



The North Church

# BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is at **9 a.m. Monday October 31, 2011**. Send entries to [beacon@fccucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@fccucc.org)  
<http://www.fccucc.org>

**October 17, 2011**

**Worship**

**1**

**Pastor and Pew**

**2**

**S L & W**

**3**

**E G & F**

**3-4**

**Seniors**

**4**

**M & O**

**4-6**

**Administration**

**7**

## Looking Ahead in Worship

### October 23 - Consecration Sunday

**8:30 a.m.** - chapel worship

**10:00 a.m.** - sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir and Children's Choir. Sunday school for children three years through 6th grade begins after the Passing of the Peace. Worship Discovery for 7th and 8th graders meets in the Narthex before worship. Childcare for infants through two years is offered by volunteers in the Nursery. Together we'll dedicate our pledges and gifts for our ministries in 2012. John McCall will give the message and fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

**11:30 a.m.** - "Love Wins" book conversation in Davidson Lounge

### October 30

**8:30 a.m.** - chapel worship

**10:00 a.m.** - sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir and Hilltop Ringers; Sunday school for children three years through 6th grade begins after the Passing of the Peace. Worship Discovery for 7th and 8th graders meets in the Narthex before worship. Childcare for infants through two years is offered by volunteers in the Nursery. John McCall will give the message and fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

**11:30 a.m.** - "Love Wins" book conversation in Davidson Lounge

### November 6 - Mission 1

*(Daylight Saving Time ends - fall back!)*

**8:30 a.m.** - chapel worship with communion

**10:00 a.m.** - sanctuary worship with communion and the Meetinghouse Choir; Sunday school for children three years through 6th grade begins after the Passing of the Peace. Worship Discovery for 7th and 8th graders meets in the Narthex before worship. Childcare for infants through two years is offered by volunteers in the Nursery. Elsa Peters will give the message and fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

**11:30 a.m.** - "Love Wins" book conversation in Davidson Lounge

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

**Concerns:**

**Bob Foster** following open-heart surgery last week; **Chuck Milos** recently hospitalized. Kathy Cotter's mother who has been hospitalized in Connecticut; **Elaine Pitkin** on the recent death of her sister; Kathy Sahrbeck on the recent death of her niece **Kathy Lincoln**, in Pennsylvania; for **Pat Conklin**, Jen Dealaman's mother, following a stroke.

**We gratefully remember:**

**Priscilla Carter Davis**, a member since 1951, who died October 8, at the age of 90. Her husband, Paul Davis, died in 2009.

**Celebrations:**

with Andie and Mike Mahoney on the October 16 baptism of their daughter **Mary Eleanor Mahoney** born June 25, 2011.

**BAPTISMS SCHEDULED**

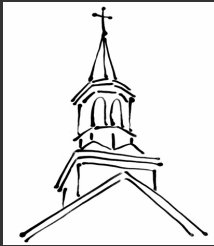
The sacrament of baptism will next be offered **December 11**. Baptism is appropriate at any age. For infants and children, families declare their intention to raise their child to be a disciple within the fellowship of the church. For adults, baptism is a confession of faith in Jesus Christ. Contact John McCall ([jbm@fccucc.org](mailto:jbm@fccucc.org)) or Elsa Peters ([elsa@fccucc.org](mailto:elsa@fccucc.org)) or call the church at 799-3361 for more information.

**Preparing for Advent**

Advent is a season of preparation – but there are certainly many things that happen as we begin to plan for that four-week period before Christmas. In these four weeks, we hear ancient stories that express a need for things to change. We hear the impatience of ancient people as they hope for God to enter into their reality. We hear the careful movement of a community try to hold each other together as they practice the spiritual discipline of waiting. It's an exciting time to be present to those things that we most need to change in our lives, in our church and in our world. I invite you into that space with me as you consider those things. What are those things that you hope God will change? What do you hope to see differently when Jesus is born again?

