



The North Church

# BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is at **9 a.m. Monday March 26, 2012**. Send entries to [beacon@fccucc.org](mailto:beacon@fccucc.org).

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**March 12, 2012**

**Worship**

**1**

**Pastor and Pew**

**2**

**S L & W**

**3-4**

**E G & F**

**4**

**Seniors**

**4**

**Mission & Outreach**

**5-6**

**Administration**

**6**

**Our Friends at Home**

**7**

**Easter Flower Order Form**

**8**

## Looking Ahead in Worship

Mark your calendars for **Friendship Sunday** on **Sunday March 25** where you are invited to bring a friend to worship at 8:30 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. Invitations are available.

### April 1 - Palm Sunday

*Metaphor: Palms*

**8:30 a.m.** - Chapel worship.

**10:00 a.m.** - Sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir.  
 Sunday school classes through the sixth grade and  
 Worship Discovery for grades 7 & 8.

### April 5 - Maundy Thursday

**7:30 p.m.** - Sanctuary worship and communion.

### April 6 - Good Friday

**6:00 p.m.** - Family worship service inspired by Tomie de Paolo's *Now One Foot, Now the Other*.

**6:00 p.m.** - Soup supper in Guptill Hall hosted by the Spiritual Life & Worship Team.

**7:30 p.m.** - Sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir.

**8:00 p.m.** - Vigil begins in the chapel.

### April 8 - Easter Sunday

*Metaphor: Empty Tomb*

**6:00 a.m.** - Sunrise service with communion at Fort Williams near the flag pole.

**9:00 a.m.** - Sanctuary worship with Meetinghouse Choir and brass. **American Sign Language** interpreted for the deaf. John McCall will give the message.

**11:00 a.m.** - Sanctuary worship with Meetinghouse Choir and brass. John McCall will give the message.



### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### **Concerns:**

For **Jane Howard** recovering from surgery at home.

#### **Gratitude:**

For the ministry of our Elder Chaplain for the past 12 years **Nancy Foran**. We are grateful for the gifts Nancy offered to the seniors of our church as she concludes her ministry with our church this week.

#### **Joys:**

For the March 9<sup>th</sup> birth of **Silas Dorsey Lupien**, to the proud parents of **Elizabeth and Andrew Lupien** and big sister **Sarah**.

## To Tell the Truth

Tell all the Truth but tell it slant—  
Success in Circuit lies  
Too bright for our infirm Delight  
The Truth's superb surprise

As Lightning to the Children eased  
With explanation kind  
The Truth must dazzle gradually  
Or every man be blind—

Do you know this Emily Dickinson poem? Mingled with all of the words we've shared from the Gospel of Mark this Lent, I've been thinking about these words of poetry. This Lent, John and I have told all the truth. We have been honest about where we are on our journeys of faith. We've tried to be careful not to assume that you are in the same place that we are but feel compelled to share with you that this is where we are. As I'm quite sure you've heard, or may soon, John and I aren't quite in the same place either. Our truths are a little bit different. This is as it should be because we've seen and done different things in our lives. We have seen that success is different in each and every circumstance – and certainly in each of our lives.

Another poet wrote a poem about success that I've always liked, but it's not that one that rattles around in my head this Lent. It's these words by Emily Dickinson that give me pause to wonder what that bring delight of truth might be? What truth might dazzle us that much?

Are you thinking about Easter? I'm thinking about Easter as that one truth that eases every other explanation we might offer, but I'll tell you the truth. I'll try to lean into it – but here it is. I'm not sure that Easter actually does that. I'm not sure that the fact that Jesus rises again on the third day actually makes sense with all of the other stories of our lives. It's a statement of faith, I won't deny that. It's something I want very much to believe. I want to believe that everything bad will reappear whole and new after three days, but that hasn't been my story. That hasn't fit with the other things that I have seen in this world, so this is my most persistent question of faith: how do we tell this holy story so that it makes sense with all of our stories? How do we make Easter something that is not an impossibility but something as ordinary as the events of our own lives? Does that mean, as the poet suggests, that we tell it slant?

### ALTAR MEMORIALS MARCH

The Mission Globe is lighted **March 18** by John and Andrea McCall in celebration of the birthdays of their late mothers **Barbara Warren McCall and Billye Jean Thompson.**

Each Sunday as we enter the sanctuary our eyes are drawn to the altar and the cross. Most Sundays we'll see flowers on the altar, and occasionally a world globe. These donations are a familiar way of remembering a loved one, honoring a dear friend, or celebrating a special time in the donor's life. Our flower committee schedules donors for Sundays throughout the year, and welcomes your contact to learn more. Please email [flowers@fccucc.org](mailto:flowers@fccucc.org).



### STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **March 18** in loving memory of **Judith Leeman** by her loving husband Henry Leeman, sisters Dianne Burns, Deborah Thayer and Lynn Angell and brothers Richard Angell and Robert Angell.

### Farewell to Nancy Foran

The Rev. Nancy Foran is completing her ministry with us in mid-March. She has been our Elder Chaplain since 2000. At the outset she spent two days a week providing pastoral visitation to homes and nursing homes. She also gave support to other activities of our senior members. In 2005, Nancy became Pastor at the Village Church

of Raymond, UCC. Since then she has been here one day a week. Our prayers and best wishes go with her in her future pursuits.

*Nancy MacLean*  
Co-Moderator

### Bring a Friend – March 25

Have you found a home here? Do you love your church? Don't keep it a secret! Bring a friend to worship on Sunday, March 25th to experience the warmth. Our Growth Group will help us all make a special effort to welcome our neighbors, family and friends to come and see. On that Sunday, John McCall will give the message in our

ongoing Lenten series: "God so loved the world?" and reflect on the symbol of the sword and ask about violence in the name of the Prince of Peace. Of course, fellowship time and refreshments follow the 10 a.m. service. For more information contact [office@fccucc.org](mailto:office@fccucc.org).

### Bible Discovery Workshop for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

Spring is in the air and it's time for the **Bible Discovery Workshop!** This is the 26th year that our church has offered this fun and special workshop geared just for our 3rd graders--any 4th graders who were not able to attend last year are welcome to join as well! There will be three afternoons of learning, games, songs, and fun. The children will be introduced to the basics of the bible and our faith in a fun, age-appropriate, and engaging program.

will be a cake reception in Wright Pavilion after the service.

If you have any questions or you would like to sign your child up, please call Beth Harris-Hess at 899-2214 or Deb Dagnan at 749-5045. Look for our sign-up table in Wright Pavilion, where you can sign your child up any Sunday prior to March 13th.

*Beth Harris-Hess & Deb Dagnan*  
*Bible Discovery Workshop Teachers*

We will meet on three **Tuesdays—March 13, 20, and 27—from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Laity Room.**

Our traditional graduation ceremony will be on **Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**, when the children will be presented with their own bibles during worship. There

## Family Potluck – A Celebration of Passover

The Family Potluck group will be hosting a celebration of Passover on **Sunday, April 1st** from **5:30-7:30 p.m.** in Wright Pavilion. Jeff and Deb Sandler will lead us in the family oriented tradition of the Seder feast.

Passover is a holiday that commemorates the time in history when the Jewish people were freed from slavery in the land of Egypt. The Jewish people were slaves, and they wanted to be free.

Passover is celebrated today in homes by having a Seder. Seder means order, and we read the Passover story and

eat the Seder meal in a special order. All are invited to join this celebration. Children of all ages can participate in the Seder ritual, or eat dinner (provided) beforehand and then play in the gym or the nursery. Babysitting is provided for young children for just \$5 per family.

Look for a sign-up sheet in the Wright Pavilion in the next couple of weeks. Please contact Carol Zechman at [zechmc@mainehealth.org](mailto:zechmc@mainehealth.org) with any questions.

*Carol Zechman*

## The Men's Gathering

No way could we miss this fun opportunity we have shared for nearly 20 years, so out of the ashes of the men's retreat weekend comes a new opportunity to share time together for 2 hours in our own church.

The first of three once-a-month Men's Gatherings will take place from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, March 22** in Davidson Lounge. For many years Mike Quinn has opened the Men's

Retreat with a stimulating presentation, and Mike will lead us in this first Gathering.

Please join us. Our church has a fascinating congregation and this is an opportunity to share an experience with the male side, both "hot tickets" and "Eskimo's". We hope to see you there!

