FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Lebanon, NH

CHURCH PROFILE Pastoral Search



Not a perfect church ... not a perfect people ... just a simple desire to follow Jesus

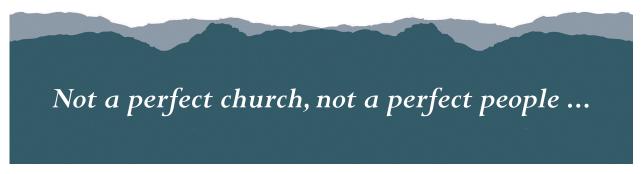
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LEBANON, NH

Blessings Spirit-led Servant of God,

The First Baptist Church of Lebanon, NH, has a long history dating as far back as the 1860's. In 2012, we completed one of our longest eras, whereupon, Dale Edwards, our pastor of 25 years, followed his calling to further his ministry as the local Regional Executive Minister. Since then our church has benefitted from some shorter term pastorships and are currently blessed with the teachings and leadership of our Senior Pastor, Rick Pinilla. At the end of 2016, we lost our church structure to the devastation of fire and anticipate holding regular services in a newly constructed building by the end of this year. With this new direction well underway, we are refocusing our efforts on our future ministry.

Recently our congregation felt spiritually led to bring on a second pastor in the capacity of an Associate Pastor, who will be mentored and groomed by our Senior Pastor Rick, with the intention that the new pastor will eventually grow into a permanent role as our sole full-time Pastor.

The specific key responsibilities of the Associate Pastor will be developed over time in conjunction with the Senior Pastor. Both will work as partners, supporting one another, complementing one another, sharing the burden, and allowing both to grow. As some key characteristics, we seek a pastor who is led by the Holy Spirit while maintaining a strong prayer life, personal discipline to study the scripture, and being flexible in different translations of the Holy Bible. Our pastors shall be humble servants who guide and shepherd the congregation and community. It is also important to us that our pastors are able to maintain a healthy work/home balance through appropriate delegation and participation levels, while demonstrating an example of a Christian family. While these criteria may be many and closely defined, we do not seek the perfect pastor to join our church, but rather prayerfully and humbly seek the Associate Pastor our Lord and Savior has chosen for us, above all.



If you seek a place that is "not a perfect church, not a perfect people, but has the simple desire to follow Jesus", then we invite you to read on through the enclosed pages and see how the grace of God has been working in our church.

As a quick overview, The First Baptist Church of Lebanon, NH, has many unique values. Through the Senior Pastor and committed Lay Leadership, we have developed a strong sense of community that also serves the local community. Using space in the Lebanon Senior Center, our local food pantry and community dinner ministry serves hundreds of people each month, which will further ramp up when we once again have our permanent structure. We are prayer mindful; conducting prayer vigils which are sometimes 24-96 continuous hours. We are a welcoming, casual, and forgiving church that will embrace any of the lost, helping them find The Way. We recognize that our faith comes from our love for God, who calls us to minister as servants, as Jesus did, therefore we try to maintain a servant-based ministry and our outreach is formed from devoted relationships. All of this is surrounded by a beautiful picturesque New England community.

If the Lord presses upon your heart to continue this journey, then we encourage you to share the news with us by responding to our invitation. For further consideration, please contact Keith Davio at keith.davio@tomtom.com or call (603) 573-5699. We look forward to praying with you about our futures.

