hale	436-1434
Treasurer	Linda Genovese	436-2137
Assistant Treasurer	Susan Motschman	436-2561
Moderator	Tom Ramsey	436-3094
Office Admin	Mary Sutton-Smith	fcchartland@gmail.com

Board of Deacons

Caroline Lee	
Larissa Dreyer	
Nancy Cone	436-2117
Betty Powell	457-4096
Linda Johnston	359-2370
Harriet Dumas	436-2880
Martha McGlinn	436-2159

Board of Trustees

Linda Genovese	(Treasurer ex-officio)	436-2137
Pat Richardson	436-2362	
Susanne Inglis	457-1202	
Martin Dole	436-3653	
Carol Mowry	436-3383	
Larry Frazer	436-2792	
Patty O'Neill	674-9210	
Darryl Calkins	436-2031	

Board of Christian Education

Mary Jo Ramsey, Director	436-3094
Sue Reilly	436-2564
Amy Hoisington	
Kevin Dreyer	

Board of Outreach and Missions

Karen Lewis	457-4521	Edith White	436-2384
Carol Withington	295-9561	Sharon Offensend	
Sherrie Greeley	674-9505	Ginny White	436-2668

Nominating Committee

Members-at-large	Martha McGlinn	436-2159
	Patty O'Neill	674-9210

Music Committee

Virginia Dow, organist	436-2417
Rebecca Wood, Choir Director	436-2847
Martha McGlinn	436-2159
Molly Delaney	436-2640
Harriet Dumas	436-2880
Nancy Smith	436-2616

Altar Committee

Linda Genovese	436-2137
Martha McGlinn	436-2159
Emily Silver	436-2681

Pastoral Relations Committee – to be convened by Deacons

Stewardship Committee

Susanne Inglis	457-1202
Jon Cone	436-2117

Auditor

Martin Dole	436-3653
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Delegates to Windsor-Orange Association

Carmen Summarsell	436-2300
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Delegates to Vermont Conference Annual Meeting

Daun Smith	295-7982	Cindy Hale	436-1434
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Custodian Chris Mangan

*Please note: Terms begin in January of the year listed, after the annual meeting, and continue until January of the final year listed. Other positions are renewed annually.

From Guru to Gospel by Molly Baskette

For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided?
- 1 Corinthians 1:11-13

Most of the biggest, wealthiest and what passes for the strongest churches are organized around a single charismatic leader—usually male, often handsome, purportedly straight, and inevitably aged 32-58. Those of us in (ahem) real churches (read: small and struggling) might call this ilk a cult of personality and not a church. But we fall victim to the same idolatries when we offer our allegiance in church membership to a pastor and not to the community. And when the pastor falls short, personally offends, or worse—leaves—we are heartbroken or furious. We may even leave the church ourselves.

When the risen Jesus was subsumed into heaven, his movement was riven by fandom and idolatry. The leadership sought to sort itself out, and people took sides over their personal gurus: Peter and Paul and Apollos. It almost killed the church before it had really been born. Then Paul pointed them all back to Jesus Christ (a miracle in itself, for Paul had quite an ego). Every pastor—every Christian, in fact—is called to be a finger pointing to God.

We worship the Creator, not the creature. Ask yourself: when the church disappoints you at some point, as all churches inevitably do, can you give your loyalty and heart not to a person, or even a people—but to the gospel of grace and service and kin-dom that underlie them all, whether or not we live out that gospel perfectly? If we do that, our love and loyalty, like Christ himself, can never truly die.