



The Uncommon Word

Newsletter of the Londonderry Presbyterian Church, PC (USA)



May 2011

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“But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.

He will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”

- Jeremiah 17: 7-8

*You are no longer strangers . . . but you are fellow citizens with the saints
and members of the household of God.*

– Ephesians 2:19

CHURCH OFFICE (603) 434-2113

CHURCH WEBSITE www.lpcnh.net



June 27th – July 1st

WE NEED YOU! Vacation Bible School volunteer sign-ups are continuing. Please consider sharing your time and talents with us during this unforgettable week of teaching kids how to connect with God and share His love with others.

For more information, contact **Melanie Brooks** at brooksm@lpcnh.net.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM - Worship Service

126 Pillsbury Road Londonderry, NH

Childcare Provided.

Denominational Calendar



May 1 Older Adult Week/Wills Emphasis

May 1 Holocaust Remembrance Day

May 5 National Day of Prayer

May 6 May Friendship Day

May 8 Mother's Day

May 15 Multicultural Church/Immigration

May 22 Rural Life

May 29 Presbyterian Heritage

Editor's Note: Due to various state and federal laws and regulations relating to privacy and internet safety, the following guidelines will apply to our website and online newsletter content:

- Personal information such as home phone numbers and addresses will not appear online.
- Some photos will require obtaining permission before appearing online.
- All submitted material will be checked for content and accuracy.

The deadline for submissions to our church newsletter, *The Uncommon Word* is the 15th of each month.

The Uncommon Word

Newsletter of the Londonderry Presbyterian Church PC(USA)
126 Pillsbury Road, Londonderry, NH 03053
Managing Editor: Melanie Brooks
Editor: Dana Smith

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Dear Friends,

It is Easter—that time of year when we are confronted with the most astounding fact: one who was dead—absolutely, completely, totally and utterly dead—is alive! And not only that, the one who was dead is now alive and has been so for almost 2,000 years. Unbelievable!

Easter is a time for embracing—and maybe really learning (or relearning)—what the whole life and death and resurrection of Jesus are about (not an easy thing in itself). To put it somewhat differently, it is a time for lifting up our own faith.

I read something one time that struck a deep chord in me, and those of you in church on May 1st will recognize this. Here's what I read that day: "The opposite of faith is not doubt; the opposite of faith is certainty." Think about it. $2+2=4$. No doubt about it. That is certain. No need for faith. I have no doubt you can come up with lots of similar examples.

On the other hand, when are talking about faith, we are talking about God, about things that are unseen, things that are not knowable in our modern understanding of knowledge. Things like that can't be proven. Things like that always raise questions. Things like that raise doubts. And that's OK

So often we have been taught that doubt is a sin, and I worry about that. It is true that excessive doubt can be crippling, but so too can a lack of healthy doubt. Doubt is one of the givens of life. Everyone has doubts. We all live with it. Doubts are faced in moments of crisis, and in the inner turmoil that seems to go with living in these hectic, pressure-filled days. Most of us discover that we are ultimately strengthened by the struggles with doubt. The apostle Thomas struggled with doubt, and out of his doubt came the most profound statement of faith in the entire witness scripture when he called Jesus, "My Lord and my God."

Over the centuries, Christians have rushed to declare victory, to declare that all doubts have been overcome. You know, "The strife is o'er, the battle won." In one way, that statement is true, but in another way, the strife was just beginning. As one writer puts it, Christianity has often tended to be rigid—rigid rules, rigid doctrines, and rigid practices. We fight change, and when we do change, it is always too slowly to keep pace with God's restless spirit. We have wanted to freeze Easter, rather than embrace Easter. And that means embracing what we can't understand, embracing things that can't be proven, embracing mystery. It means embracing doubt."

Without doubt there would have been no Reformation. Doubt is how each generation finds its faith and makes it relevant to their times and their conditions. I know many people who have almost given up on churches because there is no room for questions and doubts. It is only in facing and addressing those questions and doubts that we, the church, can be strengthened (and maybe even relevant).

