



The North Church

BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is at **9 a.m. Monday May 16, 2011**. Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

First Congregational Church
 United Church of Christ
 South Portland, Maine 04106
 Phone (207) 799-3361
 Fax (207) 799-4095
 E-mail: office@fccucc.org
<http://www.fccucc.org>

May 8, 2011

Worship

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Pastor and Pew

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E G & F

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Seniors / M & O

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Administration

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Calendar – May

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Looking Ahead in Worship

May 8 – Festival of the Christian Home and Mother’s Day

Blanket Fund special offering

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship, the Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School through the eighth grade. Last day of regular Sunday school. Elsa Peters will give the message and fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

May 15 – Children’s Celebration Sunday

Dress for the picnic!

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary celebration, including the 2011 Scholarship Awards; followed immediately by the all-Church picnic – please bring your own chairs or a blanket, and pray for sunshine!

May 22 – Community Crisis Ministries Sunday

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir and nursery/toddler care. Older children remain in worship with their families. Scott Berry will give the message.

May 29 – Memorial Day Sunday

8:30 a.m. – Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir and nursery/toddler care. Older children remain in worship with their families. Elsa Peters will give the message and members of the Willard Engine and Ladder Company #2 will join us.

PLEASE: remember to bring non-perishable items for our food pantry. The need is greater than ever.



IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Those serving in the military and their loved ones; peace and peacemakers; victims of the earthquake in Japan, and weather-related suffering especially in the southern US; those caught up in government protests; for our elected leaders and those who are left desperate by budget cuts and shifting priorities; for our Jewish neighbors on Yom HaShoah, the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust.

Ongoing prayers:

Dick Hermann, Pam's husband, following heart surgery; **Cliff Strike**, as he heals from cancer surgery; **David Smart** at Brighton Rehab; Pauline Ingalls on the recent death of her daughter-in-law **Karen Ingalls**; **Kim Early** following knee surgery for a torn ACL; John and Janet Littlefield celebrating the birth of their nephew **Colin Michael Legard**; **Pam Mulcahey** – Ralph and Jane Howard's daughter – who is donating a kidney to a coworker on May 24.

We celebrate with **South Congregational Church, UCC**, Kennebunkport ME whose members voted April 15 to become an Open and Affirming congregation.



Making Headlines

There was no story to accompany the larger than life photo of our church gathered at Fort Williams in the paper on Easter Monday. It just said that we were there – and somehow inferred that other Christians were gathered in other points along the coast and in woods to witness the same wonder that Christ has risen.

You have all made a comment about this photo in the paper. I joked with John that his photo in last year's Portland Press Herald was at least in shadow. I joked more with Jim Otis who asked if I'd been a marketing major in college, but this isn't about marketing. This isn't even about making headlines. Sure, it's great for the church. Any time our church family can appear in the local media to show the transformative change we are offering to God's people is a good thing indeed.

However, the power of Easter isn't about how big the picture was in the newspaper or who was caught on film or even how long the article was. The power of the resurrection story is where we will take this news. How will these photos reveal who we are to the world? What do these photos say about who we are? And is this the hope that we want to offer to God's people at this point in time?



Or is there more that we want to say about who we are and who God is calling us to be? For me, this is the invitation of the Easter season. It's proclaiming the miracle and then choosing to practice it. This is the good news indeed.

Elsa



STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **May 8** in loving memory of **James Corbett Otis** by his son Jim and daughter Kathy Hollis and their Families.

The steeple is lighted the week of **May 15** in loving memory of **Frank J. Potenzo** by his wife Beatrice Potenzo.

The steeple is lighted the week of **May 22** in loving memory of our parents/grandparents **Beatrice and William DeTine and Agnes and Donald Gray** by Beth DeTine and Sarah Gray.

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for **May 15** when our kids will lead us in worship. We'll conclude the Sunday School year and have a picnic in the parking lot hosted by Education, Growth & Fellowship.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY JUNE 12

Love our youth as they decide if and how they will join our church in June.

