



Leverett Church Clarion

Monthly Newsletter

First Congregational Church of Leverett, Massachusetts

An Open & Affirming member of the United Church of Christ

www.LeverettCongregationalChurch.org

March 2025

Lee Barstow, Pastor

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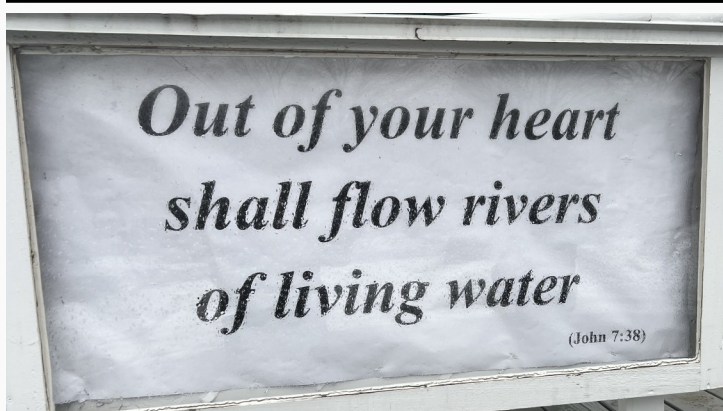
Notes from the Council — March 2025

Winter is here, and we just had two Sundays when we did not meet in the sanctuary. Both were very cold and the second had predictions for snow and ice. The Council co-chairs, together with Pastor Lee, decide if we will switch to a Zoom service or if we cancel. We are looking at how to make the process smoother and easier for everyone. So, PLEASE, if the weather looks bad, check your email, look at the church's website or call Charlie at home, 687-3794, for an update.

The new Church Council has the same members as last year's Council. Charlie Paulin was re-elected. We have some planning to do for the next couple of months, Lent and Easter are on the calendar in April. A little further out we need to determine the future of the Emerson Garden. Mary Hankinson will be moving out of the area.

We have upgraded the audio/visual equipment and software. We just saw the new version of presentations on Zoom and on the screen in church.

(Council Notes: Continued on page 3)



**See Annual Meeting
summary on page 5**



Letter from Lee

Pastor

March 2025



Dear LCC Community,

It seems that every person I talk to these days is deeply concerned with the drastically increased vulnerability of so many people and families in our country. We are groping for reason in the hope of envisioning positive change and relief for those who are afflicted. We want to find ways we can help.

I attended a bi-monthly veteran's discussion group recently, where the topic was "moral injury." This is what happens when a soldier has realized s/he is involved in an immoral action, and they are forced to act immorally. They may be ordered to kill innocents, and the pressure on them is too great to refuse. Or they may be moved to provide medicine or other aid to innocents, but they are blocked from that loving action by a command structure or by peer pressure from their brothers/sisters in arms, which is a bond at the deepest level. And so these veterans suffer moral injury... a soul wound... and it stays with them for the rest of their lives unless they are able to receive and apply powerful soul healing.

Moral injury can occur in our everyday lives... perhaps when we think of a possible action that might help heal our current crisis—as simple as writing our congressional representatives—but we don't do it because we think it won't make enough of a difference. Or perhaps we want to make a difference but we stop shy of finding a way, however modest.

We're about to enter our season of Lent (March 9 is the first Sunday in Lent), which lends itself well to this issue when we hear the cry of John the Baptist to "repent," which means to admit we need to find a new way... a way to return to the sacred.

Our society has paved over the sacred in so many ways... profits over well-being, intolerance over respect, power over collaboration, and

(Lee message: Continued on page 3)

(Lee message Continued from page 2)

all the rest. But this is not the end of the story. Whatever need we feel for cleansing and renewing... for releasing stagnation... we can find help in the stories and teachings of our tradition, as well as in every wisdom tradition.

I pray that we commit ourselves to recognizing the sacred in our lives and committing ourselves to protecting it and sharing it. Be particularly kind to someone, especially if they have different political views. Speak up for human rights and dignity when the chance arises. Connect to the unfathomable beauty of nature and find a way to help protect it, even if it's giving just a few dollars to an environmental organization.

May we ask ourselves what we hold most sacred in life, and may we embrace and protect it. Because when we do, we will discover more of the sacred, we will be fed by it, and we will heal moral injury for ourselves and for the world

Peace and blessings,

Lee



(Council Notes: Continued from page 1)

I did not get to Zoom-watch much of the Annual Meeting due to where I was sitting. The new setup will allow us to easily transmit on Facebook and other online platforms. We will investigate what can work for us.

Charlie Paulin
Council Co-Chair

Missions

Community Network for Children (CNC) Children's Closet

Even though it's tucked away in a pretty small space, the CNC Closet supports our community in a big way! Just as an example, for the month of December it helped 22 families with 37 children and distributed 363 diapers to families. WOW, well done!



The Closet continues to be open on Thursdays throughout the month of March (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 that 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.

