



Leverett Church Clarion

Monthly Newsletter

First Congregational Church of Leverett, Massachusetts

An Open & Affirming member of the United Church of Christ

www.LeverettCongregationalChurch.org

April 2025

Lee Barstow, Pastor
413-530-4231

leebarstow@gmail.com

Palm Sunday

April 13 – Worship 10 a.m.



Easter Sunday April 20



- 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service – Emerson Garden
- 7 a.m. Community Breakfast – Town Hall
- 10 a.m. Worship – Church

With you is the fountain of life

(Psalm 36:9)

**Church Council
reorg**

Ralph Tiner is now chair of the church council; Tracey Field is co-chair.



Letter from Lee

Pastor

April 2025



Dear LCC Community,

In my most recent Lenten sermon on connecting to the sacred as a path toward healing ourselves and the world, I talked about the concepts of the sacred feminine and sacred masculine.

The sacred feminine has gained attention because the destructiveness we witness in the world has often been blamed on traits identified as “masculine.” These include domination at any cost, like pursuing profit over the well-being of people and the planet. In contrast, the sacred feminine has been seen to offer traits we so desperately need, like compassion and caring and multi-dimensional thinking. And yet, as I said in my sermon, it is more accurate to label the destructive forces not simply as masculine, but as “toxic masculinity.”

As we approach Easter on April 20, it strikes me that the promise of our resurrection story can help give us hope in embracing and protecting the sacred. For defending life and nurturing well-being. These are traits of the sacred masculine, and they are resurrected day after day, though unfortunately we often miss this because evidence of the toxic masculine is so prominent and receives so much negative media coverage.

During his ministry, Jesus of Nazareth emulated the sacred masculine in a multitude of ways, including as the Good Shepherd who will stop at nothing to find a lost lamb. Jesus was rooted in care and inclusiveness and protection, not power over others.

The life of the resurrected Christ *continues* to offer us awareness of what’s most sacred and how to pay homage to it. And it offers us what we need to serve the sacred, including wisdom and guidance and strength and courage and love.

We are part of this story every time we are kind, especially when

(Lee message: Continued on page 3)

(Lee message Continued from page 2)

this is difficult. We serve the sacred every time we are kind... every time give even a small amount to a charity that helps the needy or protects the environment... every time we support human rights and dignity, etc., etc., etc.

May we awaken to the flow of Christ consciousness deep within us. It is our river of resurrection and the promise of new beginnings.* And may we find there the inspiration and strength we need to reclaim the sacred, and thereby to heal ourselves and the world.

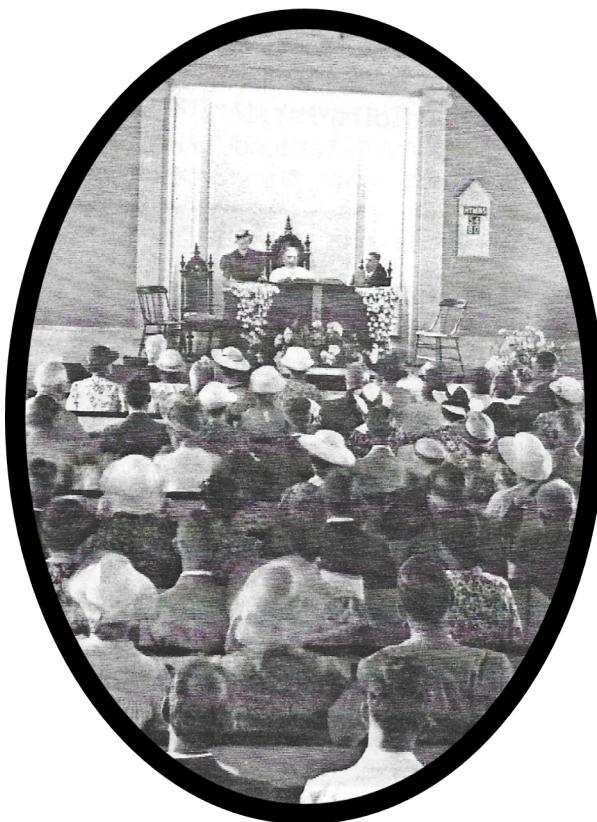
Peace and blessings,

Lee

* with thanks to John Philip Newell

 April Celebrations		
Laurie Lassiter	April 3	B
Charlie Paulin	April 11	B
Elsje Sturtevant	April 22	B
Barbara Tiner	April 23	B
Mary Raboin	April 30	B
A=Anniversary B=Birthday		

Easter a while ago? Ladies' hats date this photo from the church's 1988 sesquicentennial book celebrating 150 years since the church was built .



Missions Report February--April

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

When we support the United Church of Christ's One Great Hour of Sharing we are sending our message of love and hope to people in need throughout the world and here in the U.S. Here is just one example.



