



The North Church

BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is **Friday, Aug 24, 2012**. Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

First Congregational Church
 United Church of Christ
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July 22, 2012

Worship

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Pastor & Pew

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Seniors / M & O

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Administration

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Calendar – August

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Looking Ahead in Worship

On summer Sundays through September 2, we have one worship service at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, with childcare in the nursery for ages five and younger. There will be varied music offerings, both choral and instrumental, and lemonade on the porch.

July 29

9:30 a.m. – Sanctuary worship; John McCall will give the message.

August 5

9:30 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the celebration of communion; John McCall will give the message.

August 12

9:30 a.m. – Sanctuary worship; Elsa Peters will give the message.

August 19 – Elsa Peters' Farewell

9:30 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with a celebration of Elsa's ministry among us over the past 5+ years. A reception follows in Wright Pavilion.

August 26

9:30 a.m. – Sanctuary worship; John McCall will give the message.

September 2

9:30 a.m. – Sanctuary worship with the celebration of communion; John McCall will give the message.

September 9 is Homecoming Sunday and we return to two services 8:30 in the chapel and 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

- Remember to bring *water from a special place* to add to the baptism font.
- Join us for the *all church picnic immediately following worship*. Pray for sunshine, and dress for fun. There will be a sign-up poster so everyone can help make this a great day. Please look for it in a couple of weeks in the Narthex.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For peace and peacemakers; for our veterans and those in active service; for those who struggle with PTSD and injury; 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; for those confined to their homes and to nursing homes.

Continued Prayers:

Our congregation as we enter a time of transition and discernment with Elsa's departure; **Gail Dransfield** hospitalized after surgery (no visitors, please); **Ruth Bonney** recently hospitalized after taking a fall at home.

In Loving Memory:

Russell H. Emery, a member since 1962, died June 28 after a long illness. He was 80, and is survived by Betty, his wife of 59 years, and their children including Ellen Ross who was our church secretary in the late 1980's. **George C. Wigant**, a member since 1971, died July 22 at the Barron Center after a long illness. He is survived by Frances, his wife of 52 years, and their two children and four grandchildren.

Church Council News – July 2012

Here we are at another crossroads in our church life and here is the latest news from the Church Council about the next road we'll be traveling on.

In June, as most of you know, Elsa submitted her resignation as our Associate Pastor. Last week, she went to Olympia, Washington, and the congregation of The United Churches of Olympia voted that she become their Senior Minister.

We extend our Congratulations to her, and, of course, we are happy for her. We are also feeling sad that August 19 will be her last Sunday with us.

On that day, Sunday, August 19, during our worship, we'll have a celebration of Elsa's ministry stories and farewells. There will be coffee, juice, and goodies in Wright Pavilion after the service. Please spread the word to folks young and old to come that day.

The Council is fulfilling its responsibility and has appointed a committee to search for an Interim Associate Minister. We hope to find someone who can start to work with us on a part-time basis very soon. We will have help in this search from one of the Maine Conference Ministers - The Rev. Darren Morgan. He worshipped with this congregation during the 1990's.

The Council will be continuing its study of our staffing and our financial resources. Do we need an Associate Minister full time? Do we want an Associate Minister full time? Can we afford to have a full-time Associate Minister?

All of us on the Church Council welcome your questions, comments, and above all, your prayers.

Members of the Church Council

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From Pastor and Pew

It's hard to say goodbye to our pastor and friend, Elsa Peters. We celebrate with her on her call to begin her ministry in Olympia, Washington, but...

But what? We'll really miss her – her energy and her style and her wisdom and her laugh. We'll be fine, but... Some of you have wisely reminded us that nothing lasts forever, neither joy nor sorrow, neither the best times nor the worst times.

I hope you'll be able to join us for our celebration on August 19, Elsa's last Sunday here. There will be a reception following. In the meantime, maybe you'll write an email, card or note that recalls something specific that you appreciate – a time when she was particularly present to you, a message that touched you, a moment that she made the difference. The spirit now guides Elsa to another place, another people, another ministry. The people of the United Churches of Olympia, Washington, will welcome and love her just as we have. And they, too, will say goodbye to her some day.

Just so, our life together here unfolds. "To everything there's a season and a time for every matter under heaven." A time to say hello and a time to bid farewell. God speed, Elsa.

*Faithfully, gratefully,
John*

Altar Memorials - August

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. Currently there are dates open for donors during the month of **August**.

