



# 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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June 2025

Lee Barstow, Pastor  
413-530-4231

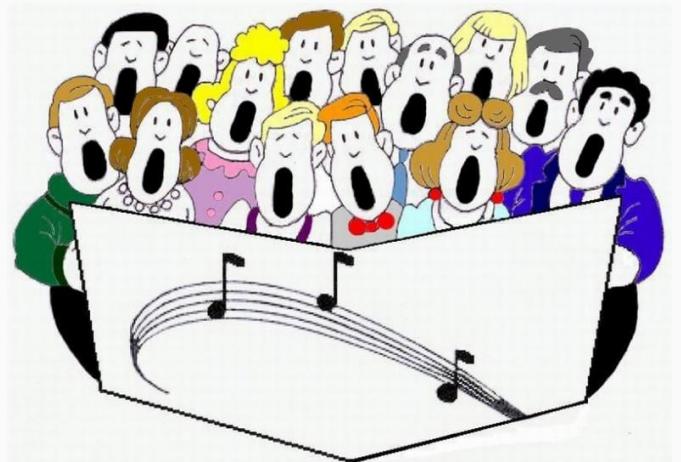
[leebarstow@gmail.com](mailto:leebarstow@gmail.com)

## *Celebrate the choir!*

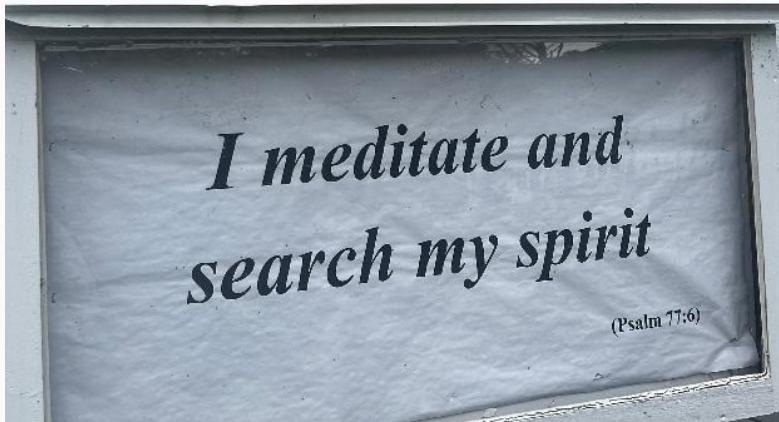
### **Sunday, June 22 — Coffee hour, too**

It's time for the choir to break for summer after its hard work all year.

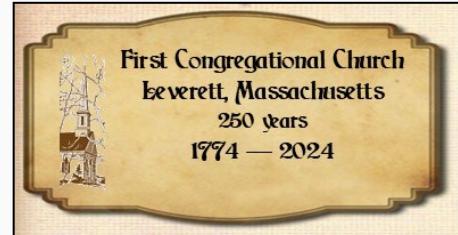
Christmas • Easter • Interfaith Service • Every Sunday



*Celebrate these folks ... Susan Altabet, Stephen Dydo, Tracey Field, Tom Hankinson, Kim Mohlar, Charlie Paulin, Jim Perkins, Mary Raboin, Beth Raffeld, Sarah Roys, Elsje Sturtevant, Ralph Tiner, Steve Woodard and, of course, music director Michèle Smith*



**Read the story of  
the King Lot**





## *Letter from Lee*

*Pastor*

June 2025



Dear LCC Community,

As we leave our season of Easter in preparation for Pentecost Sunday on June 8, I found two bible stories that I believe express an important meaning of resurrection.

In the first story, from Kings 17:17-24, the prophet Elijah invokes the power of God to restore a widow's son to life. In the second story, from Luke 7:11-17, Jesus resurrects the only son of a widow.

After the epic and heroic story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the widows' stories move us one notch closer to home and can help us in our own struggles because they touch our own experience of desolation. We need only see these stories as a metaphor for "leaning in to the sharp points," as Pema Chodron puts it.

We know the experience of desolation throughout our lives, in large ways—loss of a loved one... loss of a livelihood... loss of health—and in small ways—paralysis in the face of a hard decision... avoidance of revealing a difficult but needed truth... the need to make amends after an argument with a loved one.

The key to the message of these stories to me is in that word "desolation," which is a synonym for "emptiness." For it is when we let go *into* our desolation... when we let go of vain attempts to avoid or resist or fix the pain of our situation... when we allow ourselves to be *emptied* of self with a small "s,"...that is when we make room for something else to enter... something higher and deeper we call by so many names, including the grace of God... Self with a capital "S."

Every time we allow ourselves to travel through this cycle, it is a resurrection story, teaching us to *trust* reality instead of resisting it, even in our pain. It is *our* resurrection story, over and over. Living our story

*(Lee, Continued on page 3)*

(Lee, *Continued from page 2*)

fully *makes way* for the good news. Whether we face desolation in a small situation or one as large as a widow losing her only son, it is in letting go into our emptiness that we find new life.

