

THE BELL RINGER

The First Baptist Church of Lebanon

March, 2021

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

860.642.7975

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

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The Jesus Way

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, and culminating on Saturday of Holy Week, Lent includes forty weekdays and six Sundays. During this season we remember, and respond in gratitude and faith to Christ's self-giving, emptying, humble service that eventually took him to the cross.

During this season we observe Jesus living out the two great commandments. To love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus teaches his disciples the way of loving God and others through his lifestyle. A lifestyle of loving God and neighbor. He takes his disciples with him and they watch and learn as Jesus moves through villages and towns, interacting with people, teaching, healing, praying, serving. He introduces them and us to a lifestyle of loving God and others and invites us to the same.

During Lent our worship will focus on Jesus inviting us to a way of living out love for God and others. The Jesus way of living out love as forgiveness, compassion, humility, patience, burden bearing, praying, serving, and sacrificing. We'll also have a Zoom Bible Study every other Tuesday evening from 7:00-8:30pm. The first study is Tuesday, March 2 nd . We will approach each study watching and learning as Jesus takes us through villages and towns, interacting with people, inviting us to find our place alongside Jesus as we read, reflect and share in conversation with each other and the Holy Spirit, listening for the living active word of God speaking to us. If you are interested in joining please contact me via email so I can send you the scripture reading and Zoom invite for each time we meet.



Jesus' way will lead us to our Holy Week Services which will be both in person and Live Stream. The services will include Palm Sunday, March 28 th , Maundy Thursday, April 1 st at 7:00pm, Easter Sunrise April 4th at 6:30am, outside and the Easter Service at 11:00am.

The Jesus way leads us to a glorious life-giving resurrection! It's time to re-emerge from a long year! It will be wonderful to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tom

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

Camp Wightman

Summer Camp, Family and Group Retreats



Camp Wightman has come out with their 2021 summer schedule, which includes summer camps for kids as young as 6, adult only camps, a week for grandparents to camp with their grandkids, a women's week and family weeks. It looks like it is shaping up to be a very fun summer camp. If you have not checked out Camp Wightman it is worth the drive.

Camp Wightman is an American Baptist camp located on Billings Lake on the border of Griswold and North Stonington. Camp days are filled with swimming, kayaking, crafts, worship and camp fires, nestled in the woods on the edge of the lake. We are very lucky to have an American Baptist camp so close to home.

They have Covid-19 protocols in place and will be adapting as additional guidelines come forward leading up to the summer. They are also unique as a summer camp because they do have private cabins which are perfect for family retreats.

For more information visit www.campwightman.org and /or pick up a brochure at church.

Did You Know:

that the frame hanging in the Sanctuary over the door to the hall contains a section of a table cloth that covered our communion table for many years? It was embroidered by Helena Chappell, a life-long member who passed away in 1945.



March 2020 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1 pm - 4 pm Stitchers	2 7 - 8:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	3 6 pm - Bells 7 pm - Choir	4	5	6
7 9:30 am - Adult Bible Study 11 am - Worship	8 1 pm - 4 pm Stitchers	9	10 6 pm - Bells 7 pm - Choir	11	12	13
14 9:30 am - Adult Bible Study 11 am - Worship	15 1 pm - 4 pm Stitchers	16 7 - 8:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	17 6 pm - Bells 7 pm - Choir	18	19	20 8 am - Men's Ministry Breakfast
21 9:30 am - Adult Bible Study 11 am - Worship	22 1 pm - 4 pm Stitchers	23	24 6 pm - Bells 7 pm - Choir	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:30 am - Adult Bible Study 11 am - Worship	29 1 pm - 4 pm Stitchers	30 7 - 8:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	31 6 pm - Bells 7 pm - Choir			

Birthdays -

Molly Lathrop - 3/5
 Bob Starkey - 3/6
 Christy Toppa - 3/9
 Deb Gideon - 3/13
 Donald Lyman - 3/15
 David Thompson - 3/15
 Daniel King - 3/17
 Addison Ziegler - 3/19
 Becca Ziegler - 3/19
 Barbara King - 3/20

Joan Allard - 3/22
 Elizabeth King - 3/26
 Marge Lyman - 3/30

 Jamie Richardson - 4/2
 Nancy Labonne - 4/4
 Kailin Shanks - 4/4
 Deborah Martin - 4/5
 Ingrid Treiss - 4/7
 William Treiss - 4/7

Joey Lemieux - 4/10
 Delton Wentworth - 4/10
 Jeanne Reichard - 4/15
 Benjamin Treiss - 4/15
 Jeryl Bates - 4/18
 Jake Shanks - 4/18
 Rand Wells - 4/18
 Carole Daley - 4/20
 Cathy Choiniere - 4/28

Anniversary -

Russell and Debbie Beisiegel 3/20/1971

We are incredibly sorry if we made a mistake or missed you. Please contact us at the Church to let us know.



