



THE TOWER LIGHT

The Newsletter of Second Congregational United Church of Christ Hyde Park, VT

May 2023

Planting Seeds of Love

Hello sisters and brothers, I know that this last month has been emotional with the news of my departure to take on a new position. We have a lot to do and it seems that the changes coming to the congregation are greater than first realized.

It does sadden me to be leaving the Hyde Park congregation at this time, but I can say with the fullness of faith that I believe you are on a path to rebirth and new life. This is the season of Easter and during this time we are able to look to Christ's resurrection and in turn look to ourselves and how we can resurrect the spirit of Jesus' love in our own lives and relationships.

I do believe that with the help of the Hyde Park community, and our friends in Lamoille County, the Second Congregational Church in Hyde Park is standing on fertile soil in which the seeds of God's love can grow. The question we need to ask ourselves is just, "what can we do to help our community?" and we answer that by getting out and trying new things!

This last month that I am with you will be focused on visiting friends whom I have had the opportunity to get to know in service, but perhaps not one on one. I will also be working with the mission committee to help them take over our monthly movie night, so that you all can continue to use that as a means to engage with our local families and friends.

I am also working with the Lamoille faith partners to raise awareness for their Interfaith Teach In on June 3rd at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church at 6pm. This is an event to raise money and awareness to confront poverty and homelessness in our local area.

There are many ways in which we can plant seeds of love around our blessed community in

Hyde Park, and I know that no matter where our journey with Christ may lead us, those bonds of love will never break.

Rev. Devon

Addressing Poverty in Lamoille: An Interfaith Teach In & Fundraiser

The Interfaith Teach In and Fundraiser will be on Saturday, June 3rd 2023 from 6 – 8 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church, 728 Mountain Road, Stowe, VT.

Passover and Easter are a time to look towards a hopeful future. This year, the Lamoille faith communities come together in direct action against economic injustice in a night of learning and giving. All donations go to support the Interfaith Benevolence Fund, a new partnership with United Way of Lamoille County that will support community members who are experiencing severe economic hardship. Come hear the stories of those directly impacted, alongside experts, clergy, and community members as we work together towards a society that provides for everyone's basic needs and respects the dignity of all. Light refreshments to follow the program.

The Keynote Speaker is Representative Saudia Lamont of Morrisville (Lamoille-Washington). Saudia is a graduate of Cornell University's Diversity and Inclusion program, Leadership Lamoille, Bright Leadership Institute, Recovery Coach Academy and holds other certifications. A former infant toddler care provider, founder of the youth program "Developing D.I.I.V.A.S. (Dignity Integrity Independence Virtue and Self-esteem)", and a trained- trainer of Prevent Child Abuse VT's "Care for Kids, We Care Elementary, Safe-T, & Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development" curricula, she has dedicated much of her life's work to researching and supporting youth growth and development. A former

visionary director and chair of a local antiracism organization, Saudia currently sits on the Board of Directors at Laraway Youth and Family Services and of Lamoille County Mental Health. As a public speaker and workshop presenter, Saudia facilitates understanding of racial justice, health equity, housing access, survivor recovery, and restoring humanity.

Dedicated to family, youth, and community, self-motivated, energetic with integrity, Saudia leads with love, always learning and growing along the way. Her personal mission in life is to help, uplift, support, and inspire anyone she may encounter beginning with herself and her children. She wants her life's work to be loving, inspiring, compassionate, encouraging, open, positive, supportive, memorable, comforting, sustainable, and life-changing.

For those joining us online, register here for the Zoom link and/or to donate, please click here <https://uwlamoille.org/news/event-calendar.html/event-form/registration-form/86559/tickets>

Prayer

Dear Lord,

One of your greatest commands is for us to love. Tonight, as we gather together, we need you to guide us as we:

Listen carefully and respectfully to each other

Open our ears and minds to both new and old ideas

Visualize our church's path forward

Energize ourselves to carry out our plans.

