



The North Church

BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is at **9 a.m. Monday June 20, 2011**. Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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June 12, 2011

Worship

1

Pastor and Pew

2

S L & W

3

E G & F / Seniors

4

Mission & Outreach

4

Looking Ahead in Worship

June 12 - Confirmation Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Chapel worship

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary worship with the Rite of Confirmation for ten young people, and nursery/toddler care. Older children remain in worship with their families. This is the final Sunday for our Meetinghouse Choir until September.

June 19 - SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary worship

- Each Sunday from June 19 - September 4, we'll have a single sanctuary service at 9:30 a.m. followed by lemonade on the porch. Infant and child care through age 5 is offered in the nursery. We'll have varieties of special vocal and instrumental music throughout the summer. Communion by intinction will be offered on the first Sundays of July, August, and September. **Homecoming Sunday**, September 11, we'll resume services at 8:30 in the chapel and 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.
- John and Elsa's summer Sunday messages will be from the Revised Common Lectionary readings from **Genesis** exploring the ancient narrative of God's Creation and what it means to us as people of faith today.
- PLEASE: remember to bring non-perishable items for our **food pantry**. The need is greater than ever.
- Summer church **office hours** are **Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, through Labor Day**. John and Elsa, Kathy and Shirley will be in and out, as well as taking their vacations times, so please phone ahead if you want to connect with them after noon. You can reach their direct voice mail through the main church number - 799-3361.



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.

Bruce Sahrbeck and family on the June 4 death of his mother **Alma Sahrbeck**; **Jim Morang**, receiving treatments for cancer; **Dave Smart** now at Falmouth by the Sea continuing to recover from a stroke; **Bert Munde** continuing slow recovery after back surgery; **Tim Peters** following back surgery June 6; **Barbara Sydleman**, recently hospitalized; **Steve Ferris**, having outpatient surgery.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

- **Rev. John McCall** –
ordained 40 years in
June 2011
- **Rev. Garvey MacLean** -
ordained 50 years in
June 2011
- **Rev. Birger Johnson** -
ordained 60 years in 2011

Synod or Bust

It is the season of church meetings. It starts with the Annual Meeting of our own church. Then, there's the Maine Conference Annual Meeting.



This year, the meetings continue. Over the July 4th weekend, when travel is cheap in Florida, I'll be in Tampa for General Synod 28. You might remember when we were so excited about General Synod 26 in Hartford. It was the 50th Anniversary of the UCC. This year, there's no anniversary – but I am delegate for the Maine Conference. What does that mean? I'm so glad you asked. General Synod currently happens every two years. It's when all of the local churches, associations and conferences get together for worship and business. Yes, it's when we balance a budget and elect officers – but it's also when we try to embrace the Holy Spirit encouraging us to be a multicultural, inclusive, justice-seeking church. That's where I come in. I'm a delegate that has been selected (and voted in) by the delegates and clergy in standing at last year's Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference. That doesn't mean that I go to Synod with the agenda of the Maine Conference or even the local church I serve. Instead, as delegates in any meeting in the UCC, we vote with our faith. We wrestle together with where we are as individuals with the issues that face us.

The issues usually come in the form of resolutions. (There are always exceptions in God's church.) In the United Church of Christ, a resolution starts with the Annual Meeting of some local church. When that church votes together, they have to gather other churches to feel the same way. There's a little bit of red tape there but eventually with enough enthusiasm it can come to the General Synod as a resolution. In Tampa, as a delegate, I will randomly be assigned to a committee that discerns any one of the 13 resolutions which include issues from clergy healthcare to the words we use in baptism to mindful eating to adoption for LGBT parents to a theological commission for local churches. We pray. We vote. We make decisions about who the United Church of Christ will be, but here's where it's confusing. That's the public face of the denomination. These resolutions help our clergy and leaders articulate who we are now, but they do not change the local church. Our local churches are autonomous so that we get to be excited or ignore what happens at General Synod. That's oversimplifying but the heart of our faith in the United Church of Christ is that we trust that God does indeed have more light to shine in each of our voices.

Admittedly, I hope we get excited. I hope that we understand that God is bigger than our local church. God is moving all of us in this crazy covenant to find more of God's love and peace in this world. General Synod is an opportunity to see what the churches in Guam and Texas and the Dakotas are doing. It's an opportunity to connect and be inspired. I'm grateful for this opportunity and hope you'll share my enthusiasm as I pour over the pages and pages of these resolutions.

Elsa

JUNE ALTAR MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar **June 5** are given in honor of the **Elders of the Church** in thanks for their service.

