



The North Church

# BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is *Friday, May 4, 2012*. Send entries to [beacon@fccucc.org](mailto:beacon@fccucc.org).

## Looking Ahead in Worship

First Congregational Church  
 United Church of Christ  
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**April 22, 2012**

**Worship**

**1**

**Pastor and Pew**

**2**

**S L & W / Youth**

**3**

**E G & F / Seniors**

**3-5**

**Mission & Outreach**

**5-6**

**Administration**

**6**

**Calendar - May**

**7**

### Sunday, April 29 - Community Crisis Ministries Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Chapel Worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship with the Meetinghouse Choir; Sunday school classes through 6th grade, and Worship Discovery for 7th-8th. Jill Saxby will give the message; fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

11:15 a.m. - Joyful Noise Choir (Undercroft)

11:30 a.m. - Confirmation Class (Community Room)

### Sunday, May 6 - Founders' Day

8:30 a.m. - Chapel Worship with communion

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship with communion and recognition of 50 year members and Elders, and installation of newly- elected Elders. Sunday school classes through 6th grade, and Worship Discovery for 7th-8th. John McCall will give the message. Elders' luncheon following worship in Wright Pavilion.

11:15 a.m. - Joyful Noise Choir (Undercroft)

11:30 a.m. - Confirmation Class (Willard Beach)

### Sunday, May 13 - Festival of the Christian Home; Mother's Day;

**Blanket Sunday** - offer a special gift of \$5 or more and blanket someone with love and comfort in a time of need.

8:30 a.m. - Chapel Worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship with the Children's Choir; Sunday school classes through 6th grade, and Worship Discovery for 7th-8th. John McCall will give the message; fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

11:15 a.m. - Joyful Noise Choir (Undercroft)

6:30 p.m. - Confirmation Class (Community Room)

### Sunday, May 20 - Scholarship Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Chapel Worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship with the Hilltop Ringers and Scholarship Awards; our 278<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting following in the sanctuary. Elsa Peters will give the message.



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*For peace and peacemakers;  
for those in the military and  
their loved ones; for all who  
live without sufficient food,  
water, shelter, and safety.*

### ***Congratulations:***

On the birth of **Isaac Charles Davison**, child of Emily and James Davison, and little brother of Alex.

### ***Concerns:***

**Melba White** now at Brighton Rehab; **Kim Grinnell**, Karen Pierce-Souza's daughter, following surgery for cancer; **Susan Neyman**, Jim Otis' great niece, age 14, following open heart surgery in Florida; **Logan Otis**, age 3, Jim Otis' grandson, following his second open heart surgery; Carolyn Grant's brother **Jack Chaplin**, following surgery for cancer; for a South Portland couple with 3 children – the father's new job does not pay as much as before and he's had health issues with medical bills.

Community Crisis Ministries is helping them through this rough time.

## Looking Ahead (cont.)

### Sunday, May 20 – Scholarship Sunday (cont.)

- 11:15 a.m. – Joyful Noise (Undercroft)
- 11:30 a.m. – 278<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 p.m. – Youth Ministry to Sea Dogs (Church parking lot)
- 4:00 p.m. – Youth Ministry Cookout (Community Room)
- 5:00 p.m. – Family Potluck (Guptill Hall)

## From Forty to Fifty

Forty days seemed long enough. Those six weeks that we moved through all those various metaphors and challenging theological concepts seemed to stretch well beyond 40 days, but it was. We marked those 40 days of Lent. (If you're trying to count and can't figure it out, remember that Sundays don't count in the total of 40 days.) And now, we are in Easter.

I have a friend who whines every year about the fact that Easter is not one day. She wants us all to remember that Easter is not just that single Sunday after Holy Week. Instead, she reminds her friends (or anyone else that will listen to her) that Easter is a full season. Its duration is 50 days. It lasts all the way through Pentecost. It's longer than that span of time we just spent in preparation and hopeful awareness. She also happens to be a Lutheran so if you give her enough of your attention, she'll remind you of the sage words of Martin Luther where every Sunday is Easter. And she's right. I'm not always keen on Martin Luther and this isn't one of my favorite of his pearls of wisdom. I prefer his rebellious spirit and his passion for beer. However, I do agree with my friend. We need 50 days to figure out resurrection. We need every single one of those days before Pentecost to begin to understand how we will live into this faith.