In Christ,

Pastoral Search Committee



Our beautiful home was sadly destroyed by fire in the end of Dec2016.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

-2 Cor 3:16



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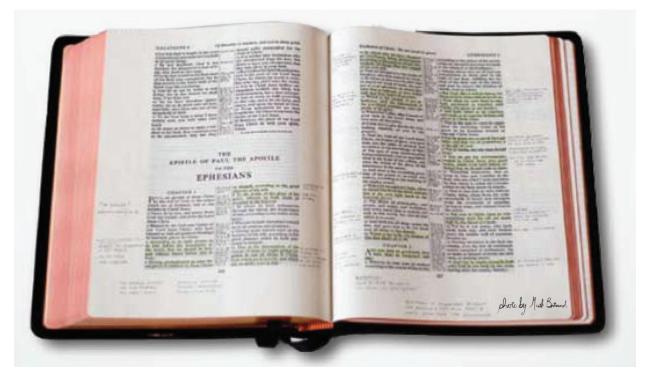


What We Believe

Our clear purpose here at First Baptist Church is to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. We believe that the Bible is the inspired, authoritative and infallible Word of God, and that we as God's people can be forgiven of sin and justified solely through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ who died for sinners and rose again from the dead. We can only be saved by repentance from sin and by faith in Jesus christ.

There is only one true and living God who is manifested in three eternal and coequal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In a culture that is ever-changing and dictating how to live and defining right and wrong, we rely on the inerrant, timeless Word of God as our ultimate source in guiding every aspect of our lives. This includes not only defining morality, but also how to properly interact with God, people, and the rest of the world. We believe that regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit by which each new believer receives a new nature from God, and that Christian growth and sanctification are the continuation of that new life beginning with new birth. Our new birth is signified by believer's baptism.

We at First Baptist understand that all believers are called to proclaim Jesus Christ through ministry and evangelism, and we seek a Pastor who will shepherd the congregation through preaching, teaching, counseling and the development of leadership in all aspects of the church's ministry. For some at First Baptist, the identity as an American Baptist church is strong. For others, that identity is either new or not as important as simply proclaiming that we associate together as a Bible-believing congregation. It should be clear, however, that First Baptist Church holds to belief in the autonomy of the local congregation.



Our History

In 1860, the First Baptist Church of Lebanon, New Hampshire, was formed by a group of 26 men and women in order to meet the needs of the growing community of Baptists in Lebanon. In 1862, a small chapel was built and used for worship until 1869, when it was replaced. Standing on the corner of Green Street and School Street in downtown Lebanon, the building is protected as a historical landmark. The ministry of the church through the years has included such activities as a choir, Sunday School, a mission society, a Philathea class, youth groups, and other organizations. Today, the First Baptist Church of Lebanon remains a friendly and welcoming church. Average Sunday attendance is approximately 50 people. Members hail from towns all over the Upper Valley, and represent a diverse collection of ages and backgrounds.



(1960) MEMBERS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

How we have changed in the past 25 years

In the past 25 years, our church has grown and been transformed. We have moved from a formal worship service where the pastor wore a robe, to an informal style of worship where our pastor moves from behind the pulpit. Wearing your Sunday best is always welcome, but not required. Many attendees of our congregation come to worship in comfortable clothing and attire. Two unexpected events have greatly transformed our family. The first was the Supreme Court decision regarding marriage. The pastor in place at that time had changed his position away from the region and ABC position of traditional marriage, unbeknown to the congregation. The lack of a clear organizational method to deal with this difficulty caused much dissention and frustration. The troubles led to a reduction in attendance. Recovering from this set of troubles, with a seasoned interim minister at the helm, we were gathering up the pieces and regaining our identity. In late December 2016, tragedy struck and our church building was destroyed. We have been meeting at Lebanon Middle School since then. Our diminished numbers and lack of facility has reduced the robustness of our activities, but we press on. We continue with Community Dinners and a small food pantry at the Senior Center. We have a smaller worship team with a faithful leader a lot like Moses - "I am not qualified to do this!" Our small groups continue to meet. We have an active Sunday School and nursery. Our Building Committee has proven to be a band of dedicated champions. We broke ground on our new home in October 2018. We hope to be in our new home in November/December 2019.

