



The North Church

BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is **Friday June 15, 2012**. Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

First Congregational Church
 United Church of Christ
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June 3, 2012

Worship

1

Pastor and Pew

2

S L & W

2-3

E G & F

3

Administration

3

Seniors

4

Looking Ahead in Worship

June 10 - Confirmation Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship (last until September)
 10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir and the rite of Confirmation. Immediately after worship there will be cake to celebrate.

June 17 - Father's Day

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Rev. Garvey MacLean giving the message. **Sheryl Kieran and the Classic Blend** will offer special music followed by Lemonade on the Porch. Nursery care will be available.

June 24

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with Rev. John McCall giving the message. **Deb Dagnan and Family** will offer special music followed by Lemonade on the Porch. Nursery care will be available.

July 1

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with Communion. Rev. John McCall will give the message. Special music will be provided and followed by Lemonade on the Porch. Nursery care will be available.

July 8

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Rev. Elsa A. Peters giving the message. **Bruce Lockwood** will offer special music. Peter Dickson will be our guest organist. Worship will be followed by Lemonade on the Porch. Nursery care will be available.

July 15

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Rev. Elsa A. Peters giving the message. Special music will be offered; Peter Dickson will be our guest organist. Worship will be followed by Lemonade on the Porch. Nursery care will be available.

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Special musical offerings will be part of each worship service throughout the summer months.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For peace and peacemakers; for the end of US military involvement in Iraq; those in the military and their loved ones; for all who live without sufficient food, water, shelter, safety, love; for all who live with Alzheimer's and dementia and for those who love them.

Celebrations:

With those who will be confirmed into church membership on June 10, their families and their mentors; for graduates and their families.

Concerns:

Melba White now at home as She continues recovery from a broken hip; **Henrietta Lombard** now at Pine Point Nursing Home; Cindy McLaughlin asking prayers for her husband **David McLaughlin**, with cancer.

Condolences:

For the family of **Macy Whitehead**, our assistant Pastor on Meetinghouse Hill in the 1950's, who died on May 16.

JUNE ALTAR MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar **June 17** are in celebration of **Linda Rines and Harold Thifault** as they renew their vows after 18 years of marriage.

From John McCall:

I'm healing. I didn't need surgery – a cortisone injection has continued to give me relief from pain since I herniated a disk in my back in mid-April. I've been back to the office for short days and have been in worship these past two Sundays. You, and my wonderful colleagues on the church staff, have urged me to take the time I need. I'm being very intentional to keep from over-exerting. Sitting for too long is dangerous. So I go home in the afternoon to recline, and am not making evening commitments. All in good time. I'm so grateful for your love and prayers and cards and kindness. I know they'll continue to aid in my healing.

Summer of Silence

It's been said recently that silence is approaching extinction. I've heard it in several different places from people that value silence. There is some concern about the clatter of communication through social media but that's not really what this plea for silence demands. It's not simply an act of turning off the electronics. If you've never celebrated a weekend without email or Facebook, I recommend this spiritual practice. It's a good one. It will revive you more than you can imagine. When we turn off these electronic bells and whistles, we practice a different kind of listening. This is what has silence-loving people nervous. They fear that we are losing the ability to listen to ourselves.

Ponder that for a second. When was the last time that you really listened to your internal thoughts? It's not something that comes naturally. It's why so many people hate to sit in silence. It's uncomfortable and awkward because we have been taught to listen to exterior voices. No one in our larger culture has ever taught us to listen to our inner voice. There may have been a teacher along the way. There was for me. That teacher taught me to put words to every thought in my active imagination, but that teacher couldn't do it all. I needed to hear that same message from someone else. That voice came from my minister who always asked me, "Well, what do you think?" You've heard me ask this question too. Many times, perhaps. I ask this question a lot. It's not only because I want to know what you think, it's because I'm one of those people that is afraid that silence will disappear. I'm aware of this current tendency to fill the silence with any kind of noise rather than to sit with our own thoughts.

It's my invitation to you this summer. Wherever your travels might take you, resist the temptation to turn on the radio or leave the TV on in the background. Let go of the need to always need to say something – and instead, try (perhaps for the very first time) to listen. Don't worry about listening to anything in particular. There won't be a test. Just listen to what happens when you allow your thoughts to run wild. Go ahead and chase those ideas popping into your head. See where they lead. I promise you that no matter what flies into your brain, it's where you'll find God. So, make a space for that still small voice to speak to you throughout the silence of your summer.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **June 17** in loving memory of **our loved ones** from the Sahrbeck family.

The steeple is lighted the week of **June 24** in honor of **George Johnston** by his niece Sandra Hansen.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY CIRCLE

The group will meet on **Wed., June 20 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the church library. The reading this month is "The Desert in My Life" published in the latest issue of Weavings. A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life. Copies are available in the group's mail-tray located outside Elsa's office and can also be read at <http://weavings.upperroom.org>. As always, there is an open invitation extended to all women of the church to join this caring, supportive group.

MaryAnne Wallace
womenscircle@fccucc.org

BEACH CHAIR THEOLOGY

June 19: Jonah 1
July 10: Jonah 2
August 7: Jonah 3
August 14: Jonah 4

For more information call the church office, 799-3361 or email office@fccucc.org.

Special Request from Silas Zechman

My name is Silas Zechman and I have been invited to join my mom's home church in Baltimore on a mission trip to help Katrina victims combined with the Lutheran Youth Conference in New Orleans this July. The link to Divinity Lutheran's site regarding the mission trip and conference is

<http://divinitylutheran.net/> (see ELCA Youth Gathering). The cost of the 6 day trip is \$1,000. I am hoping to raise money to help pay for this trip. I would be willing to do odd jobs, babysitting, yard work, etc. Please contact me at zechmac@zwi.net or 799-1241.

The Discovery Center Preschool

The Discovery Center Preschool is wrapping up the school year of 2011/2012. We would like to thank the support of the church community and all the wonderful donations they have made to DC. We still have openings in all of our programs for the school year of 2012/2013. If you or someone you

know is looking for a loving, nurturing environment that offers a developmentally appropriate preschool program where children's creativity and individuality is fostered, please contact Pam Howard, Director at 799-3361 ext. 107.

Have You Registered for Pilgrim Lodge Yet ???

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) to see

what PL might have in store for you. When you register, simply alert the Church Office (office@fccucc.org) and we'll make sure that a campership is offered to you this summer.

Elsa A. Peters
elsa@fccucc.org

Giving Statements

Giving Statements are being mailed out. Please check yours for accuracy and contact Cyndi at

cda@fccucc.org or call 799-3361 with questions. Thank you.

Cyndi

Summer Church Office Hours

With the changing worship schedule to one 9:30 a.m. Sunday service on June 17, church office hours will also be changing. Beginning **June 11** the church

office hours will become **8:30 a.m. - 12 noon**. Full day office hours will resume in late August, the exact date to be announced.

THE NORTH CHURCH BEACON
Published by the First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
301 Cottage Road, South Portland, ME 04106

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SENIOR ACTIVITIES

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

Thursday, June 14 - We will plan to leave the church at **11:30** for a **picnic at Ft. Williams**. If it is raining, we'll have lunch at the Bridgeway Restaurant.

Wednesday, June 20 - Join us at **12:30** to attend a **matinee performance of "Forever Plaid"** at the **Arundel Barn Playhouse**. Tickets are limited and cost \$25. Please RSVP by June 10.

Thursday, June 28 - Meet at **I-Hop for breakfast at 9:00**.

Thursday, July 5 - SAGE meeting at 1:00.