

## Points of Interest

**Rummage Sale** needs donations! Please sign up to help sort items as they start arriving on Apr. 15. Sign up sheets will be at the Pleasant St. foyer and at Coffee Hour.

## Horton Center Open House Sat. June 9

Come enjoy a day in the White Mountains at our NH UCC Summer Camp! Scholarships Available for all Summer Campers all ages. Check the schedule on the Horton Center website. Contact Rev. Paula if you're interested in receiving a scholarship open to all.

**Work Weekend May 25th -27th** Last year, we had 22 people from our church participate!

# Tower Tidings



Volume 1, Issue 1

April 15, 2018

## From the Pastor's Desk - Eastertide

Dear Members and Friends,

One of the great mysteries of the Christian Faith is what happened at the first Easter. An even greater mystery is what happened in the immediate aftermath of this first Easter.

When I ponder the days after that first Easter, I find myself wondering two things: "What happened in the lives of those individuals who were close to Jesus?" and "How did the earliest communities of faith around Jesus' Way come into being?"

We have a few Easter stories in the gospels that

address my questions as well as the *Book of Acts* with its accounts of the Day Pentecost and the work of Jesus' followers who were "filled with the Holy Spirit." But, sometimes, I want more details!

It seems to me that Eastertide may be a time for this kind of wondering - and learning - of more about how we may rise up and spring to life from our experiences of death and grieving. It also seems to me that churches in our society ought to be engaged in this kind of wondering as we find ourselves in a time of great

transition in our relationship to society and culture.

So it is, in our sermons between Easter Sunday and Pentecost (the remembrance and celebration of the "birth" of the church), we'll be wondering about these things. I've called our series *Eastertide - Prelude to Pentecost*. And I hope, especially given what's being planned for Pentecost Sunday here, we'll be better prepared for springing into new life!

Blessings of Eastertide,  
Ed Koonz,

## 4th Annual Lakes Region Inter-Faith Prayer Breakfast

On May 3rd, the 4th Annual Lakes Region Inter-Faith Prayer Breakfast will be held in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer. The breakfast will be at St. Andre Bessette Parish Hall on Gilford Ave., Laconia buffet breakfast will be served starting at 7:30 am.

Our local Lakes Region theme is: "Many Voices

United in Prayer." The topic of our 2018 event will be: "Substance Misuse and Prayer." Local people in recovery will relate their stories of the importance and power of prayer in their lives. Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased in the office.

We are also looking for volunteers to help set up and clean up the day of

the breakfast. Please see Rev. Paula if you would like to volunteer.



## Peace Crane Project Update - 4500 cranes made to date!

Each Monday morning since January people have been gathering to make peace cranes to help celebrate the 125th birthday of the City of Laconia. We are very happy to let you all know we now have made **4500** peace cranes and we are still going!

The entire community is involved in spreading the word that "Laconia Cares

about Peace." Many of the women who have been helping have been making cranes all week long and bringing in bags of 50 or 100 cranes, children and grandchildren are helping near and far. The Key Club at Laconia High School, the 6th graders at the Laconia Middle School, the 5th graders at Woodland Heights, women from The

Taylor Community, people from Merrimack Prison, and the County Jail have all helped. We are still going to the Boys and Girls Club, Pleasant Street School and Elm Street School. Each group is learning that we are a "Just Peace" church and the story of "Sadako" and the meaning of 'Peace Cranes'.

*the brightly  
colored  
cranes, so  
delicate, are  
whispers for  
peace*

### Why peace cranes?

After the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan the legacy of Sadako began. Sadako was only two years old at the time of the bombing - she and her family survived the bombing but 10 years later, because of her exposure to the radiation she was stricken with leu-

kemia. In Japan, the crane is a symbol of long life. Sadako, folded more than a thousand paper cranes and the legend says that with each paper crane she wished for long life and peace. After Sadako's death, her classmates raised money for a monument in her honor

and all those who died because of the bombing ...peace cranes have become a symbol of peace around the world.

*When we  
give cheerfully  
and accept  
gratefully,  
everyone is  
blessed.*

### What is the Dorcas Fund

*Submitted by Joni Stover*

In the 1960's, the Social Services Commission of the Diaconate included Priscilla Cruick Shank, Helen Harrington, Dr. Gordon Macalaster, Dr. Norman McLetchie and Edgar and Margaret Tetherly.