Our History (continued)

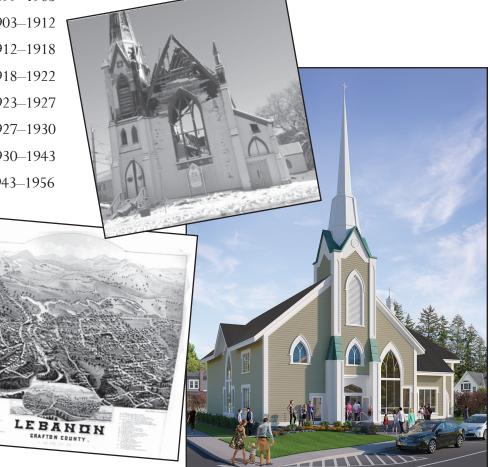
First Baptist has a congregation that encompasses all age ranges. Infants and small children are welcome in our service. Men, women, teenagers, families, young and old, make up our church family. A visitor would see men and women in leadership roles within our church. These leaders take an active part in the Sunday morning worship service and in the church life.

As we look toward our next 25 years, First Baptist continues to be led by the Holy Spirit. Our congregation stands on a firm foundation of Christian love, and we are bonded with our faith as we worship our true Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Leadership

John McKinley	1862–1868
E.E. Cummings	1869–1870
J. Tucker, Jr.	1870–187
H. Barnes	1871–1874
J. H. Gannett	1874–187
N. F. Tilden	1876–1899
W. L. Stone	1899–1903
F. L. Knapp	1903–1912
J. K. Miller	1912–1918
C. L. Chamberlin	1918–1922
H. H. White	1923–192'
J. K. Miller	1927–1930
W. J. B. Cannell	1930–1943
F. K. Neary	1943–1956

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862–1868	R. J. Bracey	1957–1968	P. Barnes	
869–1870	F. K. Emerson, Sr.	1968–1975	(Pastoral Intern)	1999–2001
870–1871	B. S. Howe	1976–1982	D. Edwards	1986–2012
070-1071	D. 5. 110wc		D. Brown (Interim)	2012_2013
871–1874	K. B. Solheim	1983–1985	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
874–1875	R.Varnum		Eliot Fay	2013–2015
876–1899	(Interim)	1985–1986	Rick Pinilla 2	016–Present
899–1903			١	



Our Ministry

Our Worship Service

The Sunday morning worship service at First Baptist is a blended service with basic traditional elements sprinkled with contemporary music and prayer from our worship team. The service is led each week by the Pastor, a number of male and female lay leaders, and by members of the worship team. We begin our service very informally with a Welcome and Call to Worship, and our welcome time has become an important tradition to greet each other and visitors. The Service includes traditional hymns and contemporary music, extended prayer time, a time for scripture, and a message from the Pastor. We come together for communion on the first Sunday of each month, with an invitation for all who profess Jesus Christ as their Savior to participate.

Children are a welcome part of our worship time together, and participate in our time of music and praise. Children's fellowship is available during the second half of the service for children up to fourth grade, and nursery care is available during the entire service.



Our Ministry (continued)

Our Church Life and Mission

In keeping with our stated purpose to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, we have a very intentional ministry here at First Baptist that focuses on both discipleship and missions. We enjoy gathering for Sunday morning Worship for a time of praise, fellowship and teaching, but also provide further opportunities for discipleship through Sunday school, mid-week and small group Bible studies, on-going women's and men's group ministries, an active youth ministry, one-on-one mentoring of new believers, and most importantly, a regular prayer ministry. It is our firm belief that by continued study of the scriptures and prayer, we will open ourselves to God's leading and the on-going work of the Holy Spirit. By grounding ourselves in scripture and prayer, we have become a congregation equipped for outreach to our community and beyond. This is a church with a grand heart for missions. A new believer class is offered Sunday mornings, and individuals who are interested in becoming a member of First Baptist are encouraged/required to complete this class before joining.