You are in a period fraught with doubt. In fact, you have been for years now. While I would never belittle these last five years, today and tomorrow are days when doubt isn't just OK, it's a good thing. This is a time to question. This is a time to wonder. This is a time to dream. One thing that questioning, wondering and dreaming have in common is doubt. I am blessed to be among people who have stood in the face of such doubts and have come to where you are.

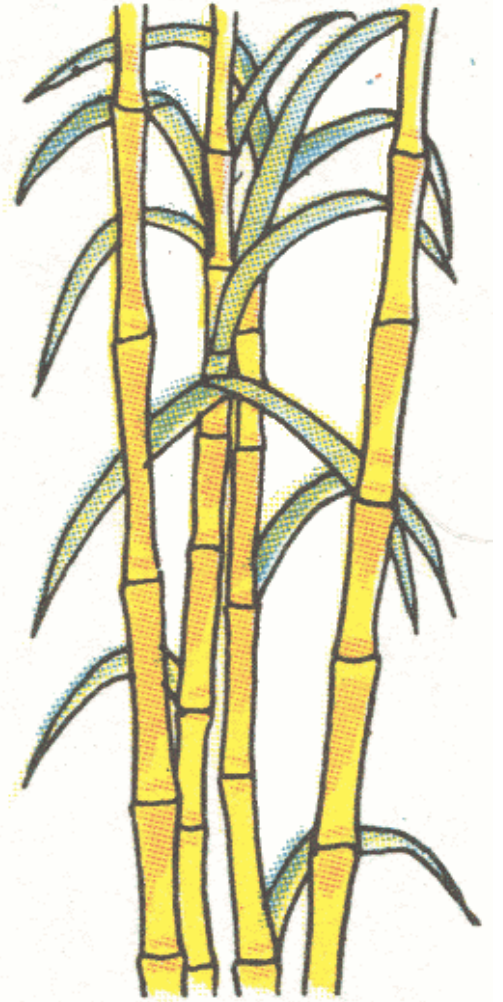
As you are moving toward a more formal search for your next installed pastor, now is a time to face and share those doubts. It is important to recall that if you put 12 of you in a room, you will find at least 13 versions of your doubts, of your wondering, of your dreams. Therefore, I hope you will take advantage of opportunities to talk, and, as the PNC is formed and gets to work, share your questions and your wisdom.

You know, after the Resurrection, Jesus returned to his disciples, but only for a few days. Just long enough to step into their doubts and remind them of what he had said before, teach them what that meant, and prepare them for the embrace of the Holy Spirit. The same dynamic is true for you too.

Friends, the key message of Easter for us is not: now all doubt is gone, change is over, and life will never be upsetting again. The message of Easter is "doubt is not gone and change is inevitable and life will be upsetting, and that is all right, and it will be all right, if you stay close to me." I pray that Easter will stay close to your heart as you continue your journey of faith this year and in the years to come.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Skip



Ready for a Wild Adventure?

Mark Your Calendar!

PandaMania

is coming to

Londonderry Presbyterian Church

June 27 – July 1

New friends • Amazing crafts • Wild games
Lip-smacking snacks • Wild Bible adventures • Incredible music

Registration has begun.

Registration forms and additional information
will be available on-line at: www.lpcnh.net

For more information, call: 603-434-2113
Or email us at: office@lpcnh.net



From the LPC Missions Committee

"Thank you all for your generous contributions to *One Great Hour of Sharing*. Our church raised close to \$1200.00. The money we raised will go directly to the support of *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*, *The Presbyterian Hunger Program*, and *Self-Development of People*. These funds will continue to support aid efforts in Japan, assistance in U.S. communities devastated by the recent tornadoes, direct food relief to impoverished communities both in the U.S. and worldwide, and help in the development and empowerment of communities impacted by poverty, oppression, and injustice. **'Sharing Resources, Changing Lives.'**"



Nuggets of Christian Thought
from Connie Cole

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

- Romans 12:10-16

The Merry Month of May and Romans Chapter 12

There are many interesting things about the month of May. We all know it as the month that is associated with "starting our gardens" in the northern hemisphere. Way back in time, some traditions began first as ancient pagan festivals that were held to celebrate the return of warmth to the earth and the beginning of the growing season. Subsequent generations added their own versions of what the arrival of May meant. You may be old enough to remember making May baskets to celebrate May Day, hanging them on doors, knocking, and then running off to hide. I don't think people do that any more!! (Those baskets along with their artificial green grass and lots of candy now appear to be associated with Easter rather than May Day.)

