

# April 2024

## Lyme Congregational Church

~ An Open and Affirming Faith Community ~

P.O Box 27, Lyme NH 03768    [lymecc.org](http://lymecc.org)    603.795.2850

### To all in our faith community:

Over the course of the next few months, I would like to share some reflections with you on the mission of the Lyme Congregational Church. The first tenet of the LCC mission is to *'practice our faith purposefully with a deep spiritual emphasis'*. We are blessed to have many ways to live out this goal. One way is to develop a daily spiritual practice. We are called to worship on Sunday and this is a great start. However, we need to remember that God exists every day and is worthy of our daily devotion.

When we worship on Sunday, we can celebrate all the good work of the past week and prepare ourselves for the coming week. If our mission is to "practice our faith" then perhaps we can use the analogy of a musician. Musicians know that they need to practice every day in order to accomplish all their performance goals. They practice to improve and maintain a certain level of competency. If a musician is learning a new piece then they increase their practice time and pay attention to blending their sound with others. Similarly, if we want to practice our faith then we need to spend more time with scripture, prayer, and listening for where the Holy Spirit is moving in our lives. We will deepen our faith if we "practice" every day.

Blessings, Pastor Amy

### Keeping the Faith: Spiritual Reflections

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the water." (Psalm 24:1)*  
*"In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for He made it, and the dry land, which His hands have formed." (Psalm 95:4,5)*

This month, we will celebrate Earth Day, when we appreciate our world and all its benefits, and reflect on how we care for it. In chapter 2 of Genesis – 'the book of beginnings' – God placed people in the garden to work it and take care of it. We are literally commissioned by God to steward the earth like a gardener or farmer would their garden or field of crops. It is never ours; it is only entrusted to us to appreciate and use wisely. How are you doing with God's commission to steward our World? Take some time to relax and enjoy the beauty and grandeur of God's creation. It is full of bounty and blessings to enjoy, but we should also be good stewards for our Creator.

■ **Dr. T.J. Jenney, Immanuel United Church of Christ, Lafayette IN**



'God is Still Speaking'



**Sunday Services at 10:30am**

(9:30 am July and August)

Rev. Amy S. Hayden

**Coffee hour follows in Fellowship Hall**

### April Calendar of LCC Events

#### April 2

🌸 **After-School Youth Ministry:**

Board Games & Snacks 3:30 pm

All school-age kids and teens are welcome!

#### April 14

🌸 Communion Sunday, 10:30 am

#### April 17

🌸 Kendal Group meets, 12:30 pm

#### April 21

🌸 Earth Day-themed Sunday Service!

🇮🇹🍝 Italian Pasta Night! 🍌🥑

5:30-7 pm in Fellowship Hall

\$15/adult, 12 & under by donation

#### April 28

🌸 Youth and Family Worship Service

### Coming Soon: May 17-18-19

**Ukraine Fundraiser:** Silent Auction,  
Direct Sales and Refreshments



## Updates and Other News

### Church Supper Collaborations

Community is what it's all about, and **GREEN** was certainly the dominant color at the **St. Patrick's Day** supper, from table decorations to twinkling hats! We had a lively evening with about 50 diners in attendance, from both CommunityCare of Lyme and **LCC**. From setup to cleanup, volunteer leprechauns were too numerous to name, but you might recognize a few from Pastor Amy's photos!



For April, David Perlman and Cathie Hopper will be cooking up gondola-sized batches of pasta, so mark your calendars for our **April 21 Italian menu dinner**: both meat-based and vegetarian pasta options, salads, bread and desserts are on the menu. **"Abbondanza!"** Reserve your plate of pasta today: contact LCC at 603-795-2850 or email Jenny Prileson at [jenprileson@comcast.net](mailto:jenprileson@comcast.net).

### Music Updates

Despite the snowstorm the day before, several of our young musicians supported our worship at Palm Sunday's Youth and Family service. On Easter Sunday our Community Choir, 26 voices strong and directed by Mark Nelson, began our worship service with an original composition by our own Alison Cheroff, and concluded with *Worthy is the Lamb*, from GF Handel's Messiah.

### Stewardship & Wider Missions

Our mission extends well beyond the walls of our church building. This spring **LCC** is hosting a special fundraiser **May 17-18-19** to support relief efforts in **Ukraine**, where families continue to be ravaged in a third year of unrelenting war. This will include a silent auction of local artwork, crafts and services; and direct sales of lunch items, baked goods and clothing made in Ukraine. Proceeds from donations will go to **DirectRelief** ([directrelief.org](http://directrelief.org)), which provides medical services and supplies for Ukrainians affected by this war. Proceeds from sales of clothing made in Ukraine will support **CareinAction** ([care-in-action.org](http://care-in-action.org)), which provides urgently needed aid, education and social support for families and children. If you would like to donate an item or help with this event, please contact Jenny Prileson at [jenprileson@comcast.net](mailto:jenprileson@comcast.net).

### Become a Member of LCC!

The Lyme Congregational Church Deacons and Reverend Amy Hayden invite you to learn more about membership in our open and affirming faith community. Please contact Pastor Amy if you are interested in attending our next information session: **603-795-2850**.

## Out in the Community

### St. Patrick's Day Supper



Photo credits: Rev. Amy S. Hayden

### New to Lyme? Or just want to re-connect?

We welcome everyone to all of our church's community events. One of these will be an informal cookout at an LCC member's home **Friday June 21, 4-7 pm** to welcome all newcomers and friends to the greater Lyme community. Call **LCC** at **603-795-2850**, or contact Jenny at [jenprileson@comcast.net](mailto:jenprileson@comcast.net) to let us know if you & your family would like to attend. Meet your neighbors, enjoy the Summer Solstice evening, and bring a friend!