Our Ministry (continued)

We provide further discipleship and fellowship through a vibrant Sunday evening youth group averaging 6–12 members, some of whom are not otherwise attendees of First Baptist. Our youth have a fundraiser once-a-year in February, and proceeds are used to offset costs for a well-known youth retreat in New England called Deep Freeze. This is a highlight on our youth calendar and helps motivate our youth to invite friends to this event. Our CE Board also offers scholarships to two local summer camps. Active youth and Sunday School attendees may apply. We strive to create an atmosphere where youth are comfortable to ask questions, share concerns, and connect with other believers – while having FUN!





Above: Haiti Mission Team, December 2017

Left: The Food Pantry

Below: Dedication of a Haiti House



Outreach and Community Service

Locally, our Food Pantry, open twice a month, provides aid to approximately 20 families each time, while our weekly community dinners, averaging 30 people each time, provide regular meals and an opportunity for fellowship among individuals from our congregation and the community. Members of all ages in our congregation have provided support through donations of time, food and funding to make these ministries possible.Each week, at the community dinner, we publicly give all thanks and glory to Jesus Christ as well as invite people to seek and follow Him, if they do not already. We are always ready and available to pray with those who attend the dinners and the pantry.

When our church lost its building due to fire, the Food Pantry and the community dinners continued on without any interruption at all, as we were immediately offered the use of another local organization's facilities for a time. We continue to host them from yet another neighboring facility (the local Senior Center) until we have a new building. Several community organizations have donated time and financial assistance to the food pantry and community dinners over the years.

In June of 2017, we held our first "Community BBQ" with the express purpose of thanking our local community for their outpouring of help and support after our church building burned. We invited all townspeople to an outdoor Sunday morning worship service with a free meal afterward. In 2018, we held our second Community worship service/BBQ, and intend to make this an annual event, as another outreach to our community and opportunity to build new relationships with the people of Lebanon.

At times, we have provided opportunities for work projects in our community, partnering with other non-profit organizations like COVER (local organization focusing on weatherization and renovation for local homeowners in need), Habitat for Humanity to provide construction, repair and other related housing aid, and Americorps out of Claremont, NH. We also have provided scholarships to help people attend area Christian conferences (i.e. the men's Warrior conference).

Beyond our own community, our most focused mission endeavor has been on the village of Sous Savanne, Haiti, where the 2010 earthquake had devasting effects. Since that time, several members of our congregation have served on short-term trips to Haiti at various times, and in 2017, we raised \$16,000 to build two houses in Haiti (about \$5,500 each) with additional funds to help with construction of a school. We have provided support for Regenesis Project, a non-profit organization started by one of our members, dedicated to helping Haitians build a sustainable livelihood.

Besides Haiti, we have sent work teams to New Orleans and West Virginia in years past, and have supported and currently support individuals and organizations participating in missions work both here in the US and other countries.

Who We Are

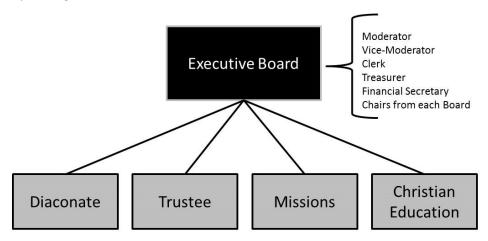
As an American Baptist Church in a small New Hampshire community, we believe our congregation to be rather unique. The Church serves approximately 50 active members (248 on the rolls), the majority of whom are Lebanon residents or otherwise live within 10 miles of the Church. The church has not conducted an internal demographic census in a few years, but it is fair to say the largest age group is between 45-65 years old. A large portion of the active church members have attended regular services here for more than ten years. As a result, the Church has developed a very strong and committed lay leadership.

Staff

The Church is currently supported by four budgeted staff, consisting of a full time Senior Pastor, and part-time Administrative Assistant, Janitor, and Organist. An Associate Pastor will be considered a fifth budgeted staff position. The work of the church staff is supported by a number of volunteers, including Youth Group leaders, music team leaders, as well as board members and elected officials.