May has a lot of special days besides **May Day—the National Day of Prayer, the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, the Indy 500** to name a few.

And what has May to do with us today as Christians? That first of all we need to remember to thank God every day for His creation and the way He provides for us in every area of life. We can be especially thankful in this season, for the earth is warm and things are growing, May and spring are here and we are truly energized.

We are reminded that just as different generations celebrated spring in different ways, we might consider that doing things because we have "always done them that way", might not be the best way after all!

May also reminds us that we need to hang our May baskets whenever there is an opportunity! Whenever there is a need that we can meet, we can "put it in a basket of love and hang it on the door". There are needy people all around us, those suffering from a loss, illness, anxiety, stress over finances, a family disruption, or even lacking just the necessities of life.

May reminds us to set aside special days for special people, celebrating friendship and fellowship, cheering each other on. When others go out of their way to spend time with us, it gives life an extra slice of happiness.

Most of all May reminds us of how each one of us is unique; no two DNA's are alike. We are special in His sight, for we are "fearfully and wonderfully made".

I like to think that May will be in each of us all year long. We have a God given opportunity at LPC for each unique one of us, with different gifts and different talents, different ideas, different ways of doing things, and different personalities to put them all together for His church. We have an opportunity to "till the soil", to plant the seeds and see how God will water them, both in ourselves and in others. To be flexible and willing to change if our special days have to take a back seat or they don't end up as we thought they should, and, in unity, to take care of each other and let God do with His church as He would like.

We know the growing season of May has to be taken advantage of at the very beginning, for if you plant too late, the crop does not grow the way it should. Our growing season, our spring time as it were, is now. We feel the excitement as things are starting to take shape, the excitement knowing all the ways God can grow this church, this place, and especially us, to produce abundant fruit, to mature us in faith and unconditional love, and help us become the people God intended us to be. This is where Romans Chapter 12 comes in, for it embodies all of the things May reminds us of and a whole lot more. As we strive toward that goal of making sure our growing season will be productive, we need to keep reading that chapter over and over until it has truly brought about the will of God in this place. Then all our "months of May" will be truly merry!



A Multi-Denominational Praise and Worship Experience

Sunday, May 15, 2011 at 4 PM

Hosted By:

**Londonderry Presbyterian Church
126 Pillsbury Road
Londonderry, NH Londonderry 03053**

Praise & Preparation Sessions for Mega-Praise Concert:

Friday May 6, 2011 7:00-9:00PM

New Fellowship Baptist Church
50 Ash Street, Nashua, NH

Saturday May 14, 2011 10:00AM-1:00PM

Londonderry Presbyterian Church
126 Pillsbury Road
Londonderry, NH

S.A.L.T. NEWS

SENIOR ADULTS LIVING TRIUMPHANTLY

SALT members are going to enjoy all the activities at the church this month. There are so many things happening!

- We will listen to some great Jazz when **Jonathan Gaines** brings his NEC friends for a concert **on Friday, May 13.**
- We will enthusiastically welcome the **Mega Praise** singers on **Sunday, May 15.** We will be bringing desserts to share for these activities.

We have two continuing projects:

- The **Knitting Group** will meet on **Monday, May 2.** Finished hats, gloves and scarves can be brought to that gathering. They will be shared with the needy.
- A **Cookbook** is being planned. Bring you recipes to **Barbara Wallace.** We invite all LPC friends to join us in our culinary creation. It may take some time, but we will accomplish this!



- Submitted by Edee Gaines

Jazz Concert

Friday, May 13th

7:00 PM

**Londonderry
Presbyterian Church**

**126 Pillsbury Road
Londonderry, NH**



Musicians from the **New England Conservatory of Music** will be volunteering their time and talent to raise money for **Solace Ministry**, which is a not-for-profit faith-based organization that provides a safe connection between victims of abuse and local churches.

