



The North Church

BEACON

The deadline for the next BEACON is at **9 a.m. Monday November 14, 2011**. Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.

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

October 31, 2011

Worship

1

Pastor and Pew

2

S L & W

3

E G & F / Seniors

4

Youth

5

M & O

5-6

Administration

7

Looking Ahead in Worship

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 classes through 6th grade, and Worship Discovery for 7th-8th. Elsa Peters will give the message and fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

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

November 13 - Mission Trip Memories

Worship will be led by our missionaries who spent a week in Cherryfield, Maine, last July through the Maine Seacoast Mission.

8:30 a.m. - chapel worship

10:00 a.m. - sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir and Hilltop Ringers; Sunday school classes through 6th grade, and Worship Discovery for 7th-8th. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

November 20 - Thanksgiving Sunday

Food Ingathering - bring items suitable to the season for Thanksgiving baskets

8:30 a.m. - chapel worship

10:00 a.m. - sanctuary worship with the Meetinghouse Choir; Sunday school classes through 6th grade, and Worship Discovery for 7th-8th. John McCall will give the message and fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

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



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Those serving in the military and their loved ones; peace and peacemakers; those suffering from the weather, especially droughts and flooding.

Concerns:

Bob Foster, making a slow recovery from open-heart surgery; Kathy Sahrbeck and family on the recent death of her niece, **Kathy Lincoln**, in Pennsylvania. **Henry Leeman** and **Chuck Milos** recently hospitalized. **Patricia Conklin**, Jen Dealaman's mother, following a stroke; **Doug Peters**, Elsa's father, having hip-joint replacement this week.

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) or Elsa Peters (elsa@fccucc.org) or call the church at 799-3361 for more information.

The End of Poverty

The participants of this summer's Mission Trip gathered for dinner recently to reflect on their time in Cherryfield. On Sunday November 13, they will share their stories with you. They'll tell you about who we met and what we did. They'll share their thoughts on what it felt like to be doing this work. As we shared dinner the other night, I was struck by how tentative we are talk about poverty in our world. It seems that we are quite comfortable with it happening over there – whether that is *over there* in Cherryfield or *over there* around Preble Street or *over there* in the phone calls to Community Crisis Ministry – so that it seems impossible when the United Church of Christ challenges us to Mission: 1 where we seek to end poverty and hunger once and for all.

This seems daunting because we feel that we are doing enough. I'm reading a book right now that challenges that idea. In *The Life You Can Save*, Peter Singer pushes us to face the facts. These are facts that have been determined by the United Nations. You may have heard of them as the Millennium Goals in which it is statistically possible to end extreme poverty. That is, we can remove the burden from the 400 million people living on less than \$1.25 a day. Peter Singer thinks it's about money.

This is a hard concept for me to swallow in the midst of stewardship season. Aren't we giving all that we can? Aren't we giving to those people and places that we feel will respond to that hunger in the world? Isn't that what the church is called to do? Peter Singer is quick to point out how our church budgets spend more of our resources on programs and salaries than mission to the poor. *Eek*. So, what does that mean for us? Does that mean we reconfigure our budget so that we truly are a Christian Family that is serving through our giving? Does that mean that we demand more of the government to uplift the poor? Doesn't our national budget look very similar to the church budget? Isn't the aid we give to the poor something that we give out of the extra funds available to us as Americans? It's enough to make me pull my hair out and feel as though there's nothing that could ever be done. However, that is not the faith that Jesus calls us toward. Jesus calls into relationship with the poor. Jesus calls us to bring good news to the poor which seems to mean that we remove the poor from this situation. We refuse to let anyone die of hunger, disease or pregnancy.

Sure, it sounds impossible but this is the impossible faith that I believe God imagines for our world. God hopes that we will see ourselves as interconnected with the whole human creation so that their survival affects our own. We can't accomplish this work in one budget or one Mission Trip or even one letter to our President. We need each other to imagine a totally different way in the world. I so hope that you will join us in the 11 days of Mission:1 (see page 6) to seize this bold faith.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

The steeple is lighted the week of **November 13** in loving memory of **Earle and Sylvia Angell** given by Ed Angell.

The steeple is lighted the week of **November 20** in loving memory of **Wayne M. Lockwood** by Bruce, Ann, Rachel and Andrew Lockwood.

MISSION:1

to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice

ucc.org/mission1
Nov. 1-11, 2011

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us for the **Women's Retreat**
February 11-12, 2012
Beachmere Inn,
Ogunquit

Cost is \$120 – includes lodging, meals and programming.

Please contact Kristen Silvia, 799-8580 or Jill Gorneau, 799-4109, if you are interested in helping plan the retreat.

Meet Our Newest Church Members

At our service on October 30 we had the privilege of welcoming **Peter Rhineardt** as a new member and **Karen Verdelli** as an associate member. This is a wonderful opportunity to share a few things with you about them. Please help them to feel welcome.

Peter Rhineardt and Karen Verdelli

Karen Verdelli and Peter Rhineardt live in South Portland with their three children Nate (15), Sadie (13) and Libby (7), and one *very* needy Golden Retriever. Karen is a social worker; Pete



is a special education teacher. They work at West School in Portland. Karen enjoys gardening, knitting, and reading. Pete enjoys writing, reading, and grilling dinner.

