

THE BELL RINGER

The First Baptist Church of Lebanon

January, 2022

It is our desire to be a worshipping, life-long learning people of Jesus, caring for each other, the community around us and the world beyond us.



The First Baptist Church of Lebanon

www.firstbaptistchurchoflebanon.org
1stbaptistlebanon@gmail.com
860.642.7975

Reverend Thomas Cowger, Pastor - 860.617.3243, tcowger37@gmail.com

Molly Lathrop, Organist and Music Director - 860.887.6281

Amanda Shanks, Administrative Assistant and Treasurer - 1stbaptistlebanon@gmail.com, 860.642.7975



30 years of service

It is a true delight for our congregation to have been able to share more than 30 years of light and leadership of the Church's music program by our very talented Molly Lathrop. It is a joy to have your continued dedication to your Church family and community.

Molly was recognized during Fellowship Hour earlier this year.

Did you know

that for several years in the 1970 First Baptist had a musical group called "The First Annual Singers"? They performed here at our Church and had several "gigs" at other Churches.

Dedications

It was a joy to dedicate 3 babies on Sunday, December 19th.

Camden James Jennings

Evelynn Ameilia Martin

Gemma Linsley Seitz



January 2022 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am - Adult Bible Study 11 am - Worship Potluck	3 1 pm - 4 pm Stitchers	4	5 6 pm - Bells 7 pm - Choir	6	7	8
9 9:30 am - Adult Bible Study 11 am - Worship	10 1 pm - 4 pm Stitchers	11 7 - 8:15 pm Zoom Study	12	13	14	15 8 am - Men's Ministry Breakfast
16 9:30 am - Adult Bible Study 11 am - Worship	17 1 pm - 4 pm Stitchers	18	19 6 pm - Bells 7 pm - Choir	20 - 3:30 pm Ladies prep. the Community Meal at Church	21	22
23 9:30 am - Adult Bible Study 11 am - Worship	24 1 pm - 4 pm Stitchers	25 7 - 8:15 pm Zoom Study <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	26	27 - 3:30 pm Men prep. the Community Meal at Church	28	29
30 9:30 am - Adult Bible Study 11 am - Worship Annual Meeting	31					

Birthdays -

Allison Toppa - 1/3
Pauline Magnuson - 1/7
Cassandra Wells - 1/9
Joshua Treiss - 1/11
Judy Sasse - 1/12
Eric Lemieux - 1/17
Abby Bell - 1/19
Audrey Clark - 1/20
Elaine Hinsch - 1/20
Tom Cowger - 1/22

Kaity Bell - 1/24
Marcy Littlefield - 1/25
Wes Wentworth - 1/27
Bev Duntz - 1/28
Jamie Thompson - 1/31
Caleb Mathieu - 2/1
Jeremiah Cole - 2/2
Liam Charron - 2/3
Mike Manning - 2/4
Gail Rockefeller - 2/8

Debra Beisiegel - 2/9
Samantha Dutto - 2/17
Jerry Cross - 2/18
Sue Bender - 2/20
Al Rudolph - 2/21
Ron Roberts - 2/22
Jacob Lathrop - 2/23
Nolan Cole - 2/23
Katherine Fowler - 2/28

Anniversaries -

Gary and Deb Martin 01/16/1982

Please let us know of needed updates or additions - 1stbaptistlebanon@gmail.com or leave Amanda a note

First Thursday Ladies Fellowship

January 6th First Thursday Fellowship is postponed, for now.

We may reschedule for later in January. If not, we'll gather in February!
Anyone with interest and/or feedback is welcome to let us know.

Maggie Hahn, Christina Terkildsen, Debbie Cowger



Annual Reports Due - January 10

Please email your report to 1stbaptistlebanon@gmail.com.



Annual Meeting - January 30

Lebanon First Baptist Church will hold their Annual Meeting after Church Service on Sunday, January 30th at 1 p.m.
All are welcome to attend, as we review reports and budget for 2022.

Soup and Bread Potluck - January 30

Sign up is found on the counter in the Fellowship Hall or see Barbara or June.



Thank you Burt and Jean Starkey

for the beautiful wreaths they made, donated and put up at the church.

Information regarding Carlene Drysdale

We "the church family" sent flowers for Carlene 's funeral service in Maine. At that time we were given the option to plant a tree in her memory and we chose to do exactly that. We have received notification that the tree has been planted as part of the Oregon Fire Scars restoration project.