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

Beach Chair Theology will return this summer. This is our fourth summer and for the first time we'll be diving back into the Hebrew Scriptures to hear a familiar story of freedom and promise. This summer, we'll explore the Exodus story. Bring a Beach chair and a Bible. The coffee will be poured and Bibles will be opened at **8:00 a.m.**

If you're interested in reading along with us or joining us early on Tuesday mornings, please note the following schedule. Please also look for reading materials available around the church building to learn more about the Book of Exodus.

Tuesday May 31: Exodus 12:33-13:10

Tuesday June 28: Exodus 13:11-13:22

Tuesday July 12: Exodus 14:1-15:19

Tuesday August 2: Exodus 15:20-16:36

We are blessed that Scott Berry will be

our wonderful host again. He has a beautiful view near Two Lights overlooking the water. It's a treat to be there - with plenty of parking for all.

Directions to Scott's home are: 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 Scott's home. Scott may even be out there to direct traffic.

Elsa A. Peters
elsa@fccucc.org

Saying Goodbye to Steve and Sherry



Almost as long as I have been in ministry here in South Portland, Steve and Sherry have been involved in Youth Ministry. Steve took over the program after an amazing summer at Pilgrim Lodge. He felt a clear call to work with the youth which caught his sister Sherry's attention so that they've now been working on this program together for 2 years.

Now, Sherry and Steve are preparing to move. Steve will be moving to Bangor while Sherry will move south. Both are looking forward to what lies ahead - but both will miss the energy of our youth and our church. We're all sad to see these two wonderful people move far away. I know that you join me in gratitude for all that these two stewards have done for our youth. **I hope that you will join your church family in offering your thanks, praise and blessing on Steve and Sherry as we conclude their ministry on May 15 in worship.**

Elsa A. Peters
elsa@fccucc.org

All Church Capture the Flag Game

In Christ Kid's Club, our kids from Grades 1-8 have been working together to understand how to find Jesus in the ways that they play together. This has been our year-long focus in. They've played games together of all shapes and sizes to practice leadership, sharing and seeing Christ in everyone. Now, it's time to share what they've learned.

The kids invite you to an all-church

capture the flag game (where everyone from 2-102 can play) at Fort Williams at 2:00 p.m. on May 22nd. Find us on the yard right where you drive in. We'll play with anyone who comes and hope to model the things we've learned together through fair and loving play.

Elsa A. Peters
elsa@fccucc.org

Youth Ministry Schedule

Sunday, May 8th: YM will be serving coffee hour on **Mother's Day**, in honor of all the MOM's of the church!

Sunday, May 15th: **Go Karting/Mini Golf @ Seacoast Family Fun Park. Meet @ church @ 11:30 a.m.** and return approx 2:00 p.m. (I will be sending a cost sheet of what everything costs there, but they offer Go Karting, Mini Golf and several other fun activities!)

Sunday, May 29th: YM goes to the **Sea Dogs!** 1:00 p.m. game, **meet @ church @ 11:45 a.m.** After the game, we'll have an end of the season barbecue at the Bakke's home.

Steve Ferris
youth@fccucc.org

Annual Church Picnic

The Annual Church Picnic is coming up on **Sunday, May 15th!** We invite and encourage you to join us after church to enjoy some wonderful grilling by the Eskimos and fabulous salads and side dishes contributed by our congregation, followed by the much-loved ice cream sundaes (donated for years by Beals!).

There is a poster-board located outside of church, if you can sign up to help

with contributions, please do. We could also use a few helpers to set up and serve ice cream (a yummy job!).

Please contact Margaret Thibodeau at 767-7150 or mtthib@maine.rr.com if you can help! Thanks!

Education, Growth & Fellowship Team

Scholarship Awards - May 15

The Scholarship Committee has completed reviews of this year's applicants and is pleased to announce that 22 awards from the General Scholarship Fund will be presented during worship on May 15. The Loretta Thompson Pond Scholarship won't be awarded this year. Thanks to all who have made this possible through their

generous donations, and to the committee members: Debra Andrews, chair, Scott Ayre, Eben Marsh, John McCall, Jeri Sides, and Chris Zechman. Watch for a full listing in the next Beacon.