Board Structure

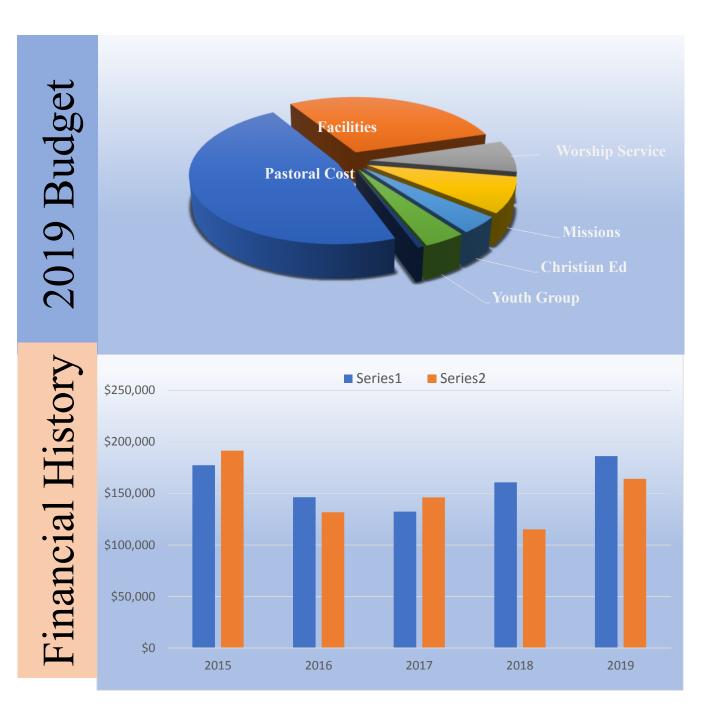
The church has a simple board structure consisting of an Executive Board (governing committee) and four operational boards which include the Board of Trustees, Board of Deacons, Board of Missions, and Board of Christian Education. All church activities align with and have leadership governance from one of the four operating boards.



The Boards are allowed a varying number of 6-12 members and nominees for each of the boards are voted on by members of the congregation at the annual business meeting. The Executive Board includes the church officers, the chairperson of each operating board, and the Pastor(s). The officers are for one-year terms and the operating board positions are for three-year terms with a maximum of two consecutive term limit (before a one-year break is required).

Financial Statement

First Baptist Church has a 2019 operating budget of \$164,373 which supports funding for the church's ministries, salaries, facilities, education and fellowship. The church has maintained a closely balanced budget for the several years. The 2019 budget will be altered later in the year as the actual expenses for the new church structure are realized.



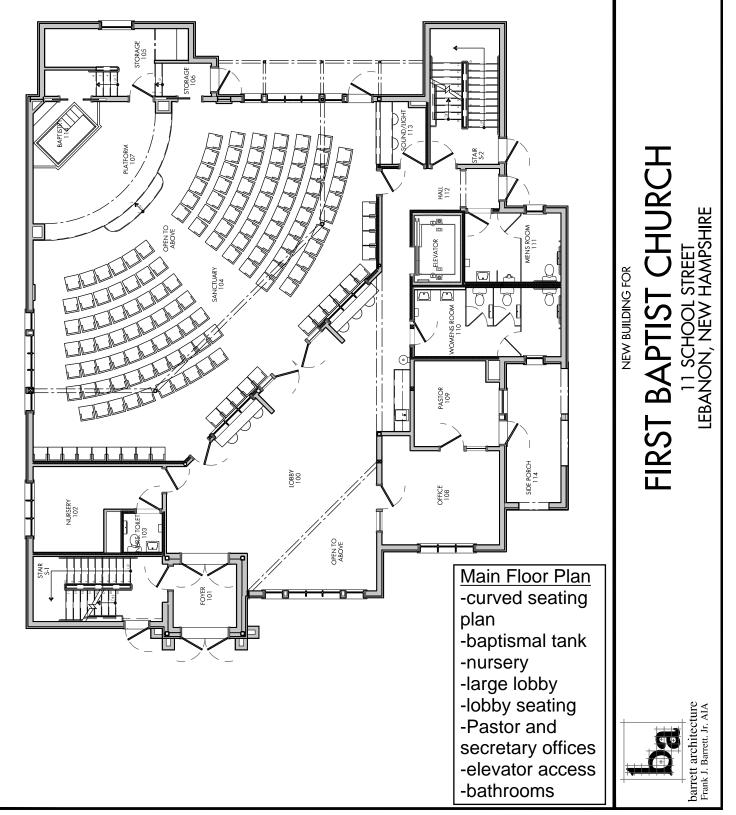
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Our Facilities: The church owns its own building and a separate parsonage. The parsonage is currently being used as the church offices. The church lot is located on School and Green Streets. The proposed building will seat about 250, be fully sprinklered, will have full handicap accessibility, an elevator, a fellowship hall, classrooms and offices.