*Jerry Onos*

## God So Loved the World? A Faith Formation Question

For those that have found this sermon series challenging (including your pastors), Holy Week may offer new challenges. How do we tell the story of this last week in Jesus' life? We want you to know that there are still resources available to you in these last few weeks of Lent, including:

- a handout for parents and families providing an overview of how to talk about Jesus' death;
- a conversation with John McCall after worship on **March 25 at 11:30**

**a.m.** in Davidson Lounge;

- a gathering for those reading *Proverbs of Ashes* by Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker on **March 26 at 7:00 p.m.** in Davidson Lounge.
- a series of conversation starters on the FCC UCC Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/fccucc](http://www.facebook.com/fccucc).

*John & Elsa*



### SENIOR ACTIVITIES

We will have lunch at **Anjon's Restaurant on Thursday, March 22**, leaving the church at **11:00**. Please RSVP by March 19.

**Thursday, March 29- breakfast at I-Hop.** Join us at **9:00!**

**Thursday, April 5 -1:00 SAGE meeting.**

**Thursday, April 12-** we will show a **movie, to be announced**, in Davidson Lounge at **1:30**.

**Thursday, April 19 - lunch at SMCC at noon.** Cost is \$14 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. Please RSVP by April 10.

**Thursday, April 26 - A busy day with breakfast at I-Hop at 9:00 and SAGE meeting at 1:00.**

**Thursday, May 3 - birthday party in honor of those 90 years old and above.** We would love to have anyone younger attend the party to help us celebrate. The cost is \$10 per person for the catered luncheon for younger people. **90 year olds and their guest attend for free.**



## FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Future order dates are **June 3rd and 10th, 2012** and will be distributed on July 1.

Coffee orders will be taken after both the Chapel and 10 a.m. worship services (just look for the order table outside of worship or in Wright Pavilion). Payment in check or cash will need to be received on the day you order.

-Mission & Outreach Team  
fairtrade@fccucc.org

## RCAD

*Religious Coalition  
Against Discrimination  
For LGBT Equality and  
Justice in Maine*

The Religious Coalition Against Discrimination and Integrity Maine invite your presence for **“A rabbi, a priest, and a minister...”** **How People of Faith Support Marriage Equality.** This will take place at the **Congregation Bet Ha'am, 81 Westbrook St., South Portland** on **Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** It will be a Panel with follow up Q & A of informal conversations and refreshments. For more information go to: [www.rcadmaine.org](http://www.rcadmaine.org).

## 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. To make your offering on **March 18<sup>th</sup>**, use the pew envelopes or

label your donation on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your Support to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Your gift makes a difference in lives of people around the world 365 days of the year.

*Mission & Outreach Team*

## Lenten Prayers for Hungry People

In the first 11 days of November our church community participated in Mission 1: a UCC event to raise awareness of food insecurity and famine in this country and around the world with discussion, letter writing and donations. As a congregation we also fed our neighbors here at home at Thanksgiving. Every week we help families through our own Emergency Pantry. The Mission and Outreach Team hopes this series based on weekly Lenten prayers and actions provided by Bread for the World organization will keep us ever mindful of the hunger that persists in our community and the blessings we receive in our continued service against it. This is the second installment - Weeks 3 - 5.

### March 11 - 17

**Prayer:** O God, you lift up your Son Jesus on the cross so that the whole world might be saved. Sustained by your steadfast love, may we not grow weary in seeking an end to hunger. Amen.

**Action:** The most severe drought in 60 years has brought about widespread famine in the Horn of Africa. Take time to find out about innovative measures to provide water for crops, and safe drinking water for villages go to [www.ucc.org/oghs/](http://www.ucc.org/oghs/) and read about UCC's special offering - One Great Hour of Sharing - and what it

provides in this area of Africa and around the world. Give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing this month.

### March 18 - 24

**Prayer:** O Christ, you enable us to worship God with our entire lives. Grant us the courage to expose greed and injustice in our world. Embolden us as we urge our nation's leaders to change the conditions that allow hunger to persist. *Amen.*

**Action:** Take a few minutes to write, call, or send a personal e-mail to your representative and senators in Congress. Urge them to protect funding for programs vital to hungry people in United States and overseas.

### March 25 - 31

**Prayer:** O Christ, we live in a world filled with suffering and death, but you call us to follow you and serve you. May your abundant mercy open your eyes to new ways we can create hope and opportunity for hungry people. *Amen.*

**Action:** Be willing to share your support for measures to reduce hunger in your community. Write letters to the editor or contribute op-ed pieces so your neighbors may become aware of and engaged in solutions to end food insecurity.