Palm Sunday Service - Sunday, March 28th at 11 am in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday Service - Thursday, April 1 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunrise Service - Sunday, April 4th at 6:30 am outside

Easter Service - Sunday, April 4th at 11 am in the Sanctuary

Address for Jean Lemire

Apple Rehab Cromwell
156 Berlin Road
Cromwell, CT 06416

Please send letters and words of encouragement as she recuperates.

Seed Pods Available

There are seed pods (plantable pots, dehydrated soil and seeds) available at the church in the foyer for anyone who would like them. 20 varieties of veggies and herbs, including cucumber, tomato, leek, kale, lettuce, beets, thyme, basil, and more.



Wedding Anniversaries

We are looking to compile a list of anniversaries. Could you please let us know your anniversary by sending an email to 1stbaptistlebanon@gmail.com, or leaving a note in the Administrative Assistant box at the church.



March 2021: "The Old Rugged Cross"

C. Michael Hawn, the University Professor of Church Music at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, writes:

What do the gospel hymns "The Old Rugged Cross" and "I Come to the Garden Alone" have in common? Both compositions were completed virtually at the same time (1913) by American Methodists. Each reflects on key symbols of Holy Week – the cross of Good Friday and the garden of the Resurrection. Both songs speak from a first-person perspective, composed in a ballad style (6/8 meter) with refrains. Both songs place the singer in the biblical scene, one at the foot of the cross where Jesus hung, and the other in the garden walking with the risen Christ following the Resurrection. The composers composed both the words and the music. Perhaps most of all, both George Bennard and C. Austin Miles wrote songs that many parishioners deeply love, and others love to hate.

In this month's Bell Ringer, we will look at the background of The Old Rugged Cross. This is one of America's most popular hymns of all times. It was written by George Bennard (1878-1953), who was born and raised in Ohio and the son of a coal miner. A tragic accident took his father's life when George was a teen leaving him with the family responsibilities at a young age. He too, worked in the coal mines, and later, worked with his wife for the Salvation Army, becoming a traveling Methodist preacher.



The scripture John 3:16 was his favorite verse and during a personal trying time, he reflected upon the cross of Christ. He tells it like this: "The inspiration came to me one day when I was staying in Albion, Michigan. I began to write 'The Old Rugged Cross.' I composed the melody first. The words that I first wrote were imperfect. The words of the finished hymn were put into my heart in answer to my own need."

Later, he taught the hymn to a small choir at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Pokagon, Michigan where it was first performed. George Bennard would compose over 300 hymns in his lifetime, but The Old Rugged Cross became the most popular and was sung at Christian conventions and evangelical meetings led by Billy Sunday and his song leader Homer Rodeheaver. Both the hymn and its composer are memorialized at the Old Rugged Cross Historical Museum in Reed City in Osceola County Michigan. You can listen to this famous hymn at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CltrLsjsQl0>. Next month, we will look at the other famous hymn of this time, I Come to the Garden Alone.

“A Lightning Rod of God”

I love jokes that show the absurd follies of human nature. One of my favorites goes as follows: A man was walking down the street at night when he sees someone looking around under a streetlight. He goes up to him and asks what's wrong. The other man tells him that he lost a watch. When inquired about where he lost it he says, “About two blocks north of here.” The first man asks him why, then, is he looking here. The answer, of course, is that the lighting is better. (Pause for laughter).

This is a great joke to show the stubbornness of humans. Surely the man won't find what he is looking for, yet he stays simply because it appears easier. Such is God's world, wanting to help us, yet we let our stubbornness get in the way. However, I think the man looking for his watch has a unique opportunity, for this man, though he will never find his watch, has a chance of finding something that he may not find if he wasn't there. Maybe he finds twenty dollars, who knows? Maybe he finds something that someone else lost and he can return it.

I enjoy the mindset of not looking for something specific, for I may not be satisfied. I prefer the mindset of being open to opportunities to help others. Lately, I consider me being like a Lightning Rod of God. I am receptive to people's gifts and kindness and am able to use those gifts to pay it forward. One person at work gave me a book of quotes of Fred Rogers. There was one about trying your best. I decided to make copies of it and mount it on paper to give to teachers to motivate their students.

With this pandemic, we are more sensitive to other's emotions. People tend to be more frustrated and angry now, but others are also kinder. Inspiration can hit us when we don't have a plan and give ourselves up to these opportunities. Slowing down and being receptive to these opportunities to be kind and share love to one another is a true blessing, a true gift of God. His love is something that I am glad is contagious that infects the hearts of so many. Here's to using each day as an opportunity to show God's love in inspirational ways. Amen.

- Jesse

Joining for Worship on Sunday Mornings

Reserve Your Spot at Church

Due to precautions in place for Covid-19 there are some accommodations that are required to gather in person, including the need to RSVP for attendance at Worship. **Please watch for an RSVP link sent via email each week.**

Additional things to keep in mind -

- *Mask must be worn at all times while in the building*
- *Temperatures will be taken when entering*
- *There will be no social hour following church*
- *All parties will remain at least 6 feet from others*
- *Everyone should enter the front door of the church (door closest to the road)*
- *Children will remain with their parents for the duration of the service*

Online Church Services Remain Available

To view the service live at 11 am visit www.facebook.com/1stBaptistLebanon. Following Worship view the service on Facebook immediately or the following Tuesday on the Church website (www.firstbaptistchurchlebanonct.org) or Youtube page.