John McCall



POTTED PALMS FOR SALE

We have three potted palms for sale from our Palm Sunday service. If you'd like to purchase one to grace your home or patio, please drop off a check for \$10.00 payable to FCC, UCC and enjoy your palm!

Thank you,
Cvndi

NANCY FORAN TO PARTICIPATE IN BREAST CANCER WALK

Nancy Foran, our Elder Chaplain, will be walking in her 7th Breast Cancer 3 Day Walk later this year. Along with approximately 3000 other women and men, Nancy will walk 20 miles on for 3 days for a total of 60 miles. Her goal is to raise \$3000. for the walk's sponsor, Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Proceeds from the walk fund cancer research as well as early detection and educational programs. If you would like to sponsor Nancy, you may write a check payable to Susan G. Komen for the Cure and leave it for her mailbox in the Office or go to www.the3day.org and click on "Donate" to [link to her webpage.](#)



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, May 10 - meet at noon for lunch at the **Bridgeway restaurant**.

Thursday, May 19 - We will see the movie, "Ladies in Lavender" at 1:30 in Davidson Lounge.

Thursday, May 26 - 9:00 breakfast at I-Hop. Join us for food, friendship and fun.

Thursday, June 2 - SAGE meeting at 1:00.

Wednesday, June 22 - Leave church at 11:00 for lunch at the **Lobster Shack**.

Look for further activities to see peonies at **Maine Audubon** and to attend the play "Marvelous Wonderettes" at **Maine State Music Theatre**.

**HILLTOP GUILD
BANQUET**

**THURSDAY
MAY 12
6:00 P.M.**

WRIGHT PAVILION

Blanket Sunday – May 8

Mother's Day is a day of celebration and is also Blanket Sunday in our church. Again, as we have many years in the past, we ask that you donate 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.
- 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 responds to U.S. storms and tornadoes

Regions throughout the continental United States continue to be buffeted by a series of storms, tornadoes, floods and wildfires that have resulted in loss of life and severe damage to homes and property in the affected states.

Mission Trip Study

Our group will gather to study about why we do mission two more times. With our April meeting behind us, we look forward to meeting next on **May 11 at 7:00 p.m.** We'll meet once more, the evening of June 8 at the same time.

Attendance is required of all participants so please mark your calendars.

CWS Disaster Response Specialists are working with state, regional and local VOADs (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), FEMA, member denominations and other agencies to determine where CWS denominations are helping or are needed. CWS will provide material resources, including blankets, hygiene kits and clean-up buckets, as requested.

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

I will be at coffee hour on May 8 to accept your donation and you can also pick up a Mother's Day 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 generic offering envelopes found in the pew rack.

We look forward to continuing the tradition of providing much needed blankets to people in need.

Kathy Cotter

Questions? Talk with Elsa at 799-3361, ext. 104 or email elsa@fccucc.org.

OFFICIAL CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

The members of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, are hereby called to meet on **Sunday, May 22, 2011** following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship:

- I. To receive the annual reports of the Officers of the Church, The Minister and Staff, Boards and Committees;
- II. To elect Church Officers, Council and Team members for the 2011-2012 program year;
- III. To hear and act upon any other business which may properly come before the Church.

Janet B. Butler
Church Clerk

WHO IS GOING TO PILGRIM LODGE?

May 27-30

**Mike Kasputes
Deb Theriault**

June 22-25

**Alexis Nesbit
Paul Zechman**

June 26-July 2

Sally Keiter

July 7-9

**Carolyn Foster
Grace Stacey**

July 17-23

**Colin Harle
Jen Harle
Sally Keiter**

July 24-30

Sam Ayre

July 31-August 6

**Lindsey Ayre
Kayla Hulsey**

August 7-13

**Alex Livingston
Xander Keiter
Finn Zechman**

August 14-20

**Theo Brucker
Mac Brucker**

Don't you want to go too? Register at www.pilgrimlodge.org.

Camperships are available to all church members who express a need. Generous contributions to our Campership Fund are always welcome.

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