PLAN ^{Dole:} 30 MAY 2019

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Our Facilities (continued...)

The parsonage is a four-bedroom, one-and-a-half bath home on a small in-town lot. Recently renovations feature a new washer/dryer, exterior vinyl siding, refinished hardwood floor, a plan for a new furnace, and general maintenance upkeep. There is a one-car detached garage and driveway parking for two vehicles. It is located on Kimball Street and is a five minute walk to the church and the center of town.











For where your trearine lies There your 🎔 will be also. -Matthew

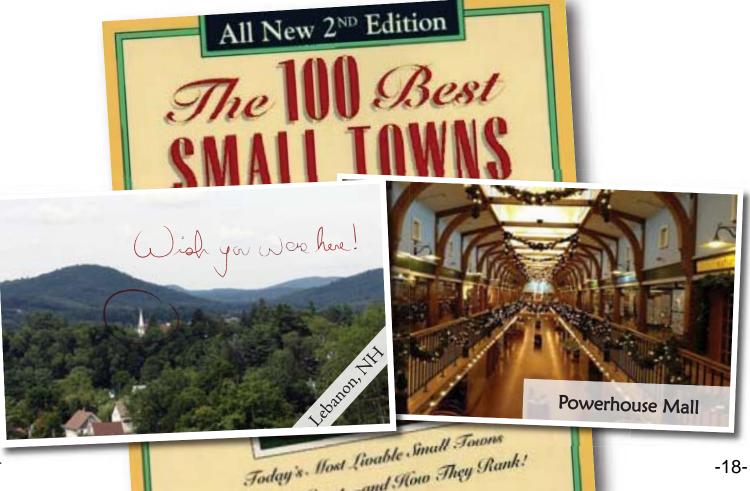
Our Community

Lebanon, New Hampshire

Lebanon is situated in the quintessential *Upper Valley*, a pristine region of West-Central New Hampshire along the Connecticut River. The residential population is approximately 13,500, with a daytime population of 30,000 due to an outstanding employment base. The median annual household income for Lebanon is \$44,000 (as of October 2012), with typical home prices ranging from \$145,000 to \$250,000. The median rent for residents is \$1,000 per month for the area. The Upper Valley offers a wide range of housing which appeals to all tastes, family sizes, and budgets and boasts one of the safest places to live in the country.

Lebanon supports 5 schools (including a high school, a brand new middle school, two elementary schools and a preschool) and was selected by Sports Illustrated as the Sportstown of New Hampshire for its outstanding year-round recreational programs (joinccba.org). Nearby West Lebanon offers a combination of brand name and local retail shops, including the Powerhouse Mall, a historic mill building converted into an AIA award-winning retail development.

