



THE BEACON

Volume 1, Issue 11

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

March 10, 2013

Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

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

(cont. pg. 2)

Looking Ahead in Worship

March 17 - Fifth 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.

HOLY WEEK ON MEETING HOUSE HILL

PALM SUNDAY, March 24

8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Children's Choir and Meeting House Choir. Children kindergarten age and up will remain in worship.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28

7:30 p.m. - Worship with dramatic monologue, communion and soloists

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29

6:00 to 7:15 p.m. - Soup supper for all in Guptill Hall, hosted by the Spiritual Life and Worship Team

7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary worship with our Meeting House Choir offering *Requiem* by John Rutter, and instrumentalists, directed by Shirley L. Curry

8:00 p.m. - Vigil begins in the chapel and continues in two hour watches

EASTER, March 31

6:00 a.m. - Sunrise service at Fort Williams - near the flag pole overlooking Portland Head Light

9:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Meeting House Choir and brass. ASL interpreted for the hearing impaired. Nursery care only.

11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Meeting House Choir and brass. Nursery care only. John McCall will preach at both sanctuary services.

Join us for worship... and bring a friend to your church

Join our Easter Vigil – A Lenten Tradition

Scripture tells us only a little about the time between Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. His body was laid in a borrowed tomb and the disciples waited in fear. For more than 20 years our congregation has held a Good Friday to Easter vigil in the chapel, taking two hour watches to sit in silence, to write, read scripture or devotional books, and to pray for God's world.

Our Vigil begins on **Good Friday, March 29 at 8:00 p.m. and continues until 6:00 a.m. Easter morning.** We like to have at least 2 people to keep

the Vigil for each 2 hour increment. *The sign-up sheet can be found just outside the Library or near Wright Pavilion.* Grab a friend or family member and sign-up together! Also, anyone is welcome to come to the chapel and join in this blessed time of meditation and reflection. If you have any questions, feel free to email slwteam@fccucc.org.

Thank you!

Meet Our Newest Church Members

At our service on March 10 we had the privilege of welcoming five new members to our church family. They include **Richard and Diane**

Armstrong, Chris and Elizabeth Avantaggio, and Justin LaBerge. Please help them to feel welcome!

Family Communion Class – March 23

Please join **Diane Harvey on Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to noon for a Family experience where we will learn about the sacrament of Communion.** We will begin in Wright Pavilion by looking at some stories of Jesus sharing meals with others. We will talk about Communion as a time to gather as the people of God, as a time to celebrate, remember and give thanks for God's love. We will do some art work and activities, and then move into the sanctuary to experience how communion is prepared and how it is served.

The morning is geared for children age 4 through grown-up! It is for families who would like to learn more about Communion or be refreshed in what they have already learned and experienced. **Pre-registration is required** so Diane can prepare materials. You may sign up for this class on the list outside Diane's study, or by emailing her at dlh@fccucc.org. If there is enough interest, another class will be held later in the spring.

Prayers of the People continued...

Ongoing Prayers:

Cheryl Barter following surgery after she broke her leg in a fall; **Kathleen Rummler**, at home; **Nancy Chadbourne** at the Cedars for physical therapy.

Celebration:

Elaine and Bill Brownell celebrate the birth of their grandson **William Neil Brownell**, son of Andrew and Liz Brownell of Cape Elizabeth, born February 25 on his father's birthday; **Allan Bosch** who recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

In Memory:

Doris L. Mallar, a member since 1978, died February 28 at her home. She was 94. She is survived by her son Larry, three grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Beverly J. Gould Labbe, a long time member of our church before moving to Florida in 1980, died January 16 in Clearwater, Florida. She is survived by her son Raymond and daughter Amy-Jo E. Labbe. Her ashes will be scattered at Willard Beach on her 68th birthday July 22.

