



THE BEACON

Volume 1, Issue 9

February 10, 2013

Deadline for the next BEACON is Friday, February 22, 2013.

Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

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Looking Ahead in Worship

(See our complete Lenten schedule in this Beacon for details)

February 17 – First Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the Meeting House Choir and Sunday school. John McCall will give the message at both services. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

February 24 – Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the Meeting House Choir and Sunday school. John McCall will give the message at both services. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

March 3 – Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship with communion

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with communion, the Meeting House Choir and Sunday school. John McCall will give the message at both services. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

March 10 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the Hilltop Ringers and Sunday school. Diane Harvey will give the message at both services. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

PLEASE REMEMBER to wear your name tag to help others learn your name!



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For those suffering from the effects of the tough economy; for those who live without sufficient food, water, shelter, or safety;

(cont. pg. 2)

In the Meantime

As the Search Committee gets closer to receiving ministerial profiles, a number of you have asked me if I plan to put my name in for consideration and have encouraged me to do so. While I am touched by such respect and affirmation of my ministry, my answer is always no.

There are two important reasons why I will not be a candidate for Senior Minister. The first is that at this point in my life journey, my call is not long-term settled ministry. I clearly feel led to continue to use my skills, experience and training in transitional ministry. I love the challenge of working with many different congregations for the short-term and helping them prepare for new pastoral leadership.

The second reason I will not put my name in as a candidate for Senior Minister is that when I began in September, the covenant I made with the congregation stated that I would not allow my name to be submitted for the settled position. It is common practice for interims and transitional ministers to not be considered as a candidate because their familiarity with the church gives them an unfair advantage over candidates who are unknown to the congregation.

Given the integrity and vitality of this congregation along with the exciting ministry and mission happening here at FCCUCC, there will be no shortage of excellent candidates for the Senior Minister position. The good news is that as you so quickly welcomed me into your midst and have shared your trust and affection, I know you will easily be able to do the same when your new Senior Minister arrives. In the meantime, may we pray for the work of the Search Committee, and trust that the Spirit will continue to bless and guide our time together.

Gratefully,
Diane

IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER IS HOSPITALIZED....

Please contact the office if you or a family member is hospitalized. We check the lists at Maine Medical Center and Mercy regularly but may miss your name among the many. Email office@fccucc.org or phone 799-3361 to let us know.

Prayers of the People *continued...*

for veterans and those in active service; for peace and peacemakers

Ongoing Prayers: **Ruth Fogg**, age 97, at home; **Kathleen Rummler**, and husband Dick after her recent diagnosis with cancer; **Donald "Lefty" Files**, Janice's husband, hospitalized; **Ruth Bonney** at the Cedars following time in the hospital; **Henry Leeman**, at the Barron Center, Portland.

In Memory: **Steven M. Onos**, age 47, who died February 3 - husband of **Connie Onos**, father of **Izaak, Abigail, and Sydney**, son of **Jerry Onos**, good friend and neighbor to many, whose funeral was February 8. **Pauline F. Wyman**, a member since 1950, died at Springbrook Center, Westbrook, on February 9, at the age of 91. Her memorial service will be, Saturday, March 2, 11 a.m., at Hobbs Funeral Home followed by a reception.



*Citizens of Which Realm?***Our Lenten Theme for 2013**

In reading the New Testament it's easy to miss the undercurrents: everything in Jesus' ministry and in the lives of his listeners stood against the background of Rome's harsh military power.

In fact, to really understand the drama of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem we need to recall that he intended everything he did to show that God's realm was exactly the opposite of Caesar's realm. Jesus lived in counterpoint to the culture. That's why he was executed.

For the six Sundays of Lent, join us for a journey with Jesus from Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday, then on to Easter. John and Diane will preach from *The Last Week, A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem*. The authors, Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, are renowned biblical scholars and professors.

We'll look at each of the days and ask many questions, including:

- What was happening there and then?
- What was Caesar's realm intending to do?
- What did God call Jesus to do?
- What does God call us to be and do?
- How might we choose to live as citizens of both realms today?