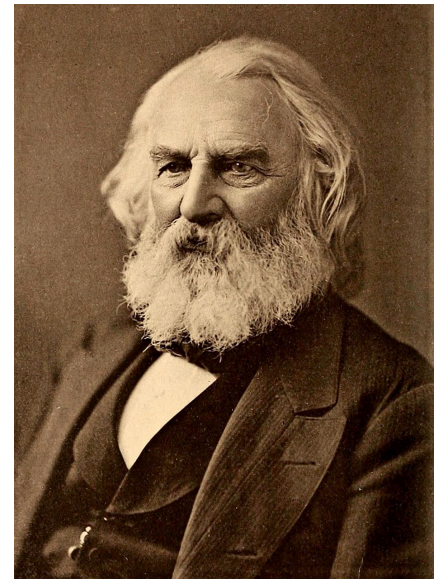
A fitting tribute to a sweet lady.

Hymn of the Month

January 2022: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

The hymn, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," which we sang on the Sunday after Christmas, is somewhat different as a traditional Christmas carol.

The words are a poem written by the Massachusetts poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The hymn's words reflect the pain and the hope of the poet, based on Longfellow's personal life and tragedies. In 1861, while Longfellow was napping at his Cambridge home, his wife's dress caught on fire from melting sealing wax, and he awoke to her screams and tried to put out the fire on her dress and body with a rug and then with his own body. She died from her burns, and Longfellow himself was burned so badly he couldn't attend her funeral. She was the love of his life and his grief was deep and long. Then two years later, Longfellow's eldest son Charles, at the age of 18, decided to join the Union army and went down to Washington D.C. where he became a 2nd lieutenant in the Massachusetts Calvary unit G. By early summer, Charles had become very ill with typhoid fever, and Longfellow went to Washington to bring him home to convalesce in Massachusetts. By August, Charles was back with the army, and on November 27, 1863, Charles had been wounded during the Battle of Mine Run Campaign, taking a shot through the shoulder - narrowly missing his spine. Longfellow once again, went to Washington to tend to his son, and learned that his son would need months "of healing" to recover from his wound. Later, back in Cambridge, on December 25th, 1863, Longfellow heard the bells toll on Christmas Day and penned the words to his poem "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The words reflect the dissonance in his heart as the nation was at war and his heart was still mourning his wife and his son's injury. The theme of "listening" is prevalent throughout the poem, and leads to an air of confident hope as in the midst of bleak despair as we recall that God is alive and that righteousness shall prevail - with the bells reminding us of Luke 2:14 of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men." Less than a decade later, the poem was set to the melody "Waltham" by the English organist John Baptist Calkin. We can still be inspired with the theme of hope among despair as we pray and reflect on our current day news and tribulations.



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

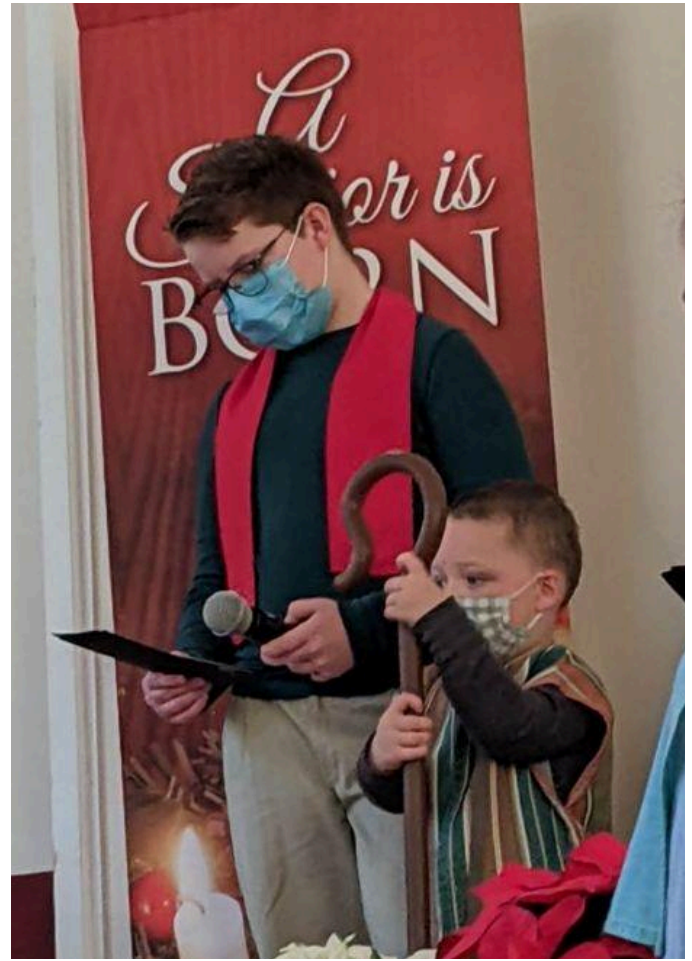
You can see the lyrics and hear this beautiful hymn sung by Burl Ives here:

[I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day - Burl Ives](#)

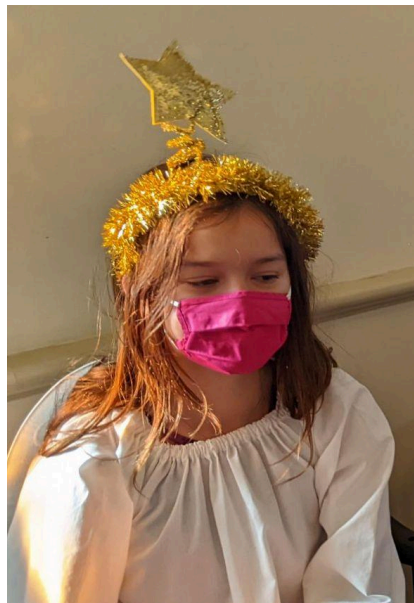
View Daily Bible Readings at www.firstbaptistchurchlebanonct.org/daily-bible-readings

Children's Christmas Pageant

The...Signs of Christmas...were indeed everywhere December 12 as our children led our whole congregation in celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Savior!



Joy and excitement filled the church that morning as 20 of our kids participated in reminding all the adults of the meaning of that special birth so long ago. We had 6 readers with words of wisdom. We had 6 symbols...a wreath, a heart, a Bible, a lighted candle, a wrapped present, a heavy wooden cross. Each was held carefully as the readers explained their meanings to Christmas. We had singing; beautiful singing by the congregation, our children's choir, a girls choir and The Shanks Kids. Christmas is a Time to Love...Christmas isn't Christmas til it Happens in Your Heart...these songs still ring in our hearts.





There was much joy as we watched 'Mary' and 'Joseph' carry the 'Baby Jesus' to be laid in the manger. The 'shepherds' did come! The 'sheep' were there. The 'animals' in the stable joined in the celebration!

Jesus, Our Savior, is Born!



The kids led our worship of His Birth with Joy! It was wonderful and we loved it!

Thank you!

The Bell Choir and the Singing Choir are very grateful to be the recipients of a monetary gift of \$450 from the Rose City Chorus. Unfortunately, in recent months, the Rose City Chorus has had to make the difficult decision to disband. Our own John Kolar was a member of the Rose City Barbershop group and served as treasurer. Since they are disbanding, they are allocating some of their funds to area groups with a substantial music program and our Choirs were chosen to receive this gift of money.



Many thanks to John Kolar and to the Rose City Chorus!

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

Mission Committee

During the month of January, the Mission Committee will focus on "One Great Hour of Sharing".

Priscilla & co-chair-Jerry Cross on behalf of the Mission Committee

Fellowship Committee Update

On Jan 30, the Annual Meeting date, we will have Soup & Bread Sunday. Sign up is found on the counter in the Fellowship Hall or see Barbara or June. We will do a special lunch on Super Bowl Sunday (Feb 12, to be announced)

A special Thank you from The Fellowship Committee for all your very generous contributions each week that have made our Social Hour the best! Special thanks to Barbara for all her time and work and food she does to make this happen. Her artistic touch makes it look beautiful, as well as so very tasty!



Financial Peace University

Take control of your money with Financial Peace University! This nine-lesson class uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! You can sign up for this class and start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace at fpu.com/1145035. Class starts Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped the Community by giving through the Christmas Giving Tree

Items were donated to Lebanon Social Services, the guests at the Community Meals and the Windham Area No Freeze Shelter



How to Have the Perfect Christmas

By Jesse R. Clark

We all have the idea of wanting the perfect Christmas each year. Part of the reason is because we loved it so much as children that we want to recreate that magic each year. When I was eight, I was feeling nostalgic for Christmas when I was seven. I was already nostalgic for something that only happened a year earlier. However, I have heard five year olds start sentences with the phrase “when I was little”. It’s all perception. In order to recreate that perfect Christmas, we look for ways to bring us joy. However we tend to get “wrapped” up in what brought us joy when we were younger that we are blind to the reason they bring us joy. We all have really good Christmases and Christmas where we need some extra joy. But that gift comes from God for Christmas traditions seem empty without God. That’s why we can feel joyful when we are miserable, or we can feel miserable when we do something that should make us happy.