Shirley and I have started to brainstorm for a special worship opportunity during this four-week season. We don't have any of the details firmly planned – but want to create a contemplative service with lots of music so that we can ponder these questions together. We'll do so through music, silence and readings of all shapes and sizes. Our intent is to model this service after the communities in Iona and Taizé. Iona is an island in Scotland that you've heard John and I both talk about. Last year, you heard Nancy Foran gather energy around John Bell's song leadership – a prominent leader of the Iona community. Their worship changes constantly but it's rooted in Celtic Christianity. Taizé is a community in France that prays through a series of repeated chants in different languages. Both communities create their own music for their own worship experiences. If you look in our hymnal, you can find John Bell and/or Iona Community songs are popular among the songs we sing each Sunday. In this worship experience, we'll learn some new songs together and we'll sing the faith that we most need to articulate.

That's the basic idea. Shirley and I will pick the music and plan the service – but here's where I would like your help. I tend to pull from a library of the same readings to express that spirit of longing. I'd like your help in finding those passages that speak to your understandings of Advent. As you read the newspaper, novels or poetry, I invite you to make copies of the passages that might evoke that sense for you. It doesn't have to be something you've just stumbled upon, but something that you've always loved from a poet, a novelist or even a politician. Pass them on to me and I'll include them in the worship serves during these four weeks of Advent.



### STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **October 23** in loving memory of her mother **Jane Manuel** by Martha Ahonen.

The steeple is lighted the week of **October 30** in loving memory of **Marcelia and Kenneth** by Scott Berry.

### MAINE CONFERENCE FALL LEARNING EVENT

**John Dominic Crossan** will be at **Falmouth Congregational Church** on **Nov. 4-5, 2011**. This is an exciting chance to hear this world-renowned Jesus scholar and author up-close and personal.

Tickets are still available from the Conference office.

You may order your tickets by printing an order form from [www.maineucc.org](http://www.maineucc.org) and sending it with your check, or by calling the Conference office if you prefer to pay by credit card. Or simply call 207-846-5118.

## Count Yourself Blessed...Consecration Sunday~October 23

During worship service over the last few weeks, Gretchen Reynolds, David Moyer, and Scott Berry shared why they feel blessed and particularly, the reasons why they feel blessed to be part of our congregation. They spoke of fellowship, music, service, and spiritual growth opportunities. They spoke of pastoral counseling and congregational support during difficult times in their lives. They spoke of feeling 'at home' at First Congregational Church.

### Count Yourself Blessed.

Prayerfully, faithfully, and joyfully consider your blessings as you make your pledge for 2012. Bring your pledge card with you and

join us on **Consecration Sunday, October 23** for worship at 8:30 or 10:00 a.m. where we will, together, celebrate the blessings in our lives and faithfully commit to the future. If it is more convenient for you, you may make your pledge online at:

<http://fccucc.org/about/2012-pledge-form/>

In Gratitude,  
Your Stewardship Committee:  
*Jerry Reynolds, Bill Campbell,  
Betsy Keiter, Ted O'Meara,  
John McCall*

## Daytime Bereavement Support Group in Saco – Getting Through the Holidays

Hospice of Southern Maine is offering a daytime bereavement support group in Saco, Maine. This group is open to adults who have experienced the death of a loved one. Participants will have the opportunity to share with a skilled group facilitator and other group members. We ask that people try to attend every session.

The daytime group will take place on **8 Wednesdays beginning November 2 and ending January 4, 2012**. There will be no meeting on November 23 or December 21.

The group will meet from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at HomeHealth Visiting Nurse Service at 15 Industrial Park Road in Saco. This group will be facilitated by Barbara Hancock, an experienced support group facilitator. These support groups

are designed to help individuals deal with feelings of sadness, grief, depression, and anger, as well as other issues of self-growth.

Not a therapy group, this group will provide a safe, caring, and trusting environment where individuals can share their experiences of grief and loss.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Carol Schoneberg at Hospice of Southern Maine at 289-3651, or [cschoneberg@hospiceofsouthernmaine.org](mailto:cschoneberg@hospiceofsouthernmaine.org)

## The Great Religious Recession or a Great Spiritual Awakening?

Join us for Progressive Renewal's (CPR) upcoming two-hour special web event with Diana Butler Bass. CPR is one of the new resources through the United Church of Christ. Its focus is upon offering resources for today's church. While CPR hosts some conferences, most of these educational opportunities are broadcast over the internet for any church member to access at a fee. This special web event is one of those opportunities. This has been a hot topic among many of our committees this past year and guarantees to shift some of our assumptions about what is happening in our culture right now.