Here on Meetinghouse Hill, after the rich journey we've been on through the Season of Lent, I suspect this will be more true. We will need every last one of these 50 days to fully understand what our faith means now. So, let's switch gears. Let's rev our engines from 40 to 50 and wonder who we will become in this Easter Season.

*Elsa*



### STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **April 29** in loving memory of **Paul Gray** by Beth DeTine and Sarah Gray.

The steeple is lighted the week of **May 6** in memory of **James Corbett Otis** by his son Jim and daughter Kathy Hollis and their families.

The steeple is lighted the week of **May 13** in loving memory of **Frank J. Potenzo** by his wife Beatrice Potenzo.

### APRIL FLOWER MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar **April 15** were from Jean Vachon in loving memory of her parents **Robert and Ruby Laughlin**.

The flowers on the altar **April 22** were given by Glenice Hodgson and Daughter Glennie in loving memory of **James Hodgson**.

The flowers on the altar **April 29** are given in loving memory of **Jeffrey Stephen Adams and Gordon Franklin Adams** by Gretchen Adams, Cynthia and her Family, and Robert and his Family.

## 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.

## Youth Ministry Schedule

**Saturday April 28, 8:00 a.m.:**

Pilgrim Lodge Jumpstart Weekend

**Saturday May 5, 5:00 p.m.:**

LOCK-IN !!!

**Sunday May 20, 12:00 p.m.:**

Seadogs Game with 1 p.m. game time

➤ 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 **½ off your registration fee!** Contact Pam Howard for questions or to set up a tour at [799-3361](tel:799-3361), x 107.

**Sunday May 20, 4:00 p.m.:**

End of Year Cookout

*Jerry Reynolds*  
youth@fccucc.org

## Volunteers Needed – Elders Luncheon

The Spiritual Life & Worship Team is looking for volunteers to cook or to serve food at the annual **Elders Luncheon**, which will be held after the 10 a.m. service on **May 6th**. This is a fun as well as meaningful way to show appreciation to those who have

given so much to the Church. If interested, please leave your name and phone number with Jen Dealaman in the church office ([office@fccucc.org](mailto:office@fccucc.org) or 799-3361) and we will contact you. Thanks!

## The Men's Gathering

Our first of three once-a-month gatherings was a heart warming, rich experience with Mike Quinn as our leader.

Our next get together will be led by Jeff Sandler. Jeff and his wife Deb are widely known as "Mr. & Mrs. Fish", operating Fish Camp here in South Portland and other exotic places around the world (literary license)!

Some of us hadn't had a chance to know Jeff until last year's Men's

Retreat. What a treat. I hope you will join us for stimulating conversation and fun.

Our church has an extraordinarily interesting congregation but our business seldom affords us the opportunity to share conversation. But here it is! Just do it! Join us **Thursday April 26 from 7 to 9:00 p.m.** in our Davidson Lounge.

*Jerry Onos*

## Summer is (Almost) Here! Beach Chair Theology is Back!

Beach Chair Theology will return this summer. This is our fifth summer - and our very own Scott Berry is eager to host again. Bring a Beach chair and a Bible. The coffee will be poured and Bibles will be opened at **8:00 a.m.** We'll be reading the Book of Jonah - chapter by chapter. Please also look for reading materials available around the church building to learn more about this whale of a tale.

- **Tuesday June 19:** Jonah 1
- **Tuesday July 10:** Jonah 2

## Leisurely Lectionary... with a Non-Canonical Twist

Everybody knows that there are four gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Not everyone knows that there are actually other gospels. The authorities of the Early Church decided that there should only be four gospels because there are four seasons and four directions - and well, it just makes sense. So, what wasn't included in the canon that we hold sacred?

This is the question that we have been asking in our weekly Bible Study on **Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.** As we have asked many questions through Lent, we've wondered what other stories are out there - and how those stories might help us to understand our faith. After Easter, this small group has decided to read a small selection of non-canonical gospels together - including the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary and the Gospel of Peter. These particular gospels have been chosen because they quarrel with each other and so we'll try to enter into the conversation in the heat of the discussion. If you are interested in reading along with us,

- **Tuesday August 7:** Jonah 3
- **Tuesday August 14:** Jonah 4

Directions to Scott's home: take 77 to Two Lights Road. Follow this to Mare's Hollow Lane (on your right where the paintings are sold). Make a sharp right. Scott's home is the first on the left. There is ample parking on the grass right before his home. Scott may even be out there to direct traffic.