The flowers on the altar **June 12** are in memory of mother **Irene M. Cuddy** with love from daughter Mary Alice Higgins.

The date of June 19th remains open for donors. If you' like to remember a loved one, honor a dear friend, or celebrate a special time on this Sunday or anytime in the future, please contact Dana Wiggins at 767-4181 or flowers@fccucc.org.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **June 26** in honor of **George Johnston** by his niece Sandra Hansen.

The weeks of June 12 and June 19 remain open for donors. Would you like to memorialize or celebrate someone special on either of these weeks? Contact the church office at 799-3361 or office@fccucc.org for further information.

Beach Chair Theology is Here!

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.** Read along with us or join us early on the following Tuesday mornings:

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

Look for reading materials which are available around the church building to learn more about the Book of Exodus.

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



Every year, the local churches and Associations in the Maine Conference gather for worship, workshops, business and fellowship. This June, our delegates will journey to Farmington to answer a call to tell the story.

At this year's Annual Meeting, we'll look at how to tell the stories that matter to us, in new ways we need to learn, and old ways we may have forgotten, and the middle ways that carry forward what we value, translating our story for new generations and transmitting it into our ever-changing world.

We are blessed to have many of our members among this gathering,

including retired clergy **Garvey MacLean** and **Bob Morse**, active clergy **Andrea Thompson-McCall**, and our own pastors. Our delegates are **Adam and Jean Siulinski**.

The Maine Conference continues to wonder about new things the church will do with our limited resources. The agenda will also include some time to discern whether or not the Maine Conference should be an Open and Affirming Conference. In the true spirit of our polity, local churches are taking this step. In Farmington, we'll ask if the Conference is next. For more info, visit: www.maineucc.org.

With Love

It has been a great deal of pleasure to serve as Youth Advisors for the Youth Ministry of the First Congregational Church in South Portland. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your recognition of our service at the May 15th Church service and then at the Bakke's house this past Memorial Day weekend. Your love, support and generosity is something we will never forget. The young adults have been awesome and so much fun to work and have fun with.

The parents have been phenomenal

Pilgrim Lodge Camperships

Pilgrim Lodge programming has already begun. Adult campers have already begun to enjoy the beauty of Lake Cobbosseecontee -- and soon children will arrive to walk the Labyrinth and make crafts in the Art Cabin.

This year, we have 17 youth attending and 5 adults attending. This includes one family of 4 attending Family Camp, 2 LGBT folks attending Rainbow Camp and a grandparent and grandchild attending Grandparents Camp.

Six of these kids are new campers who have never been to Pilgrim Lodge before! This is a really big year for us at Pilgrim Lodge and I'm so grateful to **Sally Keiter** for her enthusiasm in

and we will miss you all so very much. We have been very fortunate to have been part of such a close knit Church family. Thank you for all your kindness, gifts and God bless you all.

Best wishes to you Jerry, and your family, as you take over advising the Youth of our Church. Have fun with these wonderful young adults!!!

With love,
Steve & Sherry

promoting this program with our kids and adults.

Camperships have been made available to all families (including adults) that have desired this financial support. The Camperships are made possible by stewards of our church who have given generously to make sure this outdoor ministry continues. We were able to be extra generous this year because of the generosity of the Eskimos and Holly Daze Bazaar. If you are interested in supporting this ministry to our campers, you are always welcome to make a gift designated for camperships.

Elsa A. Peters
elsa@fccucc.org

FCC UCC Children's Closet

This summer the Children's Closet is open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. the third Thursday and the first and third Saturday. These dates are as follows:

JUNE: 1, 4 & 18
JULY: 2, 16 & 21
AUGUST: 6, 18 & 20

We will be resuming our regular schedule in September.

AnnElissa Leveque
childrencloset@fccucc.org



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Thursday, June 16 - leave church at **1:00** for matinee performance of **"The Marvelous Wonderettes"** at Maine State Music Theatre. Tickets are limited so please reserve soon. Scholarships for tickets are available so please contact Kathy Sahrbeck if interested.

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

Thursday, June 30 - Meet for **breakfast at I-hop** at **9:00**.

Thursday, July 7 - **SAGE** meeting at **1:00**.

Wednesday, July 13 - Bring your own lunch and leave from the church at **11:30** to have a picnic at **Thomas Park**.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

The next Fair Trade coffee orders will be taken **June 5th and 12th** outside Wright Pavilion with an expected distribution date of July 3.

Carol Scheffler
fairtrade@fccucc.org

THE NORTH CHURCH BEACON

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