IN THEIR EYES

*In their eyes, I am a warrior,
and this colt—a massive warhorse.*

*They watch my fingers, tangled in the mane,
and see a kingly grip on a saving sword.
They watch my lips with expectation
for a sovereign command.*

*They spread their cloaks in the dust for a savior,
but they don't know what that means.
They sing their praises for my kingdom,
but they point at Jerusalem.*

*Yes, hosanna, blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord. . . .
But oh—
blind children.*

My kingdom is not of this world. ■

BY JUDITH L. ROTH

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: 860.642.4767
Louise Thompson: 860.886.7436
Marge Peene: 860.537.8007

Jean Reichard: 860.642.7389
Gail Rockefeller: 860.465.9797
Starr Sward: 860.423.1834
Maggie Hahn: 860.208.7463

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

<u>Board of Trustees</u> Gary Rockefeller Jeryl Bates Darwin Gebbie John Hahn Bev Duntz	<u>Clerk</u> Shirley DeFlavis	<u>Sunday School Superintendents</u> Suzanne Yeo Debbie Cowger
<u>Council Member-at-Large</u> Marty Clark	<u>Assistant Clerk</u> Bonnie LeBlanc	<u>Board of Christian Education</u> Phyllis Rodgers Debbie Cowger Barbara Comstock-King Shirley DeFlavis Suzanne Yeo
<u>Treasurer</u> Amanda Shanks	<u>Board of Deacons</u> Robert Starkey Elaine Hinsch David Yeo James Nardine Starr Sward Al Allard Lynn Littlefield	<u>Nominating Committee</u> Kate Starkey June Harvey Amanda Shanks
<u>Assistant Treasurer</u> Donna Lafontaine	<u>Deacon Emeritus</u> Bev Duntz	<u>Pastoral Relations Committee</u> Tracey Megson Molly Lathrop Jan Rudolph Mike Manning
<u>Financial Secretary and Moderator</u> Linda Finelli		

For those who can, 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

ATTENTION



LYMAN ALMUNI



We're counting down to 100 years!

A history is being put together and we need your help -
Besides yourself, did your parents, grandparents, children, or grandchildren
graduate from Lyman? Please check your attics and basements,
do you have any of the following?

Programs, Yearbooks, Class Photos

- **Graduation Ceremony Programs:** 1923, 1925, 1937, and 1956
- **Yearbooks** earlier than 1938; 1940, 1944, 1947 and 1948
- **Class photos** (entire class in caps & gowns): 1923, 1924, 1926, 1938, 1962, 1964, 1969, 1970, 1972-1974, 1977, and any of the 1980s. *Class photos need to be identified with year and the graduates' names as they appear in the photo.*
- **Names** as they appear in 1943, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1967 and 1975 class photos

Written materials from any year:

Any news clippings on constructing or opening/dedication of the Junior-Senior (present Middle School) or current (917 Exeter) schools; opening of the Vo-Ag Center (1961); Graduation/class night invitations, Class Night programs, prom invitations, bids and tickets, senior reception invitations, Athletic Banquet booklets & award recognition nights, National Honor Society induction programs, *Lymanite* newsletters (1940s-50s), or newspaper articles about any event or sport. Do you have scrapbooks of Lyman items?

Do you have information?

Season records, coaches' names, tournaments, all stars, news clippings, etc. for Field Hockey, Golf, Badminton (including CIAC tournaments), Softball (1950-80s); the Pep Squad, Drill Team, Majorettes, "The Lettermen"?

PHOTOS

Original photos of the 3 Lyman buildings (original at the center of town/jr-sr/current), construction/dedications of the Junior-Senior (current Middle School) and current (917 Exeter) schools, opening of the Vo-Ag Center, proms (set up and decorating, queens and courts, not couples or groups), dances, initiations, orientations, open houses, class trips, senior week, senior banquet, class nights, graduations, yearbook staff (working on their book), spirit week, classrooms, concerts, Lyman band in parades, band uniforms, exchange concerts, drama, ALL sports & banquets, Vo-Ag/FFA, organizations and club activities, original photos (before digital) that were used in the older yearbooks, *just to name a few. Please indicate year and names.*

Scanned items can be sent to LymanMHS100years@gmail.com

If you wish to send original items, please send an email for further instructions.
For your convenience, items can also be scanned at the Lebanon Historical Society
(856 Trumbull Highway), please call ahead at 860-642-6579.



Lyman Alumni Anniversary Committee working with the Lebanon Historical Society

First Baptist Church of Lebanon
Lebanon Green
PO Box 231
Lebanon, CT 06249
860-642-7975

DATED MATERIAL

The Bell Ringer

News from the
First Baptist Church
of Lebanon, Ct

