"We seek to demonstrate God's Spirit through worship, witness, and ministry to the needs of the people in the church and the community."

Baptism of the Lord January 12, 2025 10:00 A.M.

**CHRISTIAN CONCERNS** 

Art Wallace

**WELCOME & GREETING** 

**PASSING OF THE PEACE** 

## PRELUDE & CENTERING PRAYER

Water has the power to both destroy and sustain life. In God's hands, water is a sign of the Holy Spirit. God's love keeps us safe and secure. As we hear the story of Jesus' baptism, we remember that we too are baptized and dwell safe in God's embrace. The waters of God's blessing flow through our lives, quenching our thirst, bringing forth new hope.

## **INTROIT**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come to the waters.

All: We gather at the river.

Leader: Come to the waters.

All: We are washed in God's love.

Leader: Come to the waters.

All: We are God's beloved children. Amen.

**'HYMN OF PRAISE** Be in Our Midst, O Christ Chalice Hymnal #373

## **'UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God of strength, God of Love, surround us with your love. Gather us in as your beloved children. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to the power of your transforming love. May your waters of grace pour over us, renewing us for your work in the world. Bless us in this holy time. Amen.

### THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## TIME WITH THE GROWING CHURCH

## **ANTHEM**

## **GATHERING AND PRESENTING OF OUR GIFTS**

Offertory

'Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

'Prayer of Dedication

## THE COMMUNITY AT PRAYER

# Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, and Our Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Response

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 3:15-17 & 21-22

Dawn Drum, Deacon Page 73 NT

**SERMON** 

**'HYMN OF CELEBRATION** In Water We Grow

Chalice Hymnal #375

THE BENEDICTION

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** All My Day

You know my words before they're said.
You know my need and I am fed.
You give me life. You know my ways, my strength,
my path, for all my days, my strength,
my path, for all my days. (Repeat)

## **POSTLUDE**

'Those who are able, are invited to stand.

Rev. Amie McCarthy, Designated-Term Pastor Office Phone: 860-642-2557 / Cell Phone: 508-272-6437 Email: pastorlebfirstcong@gmail.com

Web Site: www.lebanonfirstcong.org

<u>Church Location</u> <u>Mailing Address</u>
588 Exeter Road, Lebanon P.O. Box 125, Lebanon, CT 06249

# SIX STONE JARS The Economy of Jesus (Starting next week.) Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ~Luke 3:21-22

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship (S) 11:30am Nominating Comm Mtg (MR)	13 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00pm Scout Leader Mtg		15 5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR)	16 7:00pm Brd of Trustees Mtg (MR)		18 1:00pm Lukens' Memorial Service
9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship (S) 11:30am New Member' Mtg (MR) 11:30am Church Food Communication Mtg	20 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S)		22 5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR)	23 7:00pm Council Mtg (MR)	24	25
9:15am Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:00am Worship (S)	27 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S)		29 1:00pm Community Meal Prep (K) 2:00pm Outreach Mtg 5:15pm AFG Mtg	30 Jā	anuary	2025 

**From the Board of Christian Outreach** ~ This year we have donated four boxes of items to the Willimantic No Freeze Shelter. We will continue to collect items through March. A box is in the foyer for this purpose. Following is a list of needed items. Homelessness isn't always a choice, but we can choose to help.

#### WINTER NEEDS

Disinfectant Wipes	Disinfectant Spray	Hand Soap	Combs & Brushes
55 Gallon Trash Bags	Tissues	Paper Towels	Razors Soap
Toilet Paper	Deodorant	Shampoo	Lotion
Conditioner	First Aid Supplies	Nail Clippers	Tweezers

## CLOTHING (men's & women's, med-xxl)

Sweatshirts	T-Shirts	Hand/Foot Warmers
Thermals	Underwear	Waterproof Gloves
Rain Ponchos	Sweatpants	Ear Buds/Headphones

**Severe Weather Cancellations** ~ In the event of severe weather, please check for cancellations of Sunday morning worship services and church activities on WFSB TV Channel 3, church website, or you may contact any deacon.

The Stewardship Committee reports they have received 45 pledges for a total of \$103,232 to date. This is 65% of our goal of \$158,082.

## Announcements for the week of January 12, 2025.

## Greeting you today as you entered the sanctuary was Deacon, Dawn Drum.

Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. We welcome everyone to worship this morning. A special welcome is extended to all who are visiting us for the first time. If you would like more information about our church, and its programs and activities, or would like to be added to our mailing list, please speak to one of our Deacons or the Pastor. We encourage you to complete one of the "I Wish..." visitor cards located in the pew and drop it in the offering basket. Again, welcome, it is good to worship God together. We deeply appreciate all who participate in leading worship.

Please remember to silence your cellphones during the service. Thank you for your assistance.

The candle by the sanctuary's American flag is lit to remember and honor those serving our country as military and first responders. May it remind us to say a prayer for those giving of themselves to keep us free from harm.

The sanctuary is equipped with a "Hearing Loop System" which works with hearing aids that have a "T-Coil" setting, sending the sound directly to the hearing aid. We also have headphone devices that work with this system that are available from the ushers.