Imagine. It’s cold, dark and the shortest day of the year. But you don’t feel bad because you are looking at a beautiful Christmas tree with a house full of beautiful flowers and decorations as you sit by the glow of a fire. It feels so nice that you begin to wonder, “Why don’t I do this all the time?” Because it takes energy. But then you think, ‘If I can do it while running around, buying and wrapping Christmas gifts, in between jobs, making food, why can’t I do it during a time when I actually might not get sick?’ But it’s worth it for the joy and Christmas spirit it brings you and others. The reason to do it is to bring joy to people, but stressing yourself out about it won’t really bring joy. It shouldn’t be because you feel forced to. So you stop and sit on your couch, drinking eggnog, maybe with a loved one, trying to forget the stress of being called a Scrooge by a sales clerk because you reacted with disgust to a “Jesus Claus” ornament. This is an ornament of Jesus dressed as Santa coming down a chimney and the sales clerk said in her sugary sweet voice that it’s the only way you can feel the true spirit of Christmas and if you voice your disdain of it, you are a Grinch.

Then you remember that down the street, people are singing Christmas Carols. You get so happy that you grab your coat and go outside. Then you remember---it’s cold, you’re tired and as much as you want to be part of a Christmas community event, you just want to stay home and rest. But just as you turn to go in, you stop and see the moon shine through the trees. The cool air now feels like a blanket as you hear angelic voices in the distant sing “Still, Still, Still. It’s the eve of the Saviors birth...” Your muscles relax as you breath out all the stress. Ahhhhh..... You realize this is the reason for Christmas, to serve as a reminder of the gift of peace, the gift of love, the gift of hope and grace in a cold, dark world. “In the dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight...” This is a gift that you can have any day of the year. You don’t have to go crazy trying to make these moments special, just listen with your heart. Small acts of kindness, understanding and compassion. For yourself as well as others. “Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Sleep in Heavenly Peace.” And you do.

Prayer Chain

Our prayer chain members welcome your appeals for those in need of prayer. If you would like to share a prayer need or concern, please call one of the following: If you would be interested in joining us, please call Suzanne Yeo, 860-456-8090. We are always happy to have new members.

Suzanne Yeo: 860.456.8090
 Priscilla Barton: 860.537.1788
 Lynn Littlefield: 860.208.6159
 Louise Thompson: 860.886.7436
 Marge Peene: 860.537.8007

Jean Reichard: 860.642.7389
 Gail Rockefeller: 860.465.9797
 Starr Sward: 860.208.9445
 Maggie Hahn: 860.208.7463

Prayer requests can also be made on the church website at www.firstbaptistchurchlebanonct.org/contact

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For those who are able, you can send your support to The First Baptist Church via mail.

Mailing Address:

PO Box 231 Lebanon, CT 06249

You can also now make a gift online by visiting - www.firstbaptistchurchlebanonct.org/give



Caring Families
Compassion for Our Community

Women's Coffeehouse

JANUARY 29TH, 2022 2-4:30 PM

Redeemer Lutheran Church
321 Village Hill Road Lebanon, CT 06249
RSVP at www.carefamilies.com

JOIN US ON JANUARY 29TH FOR A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AND FUN AS WE SUPPORT CARING FAMILIES. THIS YEAR WE WILL BE HOSTING THE EVENT AT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LEBANON. THERE WILL BE A COFFEE CAFE, TEA, FOOD, DRINKS AND LIVE MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. OUR GUEST SPEAKER, DARLENE PAWLK, WILL SHARE HER POWERFUL TESTIMONY.

Tickets: \$15 for 1 \$25 "bring a friend"

Questions? Contact Michaela Grimaldi by
Phone (860-786-1124) or email
(outreach@womenscenterct.com)
RSVP at www.carefamilies.com



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DATED MATERIAL

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News from the
First Baptist Church
of Lebanon, Ct