The hurricanes that devastated Western North Carolina in Fall 2024, are still having an impact on so many still in need. The excerpts below from the UCC website document a follow up visit by UCC representatives in mid-December 2024. They touch upon the unique difference and show some of the ways the UCC helps.

“...the Southern Conference has not stopped caring for those affected in our Southern Conference area, from phone calls, to visits, to obtaining financial assistance from our affiliated ministries sent to the National Setting, to aid in assisting those in need, to assistance being sent directly to clergy affected by the UCC Pension Boards. The UCC Insurance Board has been standing in the gap as well to assist with getting the claims process started as quickly as possible.

“In addition to the many things Rev. Thompson [UCC] shared, she told us that in her disaster work they always said the one thing not to send is clothing items. Another spokesperson in our group, familiar with the area, stated the one thing that was needed was cash money so that people could get the things they really needed. The warehouses were full of items graciously sent but they have run out of space to store things.” (<https://www.soc-ucc.org/hurricaneheleneaftermath>) That is the strength of the UCC and its worldwide network targeting the needs directly and over the long haul..

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports

(Missions Continued on page 5)

(Missions: Continued from page 4)

domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. One of the unique important ways the UCC works is by partnering locally...so needs are addressed correctly, most efficiently, and just as important sustainably...as long as it takes.

You will find OGHS envelopes at the back of the church Sunday, April 6, for our month-long collection. Make your check payable to the Leverett Congregational Church and write OGHS in the memo line. You can make your donation either in person at church using the OGHS envelopes, by mail to P.O. Box 324, Leverett, MA 01054, or online at <https://www.leverettcongregationalchurch.org/donate> (write OGHS in the comments).

CNC Children's Closet

On Saturday, March 29, the CNC hosted another successful open house with 29 families attending, giving parents the opportunity to socialize and shop for free children's clothing. What an amazing local resource for families and their little ones!

***The CNC Children's Closet will be
CLOSED during school vacation week
April 21 – 25***



Otherwise, Closet will be OPEN on Thursdays (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 continue to be grateful for the support, space and opportunity to be there for families. Families are incredibly appreciative. 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

— Claudia Gere, *Missions Committee*

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

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

Mary Hankinson

Joshua Klev, husband of Betty Wilson's granddaughter Selilah Klev

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

Esther Poldvee, friend of Tracey Field

(Prayer notes, Continued on page 7)

(Prayer notes, continued from page 6)

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; Judy Ricker, judyricker@aol.com; or Sarah Roys, royssarah2@gmail.com



Celebrating the life of Michael Katz

A Celebration of Life for Leverett resident, long-time veterinarian Michael Katz, will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2:00 p.m., at the Leverett Congregational Church with a reception to follow at the Town Hall. Anyone interested in speaking, playing a musical tribute, bringing baked goods for the reception, or helping out in any other way can contact Claudia@ClaudiaGere.com 413-359-0003.

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 **Or** find collection plates in-person at the rear of the sanctuary

Thank You!

UPCOMING WORSHIP	
April 6	Communion, Lee preaches
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 20	Easter sunrise service at 6:30 Regular worship at 10
April 27	Sermon time tbd

**The April 2025 lectionary can
be found here —**
tinyurl.com/2aw6s595



**First Congregational Church
of Leverett**
United Church of Christ
4 Montague Road
PO Box 324
Leverett, MA 010545



Calendar

April 13—Palm Sunday
April 20—Easter Sunday
6:30am —Sunrise Service
7am — Pancake breakfast
10am—Worship
April 26, Saturday—Michael Katz
Celebration of Life

April 2025

Lee Barstow, Pastor

Office Hours (Dixon House):
Sundays following worship, by
Appointment, in ordinary times
Dixon House telephone and answering
Machine & Lee: 413-530-4231
leebarstow@gmail.com

Newsletter deadline: May 2025 issue

Tuesday, April 29, 2025
Judy Ricker, Editor, 548-9895
judyricker@aol.com
Sarah Roys, Bulletin
royssarah2@gmail.com

The **Clarion** is published monthly by the First Congregational Church of Leverett, an Open and Affirming member of the United Church of Christ.
www.LeverettCongregationalChurch.org
<https://www.facebook.com/lev1cc/>
Nancy Paulin webmaster npaulin@aol.com

CONTACTS

Church Council — Charlie Paulin, Co-Chair
548-9644, chaspaulin@gmail.com
Ralph Tiner, Co-Chair
548-7919
ralphiner83@gmail.com

Clerk — Judy Ricker, 548-9895
judyricker@aol.com

Missions — Claudia Gere, Chair
259-1741, claudia@claudiagere.com

Music Director — Michèle Smith
585-1556, micheleana@comcast.net

Publicist (media information)
Claudia Gere, 259-1741
claudia@claudiagere.com

Social Activities — Barbara Tiner, Chair
548-7919
barbara@wetlanded.com

Treasurer — Barbara Tiner, 548-7919
barbara@wetlanded.com