As this is a web event that requires a strong internet signal, we will gather in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom above the Church Offices promptly at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday October 25, 2011**. The web event starts at 7:00 p.m. and concludes at 9:00 p.m. We will hold 30 minutes for questions and conversation after the web event concludes. I hope you'll come to join in this conversation.

*Elsa A. Peters*  
elsa@fccucc.org

## Love Wins . . . A Three-Part Conversation

What do you believe about heaven and hell? What does scripture teach about insiders and outsiders? Read Rob Bell's *Love Wins... A Book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person who ever Lived* and find yourself in conversation.

You can buy a copy at a discounted price from Nonesuch Books at Millcreek Plaza.

*John McCall*  
jbm@fccucc.org

Come for three conversations on the **Sundays October 23 and 30, November 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the Davidson Lounge**. It promises to be lively and thought-provoking.

## The Micah Project is Back!

The next Micah Project is set for **Saturday October 29, 2011**. We'll volunteer our time and talent at the **Fall Work Day with Pilgrim Lodge**, our summer camp in West Gardiner. Yard work, roofing, cleaning, wood cutting, splitting and stacking, moving items for the winter: There will be work for all ages and abilities.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Sawyer St. Parking Lot and we'll carpool together. Work ends by 4 p.m. with a return time at approx. 5 p.m. If you're interested in attending this Micah Project please check the website for more info (including health forms and age requirements): <http://fccucc.org/serve/>.

*Deb Theriault*  
micah@fccucc.org



**Thursday, October 27** - We'll meet you at I-Hop for breakfast at 9:00.

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

**Wednesday, November 9** - lunch at SMCC at noon. Please RSVP by November 1 and come early to get a parking place.

**Wednesday, November 16** - meet in the Wright Pavilion at noon for "Lunch and Fun" and stay for a domino game or bring your favorite board game to play. We will bring our own lunches and beverages will be provided.

**Thursday, December 1** - join us for a SAGE meeting at 1:00.

## ESKIMOS!

The Eskimos will meet next on **Wednesday November 2**. It is **Ladies' Night** and will feature as **speaker Pat charette, 60 year old English channel swimmer**, who will be attempting the 22 mile swim from Catalina island to the California coast before appearing at Eskimo Meeting.

### FAIR TRADE COFFEE ORDERS

This is just a reminder that the next dates you will be able to order coffee will be the **November 6 and 13** with distribution planned for December 4. Remember that payment, cash or check, is due when you place the order.

Should you miss those dates, a limited amount of coffee, tea and cocoa will be available *on a cash basis only* in the Mission Mall at the Holly Daze Bazaar on November 19. These Fair Trade items make wonderful gifts for someone who loves a hot beverage on a cold winter morning – or any other time of day. And don't forget to get some for yourself!

### SOMETHING'S NOT ON THE LEVEL ... OUR SIGN

Our once-beautiful church sign on Cottage Road has become an eye-sore. Weather rotted the edges and the mighty wind of Hurricane Irene was the last straw. Several kind members have inquired – even offered to help fix it. Since it's beyond repair the Administration Team has accepted a bid and the replacement should be here within a few weeks.

## Holly Daze Bazaar 2011 - Saturday November 19th 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Bazaar workers need your help. The folks listed below would love to hear from you. Always in demand are knitted items, baked goods, gift items, books and jewelry. As a reminder, please take a moment to attach this list to your memo board or refrigerator. Together, we can make the Bazaar an outstanding success. Thank you.

