



# Leverett Church Clarion

Monthly Newsletter

First Congregational Church of Leverett, Massachusetts

*An Open & Affirming member of the United Church of Christ*

[www.LeverettCongregationalChurch.org](http://www.LeverettCongregationalChurch.org)

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May 2025

Lee Barstow, Pastor

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## **Notes from the Council — May 2025**

On Tuesday April 22, C&M Services (Hampden, MA) came to Leverett to power wash the church exterior. I hope you noticed how bright white the church now looks. This washing removes all the dead bugs and dirt that accumulate over the summer and winter. Power washing will be an annual operation that in the future will take place before Easter Sunday.

Speaking of Easter Sunday, the weather was great and so was the turnout for our Sunrise Service and the Easter Breakfast. We also had special music accompanying our choir at the 10 a.m. service. Thanks to all who made this possible.

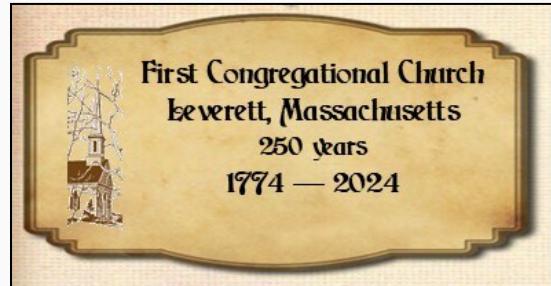
We had a conversation with our minister Lee Barstow about our church getting more involved with young adult ministry in the Valley. This would involve contacting other churches to learn what they're doing and to see how we might be able to assist young people in their search for spirituality. Lee agreed to take the lead in this important initiative.

Things are greening up across Leverett and the Pioneer Valley and we are

*(Council Notes: Continued on page 3)*

*Peace be with you  
in the light  
of our hearts*

***Find history nuggets throughout***





## *Letter from Lee*

*Pastor*

May 2025



Dear LCC Community,

After a long winter, what a blessing it is to receive the Spring. The light, the warmth, the growing green, the flowers... I yearn to breathe it all in... to *dance* with the beauty.

Glorying in the beauty of Spring can help us deepen our sacred relationships with God and each other. As the Franciscan monk Richard Rohr has written, "The energy in the universe is not in the planets or in the protons or neutrons, but in the relationship between them.... Not in the cells of organisms but in the way the cells feed and give feedback to one another.... This is where all the power for infinite renewal is at work: The loving relationship between them. The infinite love flowing between them. The dance itself."

Rohr uses this image of Spirit-as-function in a powerful portrayal of the Christian Trinity. He describes The Holy Spirit as the energy of love... of life... flowing from the Creator to the creation, which is Christ, the incarnation of God.

As we breathe in the beauty of Spring while pursuing our daily lives, we can seek to deepen our awareness of the blessing... to realize we are receiving divine energy in a particularly beautiful form. And then we can choose to share this beauty through loving action. Perhaps we pick a few flowers for someone who needs them. Perhaps the sight of a flowering tree lights a smile inside us, and we share that smile with a stranger on the street. Perhaps we offer to help a homebound get outside for a bit.

Whatever rhythms work for us in the beauty of this springtime dance, may we share them with many partners, and so may we bring joy to all.

Peace and blessings,

*Lee*

*(Council, Continued from page 1)*

making plans to address maintenance of the garden on the King Lot and the rest of the property (e.g., removing dead/dying trees and clearing undergrowth along Montague Road). We expect to start this type of work soon.

Lee had a discussion with one of our recent church attendees about a summer camp scholarship for her child. In the past, when we had more young people in the congregation, we offered scholarships for children to attend a spiritual summer camp, with many attending youth retreats at Star Island (New Hampshire). The scholarship would pay 50% of the cost to attend.

Future activities to put on your calendar: Sunday coffee hour – May 18 and June 22; our annual lakeside service – July 27.