The doctors were particularly concerned at that time that some members of the church who were ill with cancer were in dire financial distress. The committee wanted to give help to those individuals anonymously and without fanfare. At that time, the Diaconate was

set up to give that sort of help, but the request would have to go before the whole group without any sense of privacy for those requesting aid. So it was decided that a fund would be set up for just that purpose, and it would be called the Dorcas Fund after a particular

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individual in the Bible who was lauded for her "doing of good works." It was thought that giving through the fund would maintain anonymity for both giver and receiver.

And it has. Those who will be able to receive aid are decided at the discretion of the ministers and payment is made by the treasurer of the fund, who at this time is Bob

Harrington. No cash payments are made to individuals, but, if it is decided that the need is there, their emergency bills are paid.

Originally, the Dorcas Fund was to be supported by the loose change given on each Communion Sunday, and the recipients were to be only church members. Now the fund

has grown so because of memorial and other generous donations that that policy is no longer necessary.

The good doctors had no idea that this project would last longer than their time on the committee. However, in the intervening forty or so years, the effort to help others has expanded to include "outsiders" in the

the community. If a list were made of the ways this fund has benefited individuals and families locally, the list would go on forever. Our church can be very, very proud of the work of the Dorcas Fund.

## Attention All Church Women

If you could not make it to Maine last weekend for the Celebration, the NH State Women's Fellowship is holding their Spring Meeting on April 28, 2018 in Deerfield, NH. The theme is *A Seat at the Table*.

We will experience how we know more about the World at the table, and

see slides of life in Haiti today, and pictures of the girl we sponsor. Also, Margie Kreitler has been nominated to become President. It's sure to be a very special day.

Deadline is fast approaching! Reservation forms are available in the church office or in the narthex. Hope you can

join us!

Call Diane Wells - 603.527.1401 or Hollis Thompson - 512.970.6592 with questions or to carpool.

The reservations are due right now. Make your check out for \$12 to NHCUC.

*Mail your reservation form and check to :*

*Trudie Bergeron  
46 Nantucket Place  
Greenland NH  
03840*

## New England UCC Women's Celebration

*Submitted by Diane Wells*

As one of the 12 women from our church who attended the Celebration in Portland, ME this past weekend, it was quite an enriching experience. The workshops included ways to help our churches seat all at our tables, and different ways we can

revitalize our churches in this era.

Rev. Traci Blackmon from Cleveland, The interim Peace and Justice Conference Minister, helped me realize that when all Ways of helping look impossible, keeping your faith in God and remembering Jesus' Love will

help us every day.

I want to thank you all those who helped make attendance possible with their generous scholarships.



Congregational Church of  
Laconia

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## A note from Paula

The theme for the New England Women's Celebration, that eleven women from this church attended this past weekend was "A Seat at the Table". It was a wonderful time of learning, growing, fellowship and worship. Below is the opening call to worship: I share it with you all that you too may experience a small piece of the joy and love we experienced.

### Call to Worship

The table is set!

**The picnic basket is overflowing**

the feast is prepared

**and the people have gathered.**

Oh look around...see who has gathered here

**Tall people Short people Round people Slim**

People with their hair in braids and some done up in curls  
**long hair and short, purple hair and white as new fallen snow  
black hair, brown hair, kinky hair and some with no hair at all**

because it's not about the hair and it's not about clothes,  
**it's not about the shape we're in or the company we keep  
and it's not even about the gender we claim...**

it's about being together

**It's about our hearts and our spirits gathered as one body,**

about our love so big there is room for all

**Room for All!**

For we want everyone at the table...not just a few

**...and we are just beginning...because there are still many missing...**

although we've been gathering for 40 years

...we are still...just beginning to gather all who are

**...just waiting for an invitation...**

so come...get ready...welcome each other and know that God is already in  
this place

**waiting and welcoming; inviting us in**

a place at the table for everyone...come claim your seat!

**for all things are ready...**

and so...are we.

## Coming in May - Combatants for Peace

Film and Conversation with Palestinian Speakers, Kholud Abu-Raeya and Israeli  
Netta Hazan

Tues May 1, 6:00-8:00 pm - Public Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester

Wed May 2, 6:30-8:30 pm - Universalist Unitarian Church, 274 Pleasant St., Concord

Thurs May 3, 6:30-8:30 pm - Public Library, 175 Parrott Ave., Portsmouth

*Combatants for Peace* is a grassroots organization founded by ex-fighters from opposite sides of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. The Combatants help us all see that peace is possible even between former enemies in the most entrenched conflicts on our planet.