CALLING ALL CANDYMAKERS

A long-time fan of our church's annual candy sale at the Holly Daze Bazaar has asked if we'd consider a custom order for her May 19th wedding, to benefit the church. I'm game, and I hope some of our other candy makers are, too! The bride-to-be has specifically asked for the following:

- chocolate fudge
- peanut butter fudge
- penuche
- penuche with walnuts
- divinity with nuts

Particularly if yours is one of these often sold at the Bazaar, if you're willing to make a 2 pound batch in mid-May to benefit the church, please phone or email me.

Andrea McCall
767-4700

atmccall@maine.rr.com

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Fair Trade Coffee orders placed on March 3 and March 10 will be distributed on **March 31**.

Call for Elder Nominations

The practice in our Church of recognizing members for outstanding service and for being valuable role models is a long and important tradition. Each year the Spiritual Life & Worship Team solicits Elder nominations from among the congregation and makes a recommendation for their election at the Annual Meeting. Please identify one or more members who you think should be named as an **Elder for 2013**. We would ask that you include an explanation of why you feel the

member qualifies, whether for diligent service in various church roles over an extended period, or for other reasons. **Please submit your nominations by Friday, April 5th to Jen Dealaman in the Church Office.**

Thank you kindly,
Tex Haeuser
Spiritual Life & Worship Team

KNITTERS!!

Are you interested in a daytime knitting group at the church? I am forming a group -- the requirement is to knit at least ONE item for the church bazaar. We have patterns and donated yarns. You can come work on your own projects and enjoy the company of fellow knitters. You can get advice and give advice to other knitters. Also, we have some beautiful wool yarn available.

The details still need to be worked out. Please contact me if you are interested and I will let you know the when and where.

Happy Knitting,
Elinor Redmond
767-4198
eredmond@maine.rr.com

Driver Angels Wanted

Would you be willing to provide a ride for someone to church, or to the grocery store, or to a doctor's appointment?

If this sounds of interest to you contact Kathy Sahrbeck at 799-3361, ext. 112 or email outreach@fccucc.org.

Calling All Rainbow Scarves !

Thank you to all the knitters who have been crafting rainbow colored scarves for the United Church of Christ's General Synod in California this June. The scarves will be used to help people take a stand against bullying and domestic violence. **We need all scarves to be completed and delivered to the office by April 4 so that we may bless**

them in worship and then deliver them to the conference office. For more information or questions, please speak to Diane.

EDUCATION GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP

Bible Discovery Workshop for 3rd and 4th Graders

Mark your calendars for the next **Bible Discovery Workshop!** This special workshop is geared just for our 3rd graders -- and any 4th graders who were not able to attend last year are welcome to join as well!

Participants will be introduced to the basics of the bible and our faith in an age-appropriate and engaging program. We will meet three Monday afternoons from **4:30 to 6:00 p.m.** in the Laity Room. Dates include **April 1, 8, and 22nd** (we'll take the 18th off since it's school vacation week). Then **Sunday, April 28th**, during the church service we'll 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!

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*

Pilgrim Lodge Online Registration 2013 – Now Open

Go to the website www.pilgrimlodge.org/schedule for a newly posted interactive schedule with photos and program descriptions! Then click the "Register" button. If registering on line please let the church know so that we can make sure you get a campership. Some sessions fill very quickly so be sure to get yours in soon.

There are camps for all ages including adults, and there are camps that offer music and drama, wilderness exploration, grandparents and grandchildren and more! To learn more, speak with Diane Harvey or Sally Keiter, or pick up a brochure outside Diane's study.

Hilltop Guild Pot Luck Dinner - March 14 at 6 PM

The Hilltop Guild is meeting on **Thursday March 14 at 6 PM** for a **pot luck dinner**. **Marie Jordan will speak to us about her birding trip to Cuba.** All women of the church are invited to join us for a delicious dinner and a

magnificent presentation by our birding expert.

If you are not a Guild member and would like to attend, please call Joan Dennison at 799-3193 to let her know you are coming.

MARCH ALTAR MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar **March 3** were from T.J. Heald in loving memory of her brother **Bruce Jordan** and parents.