Meanwhile, if you have any concerns or ideas on how we can better serve our community that you'd like to bring to the attention of the Council, please feel free to email me at: [ralphiner83@gmail.com](mailto:ralphiner83@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted for the Council,

Ralph Tiner, Chair

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***Our Town Hall connection — In 1895***, Town Meeting granted the church permission to improve the Town Hall. The church Ladies' Benevolent Society thereupon raised nearly \$700 to raise the Town Hall and construct an entry, dining hall and kitchen as the new first floor. In 1921 the Ladies Benevolent Society contributed \$100 toward an eastern addition to the Town Hall, adding the fireplace room on the first floor and a stage on the second floor; the Grange likewise contributed \$100, and the town paid the balance for the total \$513 cost of the addition. ***Not until 1969 did the town decide to create offices in the town hall.***

The church, with permission from the town, continues to use the downstairs space for coffee hours, receptions and other social events. In the past, the church put on popular chicken pie Suppers.



## Missions Report for May

### Community Network for Children (CNC)

The CNC Children's Closet is in need of kids sizes 3/3T up to 14/16 ! Please only spring, summer clothes right now that are clean and not stained or torn. We love puddle boots, raincoats/suits!

The Closet continues to be open on Thursdays throughout the month of May (drop-in/no appointment needed) from 8 a.m. to noon and by appointment as needed on other days for families who cannot make a Thursday morning.

The Franklin Hampshire area Diaper Bank continues to supply us with disposable diapers we can offer to families for free. We are located at the Dixon House, 4 Montague Road, Leverett. Call/Text or email Gillian Budine, CNC Program Coordinator (978) 935-4909 or [cnccoord@erving.com](mailto:cnccoord@erving.com).



Claudia Gere

For the Missions Committee

***Bucket list giving 2012*** In the midst of familiar 2012 seasonal giving, we added "buckets" for victims of Hurricane Sandy. Nancy Paulin and Rich Connnelly organized 5-gallon buckets with useful contents (from, yes, a bucket list), with most assembly done by a jolly group at Nancy's house Sunday afternoon, November 25. Dick and Mary Hankinson delivered the buckets to Ludlow. The project was sponsored by Church World Service. At last count, we

contributed 16 buckets at an estimated cost of \$50 each. Thank you, you always generous, church members.



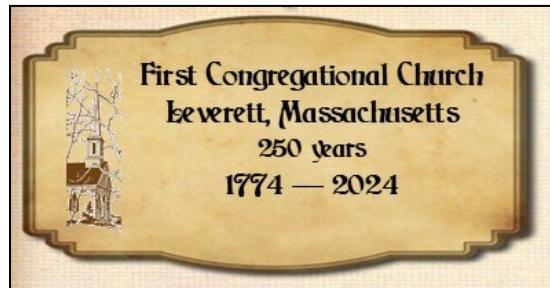


***Emerson Garden gets off the ground*** Back in 2019, these helpers turned out to dig into seasonal garden maintenance. John Kealy, Dog #1, Dog #2, Rich Connelly, Nancy Hankinson (from RI), Nancy Paulin, Steve Woodard, Mary Hankinson, Barbara Tiner, Laurie Lassiter. Mary Hankinson was in charge.

*photo by Tom Hankinson who was also part of the work party*

### **Celebrating the life of Michael Katz**

The church and its parking lot overflowed Saturday, April 26, when friends and neighbors held a celebration of life for Leverett resident, long-time veterinarian Michael Katz on Saturday, April 26, 2025. A reception followed at the Town Hall. Claudia Gere was the chief organizer.