Date	Preacher	Theme	Gospel
February 17 Lent 1	John	Palm Sunday, Monday	Mark 11:1-19
February 24 Lent 2	John	Tuesday	Mark 11:20-24
March 3 Lent 3	John	Wednesday	Mark 14:1-11
March 10 Lent 4	Diane	Maundy Thursday	Mark 14:12-16
March 17 Lent 5	John	Good Friday	Mark 15:1-47
March 24 Palm Sunday	Diane	Palm Sunday, Holy Saturday	Mark 11:1-19 Matthew 27:62-66
March 31 Easter	John	Easter	Mark 16:1-8



STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **February 10** in loving memory of our son, **Stephen Woodbury** by mother Evelyn, father John, sister Beth and niece Keri.

The steeple is lighted the week of **February 24** in loving memory of **Gordon Mitchell** by wife Marilyn and children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and in loving memory of **Elizabeth Liston** by her mother Virginia Baker and sister Sue Lang.

FEBRUARY ALTAR MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar **February 17** are in loving memory of **Kathleen and George Doering and Daniel A. BaRoss** from the family of Robert P. BaRoss.

Lent 2013 – Evening Gatherings to Explore Prayer

*What is prayer?
What can prayer change? Is it possible to "pray without ceasing" as Paul insists?
Why did he instruct us to do that?*

Join **Andrea Rosenberg**, church musician, piano teacher, and restless prayer, for three sessions exploring varied traditions and understandings of prayer. In the **first session, February 25**, she'll present the practice of **Buddhist meditation** and explore how it can enrich Christian spiritual growth. The **second session, March 4**, will focus on learning about and practicing **Christian contemplative prayer**, including lectio divina and visio divina. The **third session, March 11**, will look at forms of **Daoist prayer** that can enhance our spiritual walk -- Qi

Gong (gentle healing prayerful movement), An-Moh Gong (healing self-massage), and Daoist meditation.

When working with prayer methods developed and taught by other faiths, Andrea will create a solid connection with the teachings of Jesus. Each session will be about one hour. **Please bring a notebook or journal with you to each session.**

The text for this study group will be "Prayers of a Planetary Pilgrim" by Fr. Edward Hays. Copies of this book are available for purchase at Nonesuch Books in Mill Creek Plaza.

Inquirers' Meeting . . .

... scheduled for Sunday, February 24, has been canceled, based on early responses! If you want to learn more about membership please contact the Church Office, office@fccucc.org.

EDUCATION GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP

Bible Discovery Workshop for 3rd and 4th Graders

Mark your calendars for the next **Bible Discovery Workshop!** This will be the 25th year that our church has offered a fun and special workshop geared just for our 3rd graders--and any 4th graders who were not able to attend last year are welcome to join as well!

Those interested are invited to come join us for three Monday afternoons of learning, games, songs and fun! Participants will be introduced to the basics of the bible and our faith in an age-appropriate and engaging program. We will meet from **4:30 to 6:00 p.m.** in the Laity Room on the following **Mondays: April 1, 8, and 22nd** (we'll take the 18th off since it's school vacation week). Then, on **Sunday, April 28th** during the church service we will have our traditional graduation ceremony when the children will be presented with their own bibles, sing the ever-popular "Books of the

New Testament" song, and then celebrate with cake in Wright Pavilion after the service!

We have a list of those children currently enrolled in 3rd and 4th grade in the Sunday School program and will be sending out a letter in the next few weeks. If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up now, please call Beth Harris-Hess at 899-2214 or Deb Dagnan at 749-5045 OR you can sign up **Sunday, March 17th** or **Sunday, March 24th** (Palm Sunday) at the table outside Wright Pavilion. Thanks!

*Teachers,
Beth Harris-Hess & Deb Dagnan*

Sunday School Sightings

Lent is a season of "letting go", a season of choices, and difficult stories en route to the harsh events in Jerusalem. It is a season of studying challenge and justice, promise and hope. The classes will be learning about how to practice GRATITUDE, keeping PROMISES, enduring LOVE, remembering GRACE and gracious MINISTRIES. The emphasis during Lent will be based on stories from the Hebrew Scriptures and the gospels of Luke and John. We will also touch upon Psalm 63.

There will no regular classes on PALM Sunday and EASTER. Children are encouraged to attend both Sundays in worship. Palm Sunday is always a favorite for our children. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, suggestions you may have. A letter to all families will be sent home on February 17th.

SAVE THE DATE!