#### Trash & Treasure

Scott Berry 767-0236

#### Grandma's Attic

Prudy Wiggins 799-5705

June Wiggins

#### Food Court

Karen Westerberg 799-1055

Darla Harris 799-6773

#### Luncheon

Judy Magnuson 799-3034

Carol Thorne 772-6713

#### Books

Brian Wallace 774-4096

#### Mission Mall

Carol Scheffler 799-5269

#### Jewelry

Deb Riley 767-3149

Sue Mitchell 767-2063

#### Kid's Room

Deb Theriault 799-8990

#### Knit 'n Purl

Evie Strom 799-7705

Elinor Redmond 767-4198

#### Candy

Kathy Cotter 799-4808

#### Fair Fancy

Marilyn Andress 741-5199

#### Gifts

Glenice Hodgson 799-6664

#### Greens

Bea Potenzo 883-8287

#### **The luncheon hours: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

The marvelous menu includes yummy haddock chowder, fresh crab & lobster rolls, chicken salad rolls and apple crisp. Prices are still in the 'very affordable, haven't gone up a penny,' range.

My game plan is to shop, lunch, shop some more, get to the candy before the fudge is all gone, grab one of Tom Hamerski's decadent cheese cakes, and head home for a wee nap.

The Holly Daze Bazaar is chaired by: *Janice Files* 799-3457; *Karen Souza* 772-5238 and *Lynne Lanctot* 799-1785. We're grateful for their hard work and dedication.

**Fair Trade Coffee** will also be available for purchase.

**Mission Mall November 19, 2011:** In the past, we've reported the total amount collected but feel this may have led to a misunderstanding regarding the underlying purpose of the Mission Mall. As you may know, the Mission Mall is an alternative gift fair in which various charities with a local connection are highlighted. Our purpose is to encourage people to use the Mall as a way of giving a gift, not only to their recipient but at the same time to those in need. This year, we are featuring the following charities: Gary's House, Grace Street Ministries, Preble Street, GLSEN, Community Crisis Ministries and the South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Emergency Food Pantry. Representatives of each of these charities will be available to answer any questions you might have as well as provide information about the mission of their particular organization.

What's important in charting our progress each year is not so much the amount of money given but rather the number of people supporting the concept. We have averaged about 20 participants each year since our start in 2006. Won't you consider adding the Mission Mall to your gift list? We will be in the Wright Pavilion on the same day as the Bazaar, November 19th and hope to see you there!

## Mission: 1 – That They May All be One

**MISSION: 1** is a united church – the United Church of Christ – on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. Members of the Mission and Outreach Team invite you to participate in the food-related events organized for November 1st through the 11th.

### Our Goals:

>**111 donations** to a special call for support for Neighbors in Need that will target International food programs.

>**111 food items** to stock our own FCC-UCC Emergency Food Pantry

>**111 letters** and postcards to Congress and the President asking for reform in our foreign aide assistance to more effectively serve the world's poorest people

We will be keeping count of all our donations and letters in order to measure our contribution to this UCC mission. The final tally will be announced on Nov. 13th – Mission Trip Sunday.

### Mission: 1 Events:

#### Mission: 1- Neighbors in Need Donations

**Oct. 30th – Nov. 11th** Mission: 1 envelopes will be available in the pews and in places around the church for your donation to Neighbors in Need. You may put your donation in the offertory plate at services Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 or send a check to the FCC office. All checks should be made payable to: *United Church of Christ*.

#### Food Pantry Donations

**Oct. 30th** – At fellowship after service, children are invited to participate in a game to learn about donating food. AnnElissa Leveque, a member of the Food Pantry

Committee, will help the children create a healthful and helpful donation.

**Nov. 6th** - With this knowledge we hope the children (and all of you adults) will bring a donation of food on Sunday, November 6th. If you can't be with us.

#### Letter Writing Pot Luck Party

**Nov. 3rd – 6:00 p.m. Wright Pavilion**  
Bring your concern for the hungry people around our world and bring a small dish to share with the hungry people in our church. Postcards, stationary and stamps will be provided. Got a pen? Please note that the All Board Meetings will begin 30 minutes later than usual.

#### Mission: 1 Calendar

Elsa has created a Mission: 1 calendar that will give you the opportunity to "Think" and "Act" each day.

For example on November 9th:

**THINK:** A budget is a statement of faith. In the ways that we choose to spend our money, we demonstrate our hope for the world.

**ACT:** As the U.S. Congress carefully budgets away from deficit, notice the ways that you spend your money today. If you happen to save anything from that surplus of extra attention, donate that amount to Neighbors in Need.

These calendars will be available very soon through out the church for you to pick up.