This will be a challenging time for our congregation. Because of your love for us, we know we can achieve great things. Amen

Anonymous

Lectionary Readings for May 2023

May 7 - Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14. **Enduring Witness.**

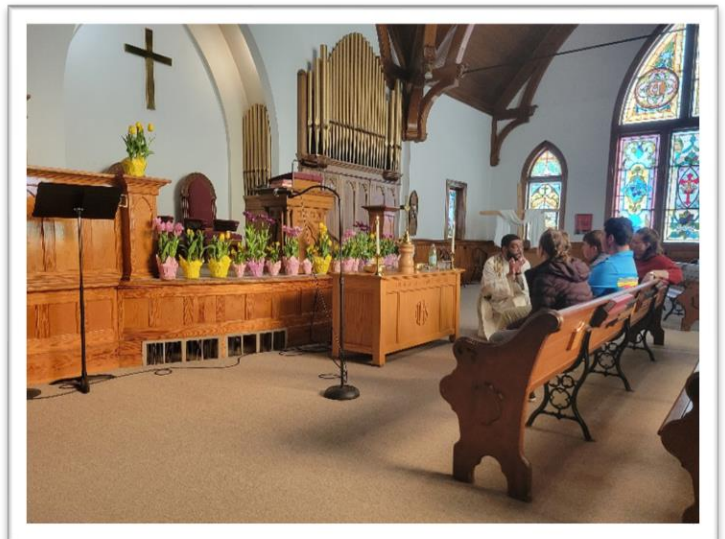
May 14 - Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21. **Witness of Love.**

May 21 - Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11. **Spirit of Witness.**

May 28 - Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39.

Deacon of the Month

May – Carol Young



Easter 2023

Update from Executive Committee

This certainly has been a busy month with the arrival of spring and the news that Rev Dev will be leaving us for a full-time position. While we are very sorry to see him leave, we understand that it's a decision he had to make. It's our loss but a great gain for another community. With

that information in mind the 4 chairs of committees are working to form a new search committee. They are working closely with the Conference to begin the process. Our initial thinking is that we want to find a ¾ time person with the goal of growing our Church community. There has been an ongoing discussion about the trees by the side of the Church and how best to deal with them. We have several estimates and several of them are an option to not cut the trees down, but to trim them and do some minor work to keep them in place, but protecting the Church and our neighbor. It would be great if we can safely keep those sugar maples.

We are also going ahead and getting better heating for the dining room. A new “heater” will be put in place and provide a way to heat up the room rapidly. It’s actually not a “heater” but more like a radiator with fans, so the heat is circulated rapidly; for a little electricity we can actually have a warm dining room. We also approved a paint job for the dark brown paneling around the room. Tom Weeks has volunteered to take on the job. Thank you, Tom.

Several months ago, we received a request from the elementary school asking if the church could become their emergency evacuation place. Jon Henderson has worked with them to make it happen and earlier this month they had their first drill. It went very well. The kids were great and the staff was delighted with the results. Previously all the students and staff had to be loaded onto buses and taken to the High School. Later this spring they will do another drill in which the students are actually picked up from the church to be taken home. It’s a much better situation and the school is very thankful for our support. It’s great to see the church used this way.

As a busy social season arrives and various folks get requests about using the Church space, we thought it would be helpful to have everyone know what the policy is for renting the building. We have a form that needs to be filled out and the date needs to be checked to make sure the building is available. Any of the chairs or Emma has access to the form that can be emailed upon request. The use of the sanctuary is \$250. The use of the dining

room/kitchen is \$100. Nonprofits can use the dining room/kitchen area for a contribution. There is no alcohol allowed at any event in the building.

We have begun a comprehensive list of the various projects that need to be done to the building to bring it up to modern day standards. These range from roof repair, the stain glass windows, a new ramp and a handicapped restroom and much more. It certainly seems like a daunting list; we will begin looking for grants and funding that can help us bring our lovely building into the 21st century.

Susan Bartlett

Commemorative Brick Walkway Opportunity

Our Commemorative Brick Walkway is coming along nicely and we have enough orders to place another order with Polar Engraving this year for summer installation in the walkway.

If you are interested or know someone interested in purchasing a brick, please ask me or a member of the Executive Committee for an order form.

This has been a great fundraiser and the walkway looks great. It is sealed every year to protect each brick and is a nice way to commemorate someone that is or was special to you.

We would like to order the bricks in early June so you have a month to let me know.