**A FAREWELL
GATHERING AND
CELEBRATION FOR
AND WITH JOHN
MCCALL**

JUNE 7, 2013

**Between the hours of
5:30 PM – 9:00 PM****

**** Details and more
specific timing to follow -
but wanted people to get
this event on their
calendars!**

**Lisa Merchant
& John Shoos**

PICTURES NEEDED FOR WEB PAGE

We'd like to add more recent photos to our web page – particularly the opening marquee. Best pictures for this are horizontal. Please send along a couple of your favorites to webmaster@fccucc.org. Thanks.

**COMMENTS FROM
RECENT SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS:**

As I head off to college I just wanted to say thank you for the very generous scholarship that I received. It will be very helpful towards furthering my education and I am very grateful. Once again, Thank You.

+

Thank you very much for the very generous scholarship. It really means a lot to have the church community supporting me.

+

I'm in my second year and appreciate your continued support. It's very nice that I don't have to worry about coming up with extra financial money to attend school. Thanks!

+

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. I greatly appreciate how supportive you have been while helping me thorough my college endeavors. This contribution is significant and I know I can always count on my church family for strong support while I pursue my dreams. Thank you so much.



Scholarship Opportunities at First Congregational Church

ATTENTION: ALL GRADUATING SENIORS AND STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED OR PLANNING TO ENROLL IN POST-HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION.

Your church supports your continuing education and awards several scholarships each year. You are encouraged to apply for one of those listed below.

The Loretta Thompson Pond Scholarship was established in 1995 and is for graduating high school seniors who are members of this church. Criteria for the Pond Scholarship include service to the church and the community, involvement in church activities, academic achievement, and financial need.

Applicants need to complete both the Loretta Thompson Pond Scholarship Application and the General Scholarship Fund Application. Three letters of reference and two essays are also required.

The **General Scholarship Fund** is available to church members who are high school seniors or studying or intending to study at the college, university, or graduate level. Applicants need to have been accepted or are attending a college or university in order for the funds to be awarded.

Award considerations include church involvement during and after high school. Applicants for this scholarship only need to



complete the General Scholarship Fund Application.

Applications are available from fccucc.org or by calling the church office at 799-3361. Completed applications need to be returned to the church office by **Monday, March 11**. If you have questions after reading the applications, direct them to scholarship@fccucc.org or the church office.

Scholarship Committee:
*Jeri Sides, Sally Sutton, Lee Taylor,
Jane Taylor, Margaret Thibodeau,
& John McCall*



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Thursday, February 14 - Join the women of the church at **1 PM** in the Wright Pavilion for a **Valentine's Day** tea sponsored by the Hilltop Guild.

Wednesday, February 20 - Come for a **Soup Luncheon** in Wright Pavilion at **noon**. Bring your place setting and everything else will be provided. Please RSVP by February 14. Snow date is February 21.

Thursday, February 28 - Join us at I-Hop for **breakfast at 9 AM**.

Wednesday, March 6 - We will meet at **SMCC for lunch at noon**. RSVP by February 27, one week before, as they require exact numbers.

Thursday, March 7 - **SAGE meeting at 1 PM** in the 1st and 2nd grade classroom.



One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing, the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. This year, the theme for One Great Hour of Sharing, is "Sharing Brings Joy".

Our support is transformed into gifts which help families displaced by natural disaster or political unrest be comforted by food, shelter and a safe place to begin rebuilding their lives; help worried mothers caring for their hungry children find peace when food arrives; helps a woman who has had to walk for miles for water now draws fresh water from the new well

near her home. Your gift makes a difference in lives of people around the world 365 days of the year. For more information go to: www.onegreathourofsharing.org

To make your offering on Sunday, March 3rd, use the pew envelopes or label your donation on the memo line of your check. God loves our joyful attitude when we share from our abundance!

Thank you,
The Mission and Outreach Team

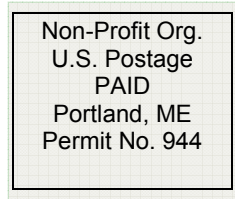
Mission Trip to Cherryfield, Maine

There is still time to join the group that will be traveling to work with the Maine Seacoast Mission July 28-August 3. Planning for the trip has begun and our next meeting will be February 20 at 6:00 p.m. For more information please contact Diane at dlh@fccucc.org, or speak to a member of the Mission Trip Planning Team: Mike Kasputes, Scott Berry, Betsy Keiter, Kathy Sahrbeck and Diane Harvey.



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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