#### "No More Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens? Food Security in Maine"

**Nov. 9th at 6:30 p.m.** in Wright Pavilion – Imagine the possibility with Donna Yellen, Community Initiatives and Advocacy Coordinator for Preble Street, Inc.

Join Us!

Mission & Outreach Team

**MISSION:1**  
to feed the hungry and  
confront food-related  
injustice  
ucc.org/mission1  
Nov. 1-11, 2011

#### JEWELRY NEEDED FOR HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR November 19, 2011

Please consider sorting through your jewelry and donating items that you no longer wear to the Jewelry Room at the Church Fair. This year we will have a special table for items with higher value. We have a glass display case and will mark these pieces carefully. If you want to donate an item of higher value we will gladly provide a tax receipt. Please call Debbie Riley at 767 - 3149 or [rileydeb@gwi.net](mailto:rileydeb@gwi.net) for more information.



### A SIMPLE & CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE

This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. Our church relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. To give electronically, visit [www.fccucc.org](http://www.fccucc.org), and locate the "Donate" button on the home page.

Giving by credit card is ideal for single gifts and special gifts. Since the church pays 2.5% service charge, if you want to give frequently by electronic means consider using your own bank's bill-payer program. This will assure that your full donation benefits your church. If you give electronically and still like to drop something in the plate on Sundays you can find a stack of small red and black "I gave electronically" cards in the rear of the sanctuary and on the welcome table.

Please contact Cyndi Alden, Business Manager at [cda@fccucc.org](mailto:cda@fccucc.org) with any questions.

### FCC UCC A Christian Family:

loving,  
welcoming,  
serving.

## Reminder about Pledges and Donations

This autumn I have had an unusually high number of phone calls from Peoples United Bank regarding checks that were not filled out correctly.

Usually, the problem lies with checks being postdated. However, this morning, a check is being returned with a date of March, 2011! Sometimes, they are not signed, sometimes there is no date at all, sometimes the amount line is not filled out. Please just take a little more time to make sure that your checks have been filled out properly

them in the Sunday offering. If you have any questions please contact me by phone 799-3361, or email me at [cda@fccucc.org](mailto:cda@fccucc.org).

Thank you,  
Cyndi  
Business Manager

## AN EVENING OF ILLUMINATION *The Future of Marriage* Thursday, October 27, 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for an interactive dialogue **The Future of Marriage, Thursday, October 27, 7 p.m. at Hannaford Hall, 88 Bedford Street, on the USM Campus.** Hosted by Bangor Theological Seminary ([www.bts.edu](http://www.bts.edu)) the Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison and the Rev. Kate Braestup will discuss the constant and changing profile of marriage in our society.

Marvin, familiar to many in our congregation, is Willard S. Bass Professor of Christian Ethics at Bangor Seminary, and author of several books: *Same-Sex Marriage? A Christian Ethical Analysis*; and *Sexuality and the Sacred: Resources for Theological Reflection*. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he lectures widely on ethical issues related to human sexuality, health care, and economic justice. He co-chairs Maine's Religious Coalition Against Discrimination, is a member

of the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, and serves on the advisory board for the Religious Institute on Sexuality Morality, Justice, and Healing.

Kate is a community minister, law enforcement chaplain, and the author of the memoir, *Here If You Need Me; Marriage and Other Acts of Charity and Beginner's Grace: Bringing Prayer to Life*. The event is free and open to all; dessert, conversation, and book-signings follow. For more information, click on [www.bts.edu/newsandevents/fallevent.html](http://www.bts.edu/newsandevents/fallevent.html).

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Portland, ME  
Permit No. 944

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Post Office  
Time Sensitive Newsletter

Find us at: [www.facebook.com/fccucc](http://www.facebook.com/fccucc)

## **BOUNDARY TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**

***STAYING ETHICAL; HOW CONGREGATIONS AND CLERGY CAN  
PREVENT ABUSE OF POWER – AND SURVIVE WHEN IT HAPPENS***

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 9:00 A.M. TO NOON

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
301 COTTAGE AVENUE, SOUTH PORTLAND

COST: \$20.00 STUDENTS: \$10.00

**Laity and clergy are cordially invited  
Please register by November 1, 2011**

**For more information call 854-8987**