*Elsa A. Peters*  
elsa@fccucc.org

please find a copy of the gospels outside my office - or come on Wednesday mornings **starting April 25.** We will follow this reading calendar together.

### Wednesday April 25 and May 2:

Gospel of Mary

-

### Wednesday May 9 and May 16:

Gospel of Peter

-

### Wednesday May 23 and May 30:

Gospel of Thomas

We will gather for one last time on June 6 to study the Lectionary (as usual) before we break for the summer. Please also note that on April 11 and April 18, we will explore Lectionary texts as well. If you're interested in joining in this conversation, but can't make it on Wednesday mornings, please also let me know.

*Elsa A. Peters*  
elsa@fccucc.org



## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**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. Please RSVP by April 25.

**Wednesday, May 9 - our last visit (this school year) to SMCC for lunch** from their culinary arts department. The cost is \$14 per person. RSVP by May 1.

**Thursday, May 17 - Lunch and Fun at noon** in Wright Pavilion. Bring your lunch and beverages will be provided. Stay after lunch for a domino game or board game of your choice or, if not, just join us for lunch.

**Thursday, May 24 - Plan to have breakfast at I-Hop at 9:00.** We always have good food and great conversations. If you need a ride, call Kathy at 799-3361 ext. 112.

**Thursday, June 7 - SAGE meeting at 1:00** in the 3rd/4th grade classroom above the church office.

## Eskimo Men's Club News

Things are swinging at the Igloo in May. Come one and come all to the **May 2 Eskimo Men's Club Community Night**. Beginning at **6:30 p.m.** there will be great conversation over a wonderful meal and you are all invited along with your guests. Call Walter Jellison on 799-1023 to make your reservations. There is an \$8.00 charge per meal.

Beginning at 7:30, the entertainment will begin in the Sanctuary. This year will be the second annual performance by the Classic Blend featuring our own Sheryl Kieran. They will fill the Sanctuary with sounds of beauty and send us into

## Hilltop Guild Dinner Meeting – May 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Last May, we so enjoyed our annual dinner meeting held in the Wright Pavilion and catered by the Buttered Biscuit, that we are going for a repeat experience on **Thursday, May 10th**. All women of the church are invited to join us at **6:00 p.m.** for an evening of good food, fun and fellowship.

## Blanket Sunday – May 13

Mother's Day, Sunday May 13th, is a day of celebration and is also Blanket Sunday in our church. Again, as we have for many years, we ask that you consider a to the Church World Service Blanket+ program.

For over 60 years, Church World Service (CWS) has worked in partnership with local communities around the world to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster.

the evening relaxed and full of good feeling.

So, whether you plan to partake of the meal and the entertainment or just take in the wonderful voices of the Classic Blend, mark May 2 on your Calendar as a must. You and your guests will be glad that you did. The Eskimo Men's Club is looking forward to this exciting evening and to meeting and talking with each of you. What a way to start the summer season!

*Bob Morse*  
eskimos@fccucc.org

You need to make your reservation by May 6<sup>th</sup>, so please call Joan Dennison at 799-3193 if you are not on one of our call lists and would like to join us. The cost of dinner is \$15.00.

*Marie Jordan*  
Co-Chair

- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields.
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens.
- Literacy training and micro credit for women struggling to realize their potential.

From the CWS website:  
**CWS emergency appeal: 2012 severe storms and tornadoes**  
*Two series of tornadoes and severe storms have affected large swaths of 13 states on Feb. 28 and 29 and then again*  
(cont. on next page)

## MICAH PROJECT HAPPENINGS!

On **Sunday May 20th** there will be an **Interfaith Walk for Habitat for Humanity**. The official walk start time is at 1:00 p.m., but there is a BBQ lunch from 12 to 2! The 4.5-mile walk begins at St. Pius X Church at 492 Ocean Avenue in Portland (near intersection of Ocean Ave and Washington Avenue, at the top of Payson Park).