## Let us keep in our prayers:

Evelyn Grabber	Ginger McGuire	Mary Meli
Ellen Meseroll	Teddy Randall	Barbara Rodman
Ruth Tilley	Ruth Turner-Jones	

Those struggling with mental health issues and the loved ones caring for them. Those struggling with addiction and the loved ones caring for them.

# January Birthdays

1st ~ Edwina Rechlin	1st ~ Marge Page	1st ~ Brigitte Boyce
7th ~ Justine Battcher	10th ~ Barbara McDermott	10th ~ Wolf Rechlin
11th ~ Ruth Turner-Jones	14th ~ Duke York	17th ~ Dale Dubina
23rd ~ Diana Vickers	26th ∼ Asa Preli	28th ~ Margaret Gillespie

**Church Office Hours:** Tues. ~ 1-5 p.m. Wed.-Fri. ~ 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

## Our Weekly Calendar

(Please check with church office before scheduling any meetings or events.)

**Sunday** ~ 1/12

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (S)

11:30 a.m. Nominating Committee Meeting (MR)

**Monday** ~ **1/13** 

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)

7:00 p.m. Scout Leader's Meeting (MR)

Tuesday ~ 1/14

6:00 p.m. Boy Scout (FH)

Wednesday ~ 1/15

5:15 p.m. AFG Meeting (MR)

Thursday ~ 1/16

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees' Meeting (MR)

**Friday** ~ 1/17

Saturday ~ 1/18

1:00 p.m. Paul Lukens Memorial Service (S & FH)

**Sunday** ~ 1/19

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (S) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (S)

11:30 a.m. New Member's Meeting (MR)

11:30 a.m. Church Food Communication Meeting (FH)

Nominations for Senior and Junior Steward ~ Today is the last day to submit a nomination for the Senior and Junior Steward. Forms are available at the back of the sanctuary or in the church foyer. Forms may be dropped in the box located in the church foyer.

**New Member's Meeting – January 19th** ~ If you are interested in becoming a member of our church, please contact Rev. Amie or any Deacon. New members will meet with the Pastor and the Board of Deacons on January 19th, following the worship service.

**Deacon's Fund Offering** ~ There will be another Deacon's Fund offering on January 26, 2025. Our fund was depleted last winter when we had two extensive needs that arose. The Deacon's Fund was established to be used, at the discretion of the Minister, to meet the needs of people who come to our church for financial help during dire times. We had an offering in October, and although people were generous, we are looking to increase the fund for 2025. Thank you in advance for your understanding. ~The Deacons

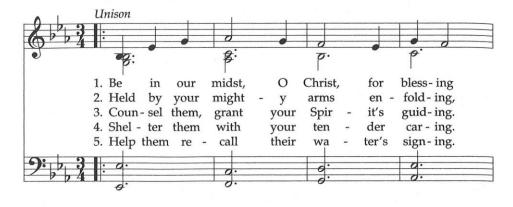
It is not a surprise to hear that we live in anxious times. Grappling with concerns about our well-being and the security of our livelihoods. Fear and the urge to prioritize self-preservation dominate the conversation. Yet, the Kin-dom of God calls us to a broader definition of "our own." Jesus commands us to care for all in need, especially the most vulnerable.

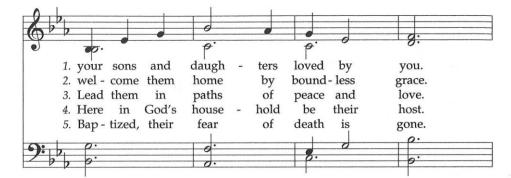
The Gospel readings following Epiphany highlight Jesus' radical vision of an economy where wealth is shared for the common good. This message goes beyond the church calendar and remains relevant today. Jesus' mission was clear: to bring good news to the poor. Who will stand with the vulnerable? This has been the Church's core mission from the beginning.

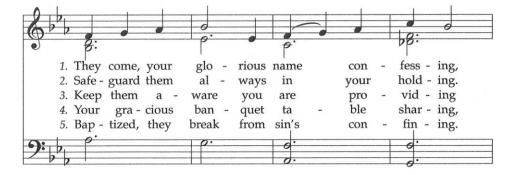
Over the next few weeks, we will journey together to explore the economy of Jesus, guided by the Worship Design Studio's "Six Stone Jars" series. We'll question what it means to measure true abundance for everyone, not just a select few. We will learn how we can each contribute to building God's Kin-dom by tapping into jars of Hope, Purpose, Healing, Meaning, Vision, and Grace for all people. The Economy of Jesus is one of abundance, in which all thrive collectively. Come, let's build this economy together.

# 373

# Be in Our Midst, O Christ





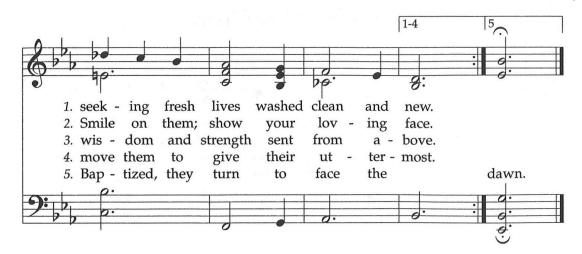


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**BAPTISM** 





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