Solace Ministry trains faith communities to compassionately support victims of abuse in response to Christ's call.

Admission to the concert is \$10, and donations are welcome. Proceeds will go toward beginning training programs, and the completion of Solace Ministry's 501C3 application (which will make all donations tax-deductible).

Please come support this great cause.



On Sunday, April 10th we shared in the Service of Ordination of our two newest Elders, Steve Gaines and John Foster. We lift them, along with the rest of Session, up in prayer as they work together to do God's will and His work for our church.



"HEY, KIDS! HOW MANY WORDS FROM THIS LIST CAN YOU FIND IN MY



WORD SEARCH?"

- | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|
| AMANDA | GROWING | PANDA |
| BAMBOO | JESUS | POGO |
| BOOMER | JUNGLE | PRAYING |
| CARING | LEOPARD | SHARING |
| FEZ | LOVE | SINGING |
| GAMES | LULU | SNACKS |
| GOD | MONKEY | |

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J	O	I	I	V	V	R	X	C	P	G	A	H
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G	P	H	B	N	G	K	R	I	W	U	A	M
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U	S	X	T	M	M	O	N	K	E	Y	Q	Y

Prayer
Place



The Lord is my strength and shield;
My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart exults,
And with my song I shall thank Him.

- Psalm 28: 7



prayer@lpcnh.net

National Day of Prayer

May 5, 2011



PEOPLE AND THINGS TO PRAY ABOUT

Blank lined area for writing people and things to pray about.

Each Sunday we honor and lift in prayer those who have lost their lives that week in service to our country and are now "In God's Hands".

Honor the Fallen is a website dedicated to "Honoring those who have fought and died in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom."

For a closer look at the people behind the sacrifice, visit the following link:

<http://militarytimes.com/valor/index.php>

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
(April 29, 2011)

Earlier today, the White House released President **Barack Obama's Presidential Proclamation** marking the 60th annual observance of the **National Day of Prayer**, which will take place on **Thursday, May 5th**.

In his proclamation, Barack Obama recognizes the important role that prayer has played in the United States, saying, "Throughout our history, Americans have turned to prayer for strength, inspiration, and solidarity. Prayer has played an important role in the American story and in shaping our Nation's leaders."

- From the NDP website



PLEASE VISIT THE



"PANDA PROVISIONS" DISPLAY IN THE NARTHEX.

THERE ARE MANY SUPPLIES AND ITEMS STILL NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.

THANK YOU !

A big **Thank You** goes out to the following merchants who donated or discounted flowers, plants and landscape materials during our preparation for **Holy Week**:

Spring Cleanup THANK YOU...

- Harold Estey Lumber
- Shady Hill Nursery
- Stop & Shop
- Lowe's



For joining us in cleaning and beautifying God's house in preparation for Easter. There was much to do inside and out, but your many hands made light work.

Great Fellowship happened all around the church. The **Brownie Troop, Avery Center Staff, many Church Members, Friends and Youth Group** participated.

Thank you, from your **Church Place & Resources Committee**, and please watch for announcements regarding monthly projects.

- Submitted by Don Melanson

MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 Christian Education Classes 10:30 Worship	2	3	4 10:00 AM Women's Small Group Study, Karen Burr 7:00 PM Deacons	5 National Day of Prayer 7:00 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM Youth Group	6	7
8 9:15 Christian Education Classes 10:30 Worship Mother's Day	9	10	11 10:00 AM Women's Small Group Study, Karen Burr 7:00 PM Session	12 7:00 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM Youth Group	13 7:00 PM Concert to Benefit <i>Solace Ministry</i>	14
15 9:15 Christian Education Classes 10:30 Worship Mega – Praise! 4:00 PM	16	17	18 10:00 AM Women's Small Group Study, Karen Burr	19 7:00 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM Youth Group	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 9:15 Christian Education Classes 10:30 Worship	23	24	25 10:00 AM Women's Small Group Study, Karen Burr 7:00 PM Session	26 7:00 PM Adult Choir 7:00 PM Youth Group	27	28
29 9:15 Christian Education Classes 10:30 Worship	30 Memorial Day	31				