Also, plans are in the works to **spruce up the gardens around the church this spring!** If you are interested in helping plan or plant --- or both, please let me know. We hope to have a date for this in the next few weeks!

**FMI on either of the above projects, please contact Deb Dagnan @ 749-5045 or through the church website via "Micah Project". Thanks!!**

## BRIDGE GROUP

We would like to thank the Monday Bridge Group for their gifts of \$100 to Community Crisis Ministries and \$150 to the church for use of Wright Pavilion.

*Cyndi Alden*  
Business Manager  
cda@fccucc.org

### SPRING RUMMAGE / GARAGE SALE

The sale is almost here . . . Rummage/Garage Sale on **April 28<sup>th</sup>**. Don't forget us . . . Drop off those items in Guptill Hall. We sure could use them for the sale. Call me if you need a pick up.

Prudy  
799-5705

### BEACON DEADLINES CHANGE TO FRIDAYS

As most members who have submitted articles to share with the congregation are aware, Beacon deadlines have historically fallen on a Monday. Beginning in April Beacon deadlines will change to Fridays to allow sufficient time to properly structure and format submissions, and distribute.

**Beacon deadlines** will be as follows through this upcoming June:

- **Friday April 20**
- **Friday May 4**
- **Friday May 18**
- **Friday June 1**
- **Friday June 15**

Please mark your calendars for these dates. Deadlines for the summer months will appear at a later time. As a reminder, articles should be emailed, as you would like them to appear, in Word (.doc) format to [beacon@fccucc.org](mailto:beacon@fccucc.org).

### Blanket Sunday – May 13 (continued)

on March 2 and 3. In all, 51 people perished in the two sets of storm.

#### *Response by CWS, CWS communions and CWS partners*

CWS Emergency Response Specialists are in contact with response agencies to respond to immediate needs for material goods such as CWS Clean-up Buckets, Blankets and Hygiene Kits.

#### *CWS situation report: Pakistan (Sindh) flooding Tuesday, September 13, 2011*

Heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan continue to cause widespread damage. Some 5 million people have been affected, 700,000 homes have been damaged and more than 1.7 million acres of crops are affected. The death toll from the floods is approaching 200.

As of last week, approximately 131,410 people are residing in 1,484 temporary camps. The majority of these people lack access to shelter, food, medicines and clean drinking water.

### Have You Registered for Pilgrim Lodge Yet ???

Being a camper is a great experience that always brings me closer to nature, to new friends and to God. The whole camp: the lodge, outdoor chapel, hiking trails, cabin row, and waterfront, seems to scream 'I am God's creation!' PL is not tainted by cell phones, iPods, TV's or computers, and I feel that it's actually really easy to let those things go and have fun in nature instead. Whether you're a child, teen, or adult there will always be a place for you at Pilgrim Lodge. Breathe in the clear, fresh air and embrace God's wonderful creation.

This is what Sally Keiter offered in reflection of her experience at Pilgrim Lodge two years ago. This

#### *CWS Response:*

As part of a coordinated response by members of the ACT Alliance, Church World Service staff in Pakistan has sent tents and blankets that will be ready for distribution.

A \$5 donation will go toward the purchase of a blanket which is used for warmth, cover and protection from the elements.

I will be at coffee hour on April 29 and May 6 to accept your donations and you can pick up a Mother's Day card or an all occasion card. If you pay by check please make it out to the church and put "blankets" in the memo field. You can also put your donation in one of the CWS envelopes found in the pew rack.

Kathy Cotter

year, she's registered for two weeks of camp and will be a counselor-in-training at our church's summer camp in West Gardiner.

If you're interested in going to Pilgrim Lodge this summer, your church offers camperships for all our members in order to diminish the family's burden. Whether you are an adult or a teenager, please explore the Pilgrim Lodge website ([www.pilgrimlodge.org](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org)) to see what PL might have in store for you. When you register, simply alert the Church Office ([office@fccucc.org](mailto:office@fccucc.org)) and we'll make sure that a campership is offered to you this summer.

Elsa A. Peters

**THE NORTH CHURCH BEACON**  
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Give us a call today. Contact Pam Howard for questions or to set up a tour at [207-799-3361](tel:207-799-3361), ext. 107.