They include **August 5, 19 & 26**. If you are interested in donating flowers or lighting the mission globe in celebration or memory of a loved one contact flowers@fccucc.org.

The Flower Committee

SMAA OFFERS PROGRAMS FOR CAREGIVERS

The **Southern Maine Agency on Aging** (SMAA) is offering programs this fall for caregivers of adults with dementia and for another series for those helping older adults with issues around health care, living options and legal questions. If you are assisting a family member or friend contact SMAA at 1-800-427-7411. More information is also available at smaa.org/.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **August 5** in loving memory of **Howard Fleming** from his Daughters.

The steeple is lighted the week of **August 12** in loving memory of **Frederick P. Andrews** by his wife Verna Andrews, and in memory of **Howard Fleming** from his Daughters.

The steeple is lighted the week of **August 19** in memory of **Howard Fleming** from his Daughters.

The steeple is lighted the week of **August 26** in loving memory of **William T. and Vera T. Holbrook** from Judy and Bob Kelley, Debbie and Joe Conley and Karen McDonough, and in memory of **Howard Fleming** from his Daughters.

ALTAR MEMORIALS

The flowers on the altar **July 8** were in loving memory of **Louis C. Anderson Jr.** by his family, Barbara Patterson and Katharine and Mark Anderson.

The flowers on the altar **July 15** were in loving memory of **Marion Tukey** from the Bauchinger and Tukey families.

The flowers on the altar **July 22** are in celebration of **Elsa Peters'** ministry from Herb and Evie Strom.

Food Pantry

Food Pantry donations are greatly needed during the summer months. When schools are out of session and kids don't get school lunches, our community has greater needs. Demand goes up and donations go down which results in bare shelves.

There is a shopping basket just outside of the narthex where you can drop off non-perishable goods. Likewise, there is a box just outside the Pantry door for donations.

Christmas in July

We know it's a little early to be thinking about December BUT it will be here before we know it. The Mall committee is in the process of planning for the 6th annual Mission Mall. As you know, the Mall is held concurrently with the Bazaar which will be on November 17th this year.

The Mall has always featured charities that have a local or at least Maine connection. In the past, we have invited such charities as Animal Refuge League, Seeds of Peace, Southern Maine Hospice, Grace Street Ministries and many others. This year we will again be inviting Glens, Preble Street, Crisis Ministries and our own Food

Thank You, Bridge Group

A big thank you to our Monday Bridge group for their donation of \$100.00 to the church for the use of Wright Pavilion in the summer.

Cyndi Alden

Common items always needed include: peanut butter, jelly, canned items including tuna, fruits and vegetables, pasta, spaghetti sauce, cereal and toilet paper.

Thank you for helping us to serve our South Portland and Cape Elizabeth neighbors-in-need.

Cyndi Alden
cda@fccucc.org

Pantry to participate. We have found that just six charities is a manageable number for the Mall and thought you might like to play a part in filling the last two spots. Do you have some favorite local charities that you would like to see included? In order to have time to contact these charities, we are asking that you let us have your suggestions by August 15th. And, if you would like an opportunity to work with us on the Mission Mall, please let us know.

For more information, contact Carol Scheffler at 799-5269 or scheffler@maine.rr.com. Mission Mall, A Different Way to Give.



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Thursday, July 26 - leave church at **10:30** to eat at **The Egg and I Restaurant** in Scarborough.

Thursday, August 2 - **SAGE meeting at 1:00** in the 3rd- 4th grade classroom above the church office.

Thursday, August 9 - meet at **11:30** to carpool to **SMCC for a picnic**. If there is rain we will eat at the church and have a Domino game after lunch.

Wednesday, August 15 - tentative date to go on a **trolley tour at Pineland Farms**, where we will see Dutch warm-blooded horses and their cheese factory. The price is \$8 per person.

Thursday, August 23 - leave for Brunswick at **12:30** to attend **Maine State Music Theatre's matinee performance of "42nd Street"**. Tickets are limited and priced at \$20 so please RSVP at your earliest convenience.

Thursday, August 30 - meet at **9:00** for breakfast at **I-Hop**.

Thursday, September 6 - **SAGE meeting at 1:00**.

THE NORTH CHURCH BEACON

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Ceremonial Farewell to Elsa Peters

Sunday, August 19, 2012

9:30 a.m.

Refreshments in the Wright Pavilion.