Peace and blessings,

*Lee*

June Celebrations		
Lorna Rivers	June 4	B
Alice Field	June 5	B
Patricia VandenBerg	June 8	B
Sue Alward	June 9	B
Kate Moruzzi	June 9	B
Jim Perkins	June 16	B
Kim Mohlar	June 25	B
Charlie & Nancy Paulin	June 25	A
A=Anniversary B=Birthday		

### **And on July 27...**

The lakeside service and potluck picnic will be July 27 just before our August break. Services will resume in September.



Lee will be looking for people to do readings. Michèle will draft singers. Ralph and Charlie will look for grilling helpers. More later.



**Recital** Susan Altabet's students  
will perform —2 p.m., June 22  
Leverett Congregational church

## Missions Report for June

### One Great Hour of Sharing

Our congregation raised \$385 for OGHS, which then becomes a mighty resource throughout the world. Where there is great need, our contributions join with so many others to help in ways we cannot imagine, for example:

- Our gifts support the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (one of the poorest countries in the world) serving approximately one million church members and nearly three million beneficiaries annually. They establish educational programs that equip women with the essential skills needed to take leadership roles in society. Microlending empowers women to establish small businesses, provides finance education, improves access to clean water, and promotes community development. The microcredit program has enhanced women's leadership, business skills, and literacy.
- In Kamara Town, women worked together to build a church and a school, which were previously unavailable in the community. Because of the lack of educational infrastructure, children had to travel long distances to attend school and often started school later than usual. With a school now in their community, children can begin their education at the appropriate age, and parents find peace knowing their children are safe and learning close to home. And so much more....



With One Great Hour of Sharing, we are present in over 100 countries giving help like this locally where and how it is needed. Thank you to this generous congregation!

### Community Network for Children (CNC)

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

The Closet will be **OPEN on Thursday June 5 and 12** from 8am to noon (drop-in/no appointment needed) and by appointment as needed on other days for families who cannot make a Thursday morning. The Closet will be **CLOSED June 19, 26, and July 3.**

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).

## ***The King Lot, a story***

The church owns five pieces of property, though not the land the church sits on ... that belongs to the Town of Leverett. Beyond the church is the expansive King Lot on an acre of land given to the church in 1974 by Dorothy King. Sometimes the King Lot is mistaken as a town common. (Actual town common land includes a small triangle of land just downhill from the church, as well as Montague Road frontage across from the town hall and post office.)

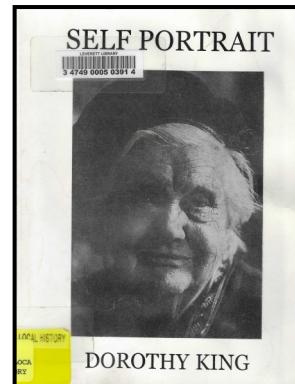
Dorothy King was born in 1890 in New York and came to Leverett early in the 1920s, though she had visited earlier. She set about buying, rehabbing and selling houses, and acquiring land, mostly in East Leverett. “I also paint portraits and landscapes, write in this diary, play contract bridge, attend auctions, take care of a large garden and have lots of fun.” Auctioneers knew her well and knew her eye for rocking chairs.

To say she was eccentric is an understatement. Many Leverett folks worked for her, and one diversion now is trying to figure out those whom she mentions in her book, and there are many. “My boys” were among her favorites, lugging bricks from a cellar for use elsewhere was one chore. (*Fact: Your editor once scraped shutters in her employ, probably lured by her friend Lois Woodard.*) Leverett’s attractions included “”this beautiful church with its poetic spire.” (The Emerson Garden on the knoll is different story in itself.) We thank you, Dorothy King.



Photos: Judy Ricker

Her book, *Self-Portrait*, was drawn from her diary notes, and compiled by Leverett’s Portia Weiskel. The Leverett Library owns two copies.



## **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 in January*

*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 2024*

**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)

*(Handwritten signature)*

UPCOMING WORSHIP	
June 1	Communion, Lee preaches
June 8	Lee reads another's sermon
June 15	Randy Hyvonen leads worship
June 22	Lee preaches
June 29	Sermon time tbd

**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!**

***Frankie Hankinson memorial event***

The family of Frankie Hankinson will hold a celebration of life 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, June 21, at the Hankinson farm on Amherst Road.

Stories of warmth and humor will flow.

To expedite parking and other planning matters, folks can RSVP at <https://bit.ly/FrankieHMemorial>

- Denzel (Denny) G Hankinson
- Denzel (Jamie) J Hankinson
- Barbara Oegg

**The June 2025 lectionary can be  
found here —**

[tinyurl.com/23ucbfgo](http://tinyurl.com/23ucbfgo)



**First Congregational Church  
of Leverett**  
United Church of Christ  
4 Montague Road  
PO Box 324  
Leverett, MA 01054



#### **Calendar**

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

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

<https://www.facebook.com/lev1cc/>

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