Claudia Gere
Tracey Field. Beth Raffeld
Missions Committee



March Celebrations

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---|
| Martha Field | March 1 | B |
| Jack Kruse | March 17 | B |
| Amy Rice | March 17 | B |
| Jack & Marg Kruse | March 21 | A |
| A=Anniversary B=Birthday | | |



February Celebrations

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---|
| Tom Hankinson | February 1 | B |
| Laszlo Tikos | February 2 | B |
| Sue Hankinson | February 2 | B |
| Barbara Goodhind | February 5 | B |
| Nick Grabbe | February 12 | B |
| Fred Bashour | February 13 | B |
| Emily Field (Miss) | February 17 | B |
| A=Anniversary B=Birthday | | |

Belated greetings ... missed February's Clarion

Report from Annual Meeting — February 23, 2025

Moderator Ralph Tiner called the annual meeting to order at 11 a.m., Sunday, February 23, in the church sanctuary following a shortened worship service. In the past, the meeting has been held in the Leverett town hall.

Approved were amendments under the Membership Article of the bylaws, expanding the definition of those eligible to become members of the church by a vote of 11 to 2. A two-thirds vote was required. An earlier motion to postpone dealing with the proposed bylaw amendments failed.

The 2025 budget was approved, projecting \$137,381 in expenses, covered by projected revenue of \$31,000, augmented by \$106,381 from investments.

These people were elected to fill vacancies or take new terms in offices and positions as noted:

Officers (to 2026)

Moderator – Ralph Tiner

Clerk -- Judith Ricker

Treasurer – Barbara Tiner

Assistant Treasurer – Judith Ricker

Auditor – Tracey Field

Chief Delegate – Lee Barstow

Historian – Barbara Tiner

Committees

Ralph Tiner (Finance to 2028)

Tracey Field (Missions to 2028)

Sarah Roys, Susan Altabet,

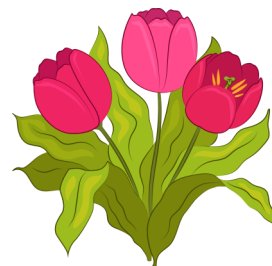
Stephen Dydo (Music to 2028)

Barbara Tiner (Social Activities to 2028)



Moderator Ralph Tiner and clerk Judy Ricker settle in for Annual Meeting February 23, 2025 in the church sanctuary.

Photo: Nancy Paulin

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**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***The family and loved ones of **Judy Hobart** who died April 5***Joshua Kalev**, husband of Betty Wilson's granddaughter Selilah Kalev**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**Lydia Oram**, sister of Dmitri Oram, Michèle Smith's friend**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)

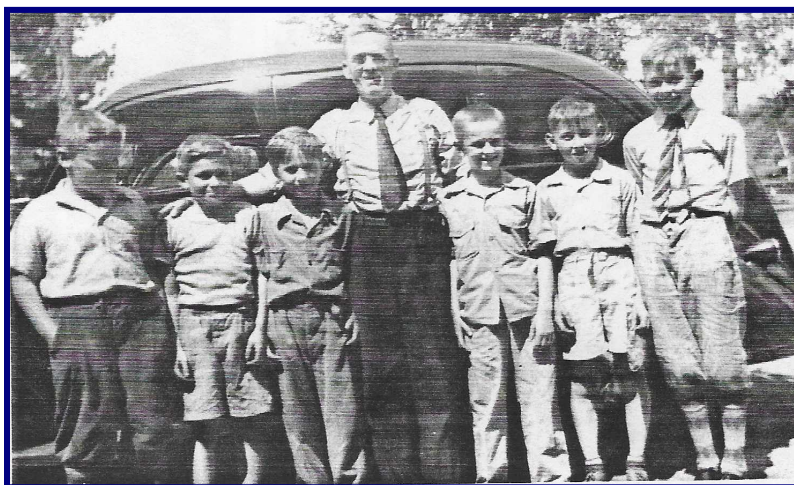
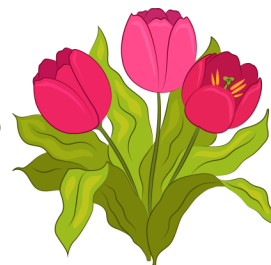
*The family and loved ones of Hal Ricker who died in June
Roxana, friend of Mary Kealy*

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



Uncle Herbie & kids of yore

Uncle Herbie (Rev. Herbert) Dixon, 1939, with a group of Leverett boys, identified as Richard Truesdell, ?, Norman Glazier, Pascal Marvel, ? Malcolm Rice

*From The Sesquicentennial
Celebration of the First
Congregational Church Building,
Leverett, Massachusetts: 1988*

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

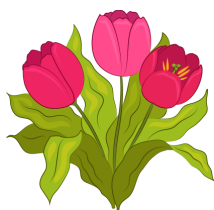
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|----------|--------------------------|
| March 2 | Communion, Randy Hyvonen |
| March 9 | First Sunday in Lent |
| March 16 | Lee leads worship; |
| March 23 | Lee preaches |

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

<https://tinyurl.com/2a73v45w>



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



Calendar

Wednesday, March 5 —

Lent begins

Sunday, March 9 —

Daylight Savings time
begins

March 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
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Newsletter deadline: April 2025 issue

Tuesday, April 1, 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.
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