Lebanon also has the distinction of being ranked in the 100 Best Small Towns in America, as it offers the rural lifestyle together with the cultural experience of the big city. In the Upper Valley, you can enjoy a local farmer's market minutes away from community theater and arts events at the Lebanon Opera House, Dartmouth College, Colby-Sawyer College, and other local theaters.



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Lebanon is considered a bedroom community to nearby Dartmouth College. As a result, our city has world-class health care facilities at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital. The Upper Valley has a surprising public transportation network given its size, including regular bus service through Advance Transit, coach service through Dartmouth Coach, a local Amtrak Station, and the Lebanon Municipal Airport. We are located 2 hours from Boston, 5 hours from New York City, and 3¹/₂ hours from Montreal, Canada.

Our community offers many historical landmarks, attractions, shopping, restaurants, fitness opportunities, libraries, and post office all within walking distance of First Baptist Church. For more information about Lebanon, please visit wiki/Lebanon NH or the City of Lebanon's official website at www.lebnh.net.



The Lebanon Farmer's Market offers a place for local farmers, musicians, and artists to share their crafts. Enjoy locally-raised meat and produce, and a diverse menu of prepared foods. Take a stroll through Colburn Park and shop for hand-crafted pottery and jewelry while listening to local artists perform folk, bluegrass, and Celtic music.

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Our Community (continued...)

What is Life Like Living in the Upper Valley?

Because we have some of the most beautiful country in the world, it continues to attract people who love to come and visit. This is a great place for outdoor enthusiasts with endless adventures nearby to explore. Whether you're looking for skiing in winter, fishing in summer or hiking any time of year, this is where you will find it and often times right in your own backyard, with a beauty that will take your breath away no matter what season you're in, for each season holds its own rare beauty.

In the winter months there's ice fishing, snowmobiling, and cross-country, as well as downhill skiing, for the novice and the experienced alike. And when you're done, curl up in front of a crackling fire at the ski lodge to warm up with a hot cup of cocoa or coffee.

In the spring you will find the purple, pink and white crocus's pushing their way up through the snow as they bring with them the promise of spring! The daffodils and tulips won't be far behind. There will be lakes to discover, mountains to climb, trails to hike, bikes to ride, farmers markets to visit, outdoor concerts to enjoy, theatres to attend and outdoor cafes to fill!

Summertime is a time to swim, go boating or kayaking whether it's on one of the many lakes nearby or on the Connecticut River which separates New Hampshire from Vermont.



Our Community (continued...)

This brings us to one of the most sought after time of year for visitors. The fall! People come from all over the world to catch a glimpse of our fall foliage and if they hit it just right...it will be an experience they will never forget. At its peak, the colors of the leaves on the trees are indescribable. It's just something you have to experience to understand its beauty.



You will find all kinds of orchards to visit. In an apple orchard it won't be unusual to find a family out for the day pulling behind them a red wagon for when the little ones get tired. Just fill a bag as you sample along the way, the various variety of apples the orchard has to offer. It's a great experience for the entire family. And definitely put it on your list to go berry picking. There'll be raspberries, blueberries and strawberries to pick. When you arrive you'll find containers, a scale for weighing, a price list by the ounce and pound, and sometimes even a recipe or two but often times what you won't find is someone there to take your money. That's what the tin box is there for. Be prepared to find the "honor system" in unexpected places. After all, this is New England!

<u>Resources</u>

Visit NH – www.visitNH.gov City of Lebanon – www.lebanonnh.gov Lebanon School District – www.sau88.net Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center – www.dartmouth-hitchcock.org CCBA Recreational Center – www.joinccba.org Lebanon Opera House - https://lebanonoperahouse.org/ Dartmouth College – https://home.dartmouth.edu/ Colby-Sawyer College - https://colby-sawyer.edu/ Ephesians 4:1-16 New International Version (NIV)

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

4. As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it[a] says:

"When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people."[b]

⁹(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions[c]? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



²Timothy 4:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

4. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.



"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- Mark