**Prayer notes**

**Bill Anderson**, friend of Lee Barstow

*The family and friends of Bob Baldocchi, who died in October, including his brother-in-law John Kealy and sisters-in-law Mary Kealy and Sally Kealy*



**Lee Barstow**

**Andrew Botieri**, friend of Claudia Gere

**Bill Brower**, Judy Ricker's brother-in-law

**Chris Chicoine**, brother-in-law of Lee's friend Kaleigh Won

**Joan E.**, friend of Mary Hankinson

*The family and loved ones of **Bernard Field**, a Field cousin*

**Alice Field**

**John Field**

**Ben Forbes**, friend of John Root

*The family and loved ones of **Mary Franks**, friend of the congregation, who died January 22, 2025*

*The family and loved ones of **Bradley Gage***

**Barbara Goodhind**

*The family and loved ones of **Frankie Hankinson** who died October 7.*

**Mary Hankinson**

**Joshua Kaley**, husband of Betty Wilson's granddaughter Selilah Kaley

**Stasi Kanyuck**, daughter of Marg and Jack Kruse, granddaughter of Betty Wilson

**Karen**, Mary Kealy's godchild

*The family and loved ones of **Michael Katz** who died in the Fall of 2024*

**Stephen Kealy**, brother of Mary Kealy and John Kealy

**Nancy Lane** Patti Lane's sister in Idaho, daughter of the late Russell Lane

**Martha Napierski**, niece of Alice Field, as well as Martha's husband Edward

*Family and loved ones of **Hugh O'Brien**, friend of John and Sally Kealy*

**Julia O'Kelly**, Mary Ryan's niece

**Alice Oram**, friend of Lee Barstow

**Marijke van Parijs**, sister of Elsje Sturtevant

*(Prayer notes, Continued on page 7)*

**(Prayer notes, continued from page 6)**

**Esther Poldvee, friend of Tracey Field**

**The family and loved ones of Hal Ricker who died in June**

**Flip Rosenberry**, friend of Lee Barstow

**Roxana, friend of Mary Kealy**

**Michèle Smith**

**Cat White, Mary Hankinson's niece**

**Victims of injustice & violence against each other and our earth**

**Prayer updates:** If you would like to add a person here, please leave a message on the church phone, 413-548-9199, or contact Lee Barstow, [leebarstow@gmail.com](mailto:leebarstow@gmail.com); Judy Ricker, [judyricker@aol.com](mailto:judyricker@aol.com); or Sarah Roys, [royssarah2@gmail.com](mailto:royssarah2@gmail.com)



*Here is the steeple ...* In 2020 A hatch door blew off the steeple, dropping to the ground below. Church neighbors alerted us. Steve Woodard and Tom Hankinson climbed inside to do repairs ... Steve in the rafters; Tom behind the camera. The pair nailed in an ad hoc ladder with boards found in situ, then got the job done with tools winched up from below.

**Remember our lonely collection plate**

**You can mail** your offering to Leverett Congregational Church, PO Box 324, Leverett MA 01054 **Or give online at** [leverettcongregationalchurch.org](http://leverettcongregationalchurch.org) **Or** find collection plates in-person at the rear of the sanctuary

**Thank You!**

**UPCOMING WORSHIP**

May 4	Communion, Lee preaches
May 11	Randy Hyvonen leads worship
May 18	Lee Barstow preaches
May 25	Sermon time tbd
June 1	Communion, Lee preaches

**The April 2025 lectionary can be found here —**  
**<https://tinyurl.com/2ddtqkqx>**



**First Congregational Church  
of Leverett**  
United Church of Christ  
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PO Box 324  
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#### **Calendar**

May 11 – Lee away. Randy Hyvonen in pulpit  
May 18 – Coffee hour  
June 8 – Council meeting  
June 15 – Lee away. Randy Hyvonen in pulpit  
June 22 – Celebrate the Choir. Coffee hour  
July 20 – Council meeting  
July 27 – Lakeside service

May 2025

#### **Lee Barstow, Pastor**

Office Hours (Dixon House):  
Sundays following worship, by  
Appointment, in ordinary times  
Dixon House telephone and answering  
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#### **Newsletter deadline: June 2025 issue**

Tuesday, May 27, 2025  
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[www.LeverettCongregationalChurch.org](http://www.LeverettCongregationalChurch.org)

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