*- Mission & Outreach Team*

## Easter Offering

Like the Christmas Offering, these gifts are administered by our Mission Outreach Team for direct assistance of the work of agencies and ministries that aren't otherwise included in our regular mission budget. Recent examples have been support of the UCC "Hope Shall Bloom" fund for Katrina relief and

support for a school in Haiti. Envelopes are included in the monthly sets or use the all-purpose offering envelope in the pew racks.

*-Mission & Outreach Team*

## Mission Trip 2012 – Update

The Mission Trip for 2012 back to Cherryfield, Maine, has been cancelled. It simply came down to the number of volunteers this year. We only had 9 folks who had made the commitment to spend the last week in July assisting the Maine Seacoast Mission with projects to help our neighbors Down East. We needed a larger crew. So we have postponed our trip for a year when, hopefully, we will be able to enlist a larger number of volunteers. Special thanks to all those who did sign

up...we hope you will be with us next year along with many more interested in an adventure of a lifetime!

Scott Berry, Mike Kasputes, Betsy Keiter and Kathy Sahrbeck

## The Discovery Center

**The Discovery Center**, a ministry of South Portland First Congregational Church, is **now accepting registration for 3, 4, and 5 year olds for 2012-2013.**

- We are a hands on, child centered learning environment where kids learn through doing and playing.
- We offer a loving and caring place to introduce your child to their first preschool experience.
- Our pre-K class prepares children for kindergarten through a

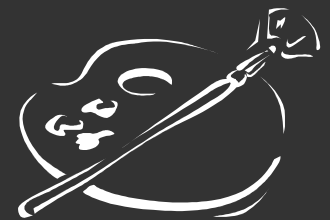
developmentally appropriate curriculum that focuses on sharing, recognizing our name and letters of the alphabet.

Give us a call today and mention this ad for **new incoming children** and get **1/2 off your registration fee!** Contact Pam Howard for questions or to set up a tour at 207-799-3361, ext. 107.

## SPRING RUMMAGE / GARAGE SALE

It's March and what else do you do except prepare for spring! Remember us when you start pulling things that you no longer want but someone else would think is great! Drop the items off at church in Gupstill Hall and I will sell them at our **Spring Sale on April 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Prudy  
799-5705



## CALLING ALL ARTISTS

The church is running low on our stock of birthday post cards and will need to order more soon. Are you interested having your art grace the cover of our new card order? If so, please contact [elsa@fccucc.org](mailto:elsa@fccucc.org).

**EASTER PLANTS, MEMORIALS and CELEBRATIONS**

Each year we offer several opportunities for remembrance at Easter -- traditional Easter lilies or pots of red tulips or yellow daffodils. You may purchase these as a memorial or in celebration of someone or something special in your life. Memorial or celebration gifts from those who do not wish to purchase a plant will be added to the North Church Memorial Fund. Please use the form below to order one or more lily or tulip plants or to make a gift. A list of all memorials, celebrations and gifts will be included in the order of worship on Easter Sunday, April 8th.

✂-----  
[cut off here and return with check]

**PLEASE PRINT**

**EASTER PLANTS:**

I would like to order: \_\_\_\_\_ lily(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ daffodils; \_\_\_\_\_ tulips @ \$9.00 each

in memory of/celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

from: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I'll pick up my plant(s) on Easter morning following the 11 a.m. service  
\_\_\_\_\_ Please deliver my plant(s) to a shut-in

**MEMORIAL GIFTS:**

I would like to make a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

from: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return form and payment by Monday, March 26th to the church office.**

**THE NORTH CHURCH BEACON**  
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# God So Loved the World?

Lent is the season where Christians think about suffering.  
But maybe you suffer enough. Maybe you need more love.  
So what do you do with the violent metaphors in the end of Jesus' life?  
Come listen to two pastors try to figure it out.

## What metaphor works for you?

**Sunday February 26 // Water** (1 Peter 3:18-22)  
**Sunday March 4 // Body and Blood** (Mark 14:12-26)  
**Sunday March 11 // Cup** (Mark 14:32-52)  
**Sunday March 18 // Cross** (John 3:14-21)  
**Sunday March 25 // Sword** (Mark 15:16-32)  
**Sunday April 1 // Palms** (Mark 11:1-11; 14:1-15:47)  
**Sunday April 8 // Empty Tomb** (Mark 16:1-20)



Faith formation  
opportunities available  
for all ages. For more  
information, visit:  
[www.fccucc.org](http://www.fccucc.org).