Jon Henderson,
Member of Executive Committee



***Moms are a blessing to their family,
a gift to their children, a joy in this
world. Happy Mother's Day***

Mission Committee Updates

Concert to Benefit Capstone

The Mission Committee is organizing a concert to be held at our church on Friday, June 2nd, 7:00 p.m. Some of the performers include: Ted Lambert as our M.C.; Joe Ciccolo, Liz Fox, Stefani Capizzi, Rebecca Pitrie, Danny Granstaff (Chaplain at Copley Hospital), and Cristina Escobedo.

All proceeds will go to Capstone Community Action. Some of the services that Capstone provides our community are: Fuel Your Neighbors (100-day Campaign), Green Savings Smart, Financial & Energy Coaching, Mileage Smart, Assistance in Buying a High Efficiency Pre-owned Car, and Vermont Everyone Eats, providing nutritious meals. A suggested \$10.00 donation will be taken at the door. Any questions, please contact John Clark – 802 888-4864.

John Clark,
Mission Committee

Movie Night

The Mission Committee will be hosting Movie Night on May 19 at 6 pm. Stay tuned for more details. This event is open to the community! Popcorn and drinks will be served.

Aging Well Mediterranean Style Presentation

Please join us on June 6th 4-5PM for a presentation of "Aging Well Mediterranean Style" by Mary Val Palumbo DNP, APRN and Amy Nickerson MS, RDN. The UVM professors will discuss the Mediterranean food pattern and life style for healthy aging; as well as, their recent trip to Sicily to observe how a small mountain community takes care of their elders. Healthy refreshments will be served.

COTS Collection



We will be collecting personal items during the month of May to donate to Community on Temporary Shelter, COTS. All items must be new.

Suggestions: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap, towels, wash clothes, ladies' personal items, q-tips, nail polish, nail polish remover. Skin lotion, hairbrushes, combs, any personal item that you can think of. We are doing this collection for the month of May. Thanks so much.

Madonna Parker

Birthdays & Anniversaries May

- 1 Madeline Senesac
Haley Woodside Jiron
- 2 Lisa and Curtis Stearns (A)
- 6 Carol Young
- 9 James Dewan
- 22 Taryn Emerson-Mason
- 27 Jon & Deb Henderson (A)
- 28 Sequoia Sherman
- 30 Andrea Miller

Coming Events

5/1	PRC Meeting – 1 pm
5/2	Spiritual Life Committee meeting – 5:30 pm
5/9	Mission Committee meeting – 5:30 pm
5/14	Mother’s Day
5/19	Movie Night – 6 pm
5/15	Executive Committee Meeting – 6 pm
5/29	Memorial Day
6/2	Concert to Benefit Capstone – 7 pm
6/3	Interfaith Teach-In at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 728 Mountain Road, Stowe - 6pm
6/6	Agging Well Mediterranean Style Presentation – 4 pm

2023 Bell Tower Request Form

The Bell Tower is lit each week in memory or honor of loved ones. All dates and weeks are available and may be shared by a few or many! To sign up please fill out the following form and mail it to.

Second Congregational Church, UCC
 PO Box 216
 Hyde Park, VT 05655

I am requesting the week (s) of:

Exact wording of message.

(Example. “The Bell Tower is lit this week in memory of Jane Smith by John Smith.)

Contact Person _____

Phone. _____

Suggested Donations. \$20 per week, payable to “Hyde Park Second Cong. Church”



Memorial Day - A day to remember and thank the millions of Americans in uniform who gave their lives for this country. Memorial Day's meaning is truly about those heroic women and men, and the remarkable sacrifices they made.

Hymn For The Hurting by Amanda Gorman

Everything hurts,
Our hearts shadowed and strange,
Minds made muddied and mute.
We carry tragedy, terrifying and true.
And yet none of it is new;
We knew it as home,
As horror,
As heritage.
Even our children
Cannot be children,
Cannot be.

Everything hurts.
It's a hard time to be alive,
And even harder to stay that way.
We're burdened to live out these days,
While at the same time, blessed to
outlive them.

This alarm is how we know
We must be altered —
That we must differ or die,
That we must triumph or try.
Thus while hate cannot be terminated,
It can be transformed
Into a love that lets us live.

May we not just grieve, but give:
May we not just ache, but act;
May our signed right to bear arms
Never blind our sight from shared
harm;

May we choose our children over chaos.
May another innocent never be lost.

Maybe everything hurts,
Our hearts shadowed & strange.
But only when everything hurts
May everything change.