The flowers on the altar **March 10** were given by Alex and Meghan Livingston and Christie Cannell in loving memory of mother and grandmother **Elizabeth Cannell**.

The mission globe is lighted on **March 17** by John and Andrea McCall in celebration of the birthdays of their late mothers **Barbara Warren McCall and Billye Jean Thompson**.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **March 17** in loving memory of **Judith Leeman** by her husband Henry Leeman, brothers William, Richard and Robert Angell, and sisters Lynn Angell, Diane Burns and Deborah Thayer; and in memory of **Andrew S. Phillips Jr. and Anne J. Phillips** by John and Karen Ellis.

MISSION & OUTREACH



Easter Offering – Sunday March 31st

Like the Christmas Offering, your gifts are administered by our Mission Outreach Team for direct assistance to the work of agencies and ministries. **This year Mission Outreach has chosen two ministries to receive your gifts from the Easter Offering - Grace Street Ministry and Community Crisis Ministry.**

In the spring of 2006 two ordained, UCC pastors felt Spirit-driven to begin a ministry with the marginalized and homeless in downtown Portland. Reverends Mair Honan and Elizabeth Peterson provide a walking ministry bringing compassion and communion to the street. "You won't have any trouble spotting the pastors. They're the ones carrying the big bags of new

athletic socks." Your gift will help Grace Street Ministry be where our needy neighbors are and able to provide for their very basic needs.

Our own Community Crisis Ministry continues to serve our local community in a variety of individual needs - from rent, to car repairs, to fuel oil, to bills due. Give now and hear more about it on Community Crisis Sunday April 21st.

There is an Easter Sunday Offering envelope in your monthly sets. You can also note your check in the memo line and use the all purpose envelopes found in the pews. The Mission & Outreach Team thanks you for your support.

Spring Rummage Sale – April 20, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

It's spring! (or I think it is coming!!) The **spring Rummage / Garage Sale will be on April 20, 9-2 p.m.** Please start that spring cleaning and get all that great stuff up to church for our sale. You can start dropping off on March 2nd in Guptill Hall. We do it every year and have a great turnout

that makes great money for our budget.

Please help us again to make a great sale of sales!

Prudy
799-5705

Save The Date!

Saturday, April 27 starting at 5:00 PM is the date and time for a dinner and auction in Guptill Hall to raise money for our Mission Trip to Cherryfield this summer. If you went two years ago, you'll remember what a great time it was! In addition to a wonderful meal with your church family,

there will be some great items to bid on: paintings by Maine artists, babysitting services, Sea Dog tickets, a 3-course meal cooked at your home by Diane Harvey, and much more! Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the date. Hope to see you there!



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, March 20
- Come for a **movie, "Pay It Forward"** in Davidson Lounge at **1:00 PM.**

Thursday, March 28 - Join us at **I-Hop for breakfast at 9:00 AM.**

Thursday, April 4 – **SAGE meeting at 1:00 PM** in the 1st and 2nd grade classroom.

Wednesday, April 10 - Join us for lunch at the **Bridgeway Restaurant.** We will meet at the **church at 11:30 AM.**

Wednesday, April 17 - **"Lunch and Fun"** at **noon** in the Wright Pavilion. Bring a sandwich and beverages will be provided.

Wednesday, April 24 - We will meet at **SMCC for lunch at noon.** RSVP by April 17, one week before, as they require exact numbers.

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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
301 Cottage Road, South Portland, ME 04106

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Time Sensitive Newsletter

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Find us at: www.facebook.com/fccucc

No matter *who* you are
Or *where* you are on life's journey

YOU ARE WELCOME

THIS EASTER.

- 6 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service in Fort Williams
- 9 a.m. Family Worship with ASL Interpretation
- 11 a.m. Family Worship with Meetinghouse Choir and
Brass at 9 and 11 a.m.



First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

301 Cottage Road South Portland 799-3361 www.fccucc.org
John B. McCall, Senior Minister Diane L. Harvey, Transitional Minister