Count Yourself Blessed ~ Consecration Sunday +2

Last week was Consecration Sunday, and the spirit moved many of us to count ourselves blessed and give as it has been given to us. We're grateful for every commitment and encouraged by the responses so far. As always, our enlistment won't be complete until every household has made a decision about your intentions to support our shared ministries in 2012. Pledge cards are in the pews or by calling the church

office at 799-3361. If it's more convenient for you try the online pledge form at: <http://fccucc.org/about/2012-pledge-form/>

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

Help Plan Advent Worship!

Shirley and I have started to brainstorm for a special worship opportunity during the Advent season with music, silence and readings modeled after the communities in Iona and Taizé.

Shirley and I will pick the music and plan the service – but here's where I would like your help. 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 the sense of longing and waiting that Advent articulates as we wait for the Christ Child. Send all of your readings to me in the Church Office or by email.

Elsa A. Peters
elsa@fccucc.org

Diversity Sunday is Coming – Help Us Plan!

Each year on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, our Diversity Committee hosts worship around the theme of welcome, inclusion. **Planning for the January 15, 2012 celebration**

begins Sunday, November 13, 11:30 a.m. in the Laity Room. Won't you join the fun in brainstorming ideas about celebrating the church we've become?

Interested in a Small Group?

Each member of our church is looking for an opportunity to connect with other members of the church. If you're looking for that unique connection, we want to be able to help you create that opportunity.

Outside of Wright Pavilion, you'll find an updated bulletin board that highlights the groups that are currently active in the church. There are groups

Bible Study for Men Only

With the encouragement of the Adult Faith Formation Committee, Scott Berry has eagerly agreed to host an opportunity for Bible Study in addition to Leisurely Lectionary.

The group will meet in Scott's home - and it's an opportunity only for men. If

Children's Offering

Every year, at the first gathering of Christ Kid's Club, our kids designate their offering through a voting process. This year, the kids are proud to offer their offering to **Community Crisis Ministries**.

Carolyn Foster
sundayschool@fccucc.org

Hilltop Guild Invitation to ALL Church Members

At our **November 10th meeting**, following a delicious **potluck dinner** prepared by the Guild members, **John Kierstead** will speak to the Hilltop Guild about the **Long Creek Air Memorial** and the events that led up to the plane crash on July 11th, 1944. All members of the church and a significant

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

for men, women, families, knitters, readers, diners and justice-seekers. There's also a wonderful group of seniors not featured on that bulletin board but on another on the other side of the room. If you're web savvy and looking to find out more about our small groups, check out the Participate tab at www.fccucc.org. Please also know that you're welcome to imagine a group that might reflect your gifts.

you are a man interested in this opportunity, please contact Scott at 767-0236 for more information. The Adult Faith Formation Committee hopes to help support opportunities for Bible Study like this one. If you're interested in leading a Bible Study like this, contact Elsa at 799-3361.

the 2011 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT is coming!



December 19 - 9am service

KIDS 1st-6th grade: Signups on
October 30, November 6, and 13
Rehearsals on December 3, 10
and 18

Questions? Want to help out? Talk to
Sally Kerfer by calling 767-6182 or emailing
sally.kerfer@gmail.com



SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Thursday, November 3 - SAGE meeting at 1:00 in the 3rd/ 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 Wright Pavilion at noon for "Lunch and Fun" and stay for a domino game or bring your favorite board game to play. We'll bring our own lunches and beverages will be provided.

Tuesday, November 29 - breakfast at I-Hop is at 9:00.

Thursday, December 1 - we'd love to have you come to our SAGE meeting at 1:00.

FAMILY POTLUCK

Families of all shapes and sizes are welcome to a series of potluck known as the Family Potluck. These potluck dinners usually take place on the third Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in Wright Pavilion. **However, there will be nothing planned in November due to the holiday. Instead, we'll look forward to caroling on December 18.**

Baby sitting's provided at \$5/per family. Contact Kim Early at parenting@fccucc.org.

swimmer, who will be attempting the 22 mile swim from Catalina Island to the California coast just prior to appearing at our meeting .

YOUTH MINISTRY

Mark your calendars for these events for our 6th-12th graders.

Sunday November 13 @ 11:30 a.m. Fall Clean Up for Older Members.

Sunday November 27 @ 4:30 p.m. Guptill Games.

Saturday December 3 4:30 p.m. Wayside Soup Kitchen.

Questions? Reach out to Jerry Reynolds at youth@fccucc.org.

RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE AND THANK YOU...

I am pleased to announce that our total now stands at \$2800.00!! It was one great sale with everyone buying boat bags full of clothes. Obviously they were needed.

I want to thank everyone who worked on the sale. We had one long week of assembling it to look like Macy's! It was so perfect!

Thanks to everyone who donated the items we used. Just think... in another 6 months we do it all over again!!! The monies go to the church to be used where ever needed in our budget.

Prudy Wiggins
rummage@fccucc.org

Thanksgiving Basket Reminder

"Over the river and through the woods..."
I'm sure we all know the words to this song which celebrates the feast of Thanksgiving. For many people, such feasts are more of a dream than a reality and, unfortunately, the numbers are increasing.

This year we will be providing Thanksgiving baskets to 30 families in our area. **Please remember to share your blessings by bringing your donation of non-perishable food to the church service on Sunday, November 20th.** Recommended items include

canned vegetables, stuffing, potatoes, bread/rolls, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie filling/crust, beverages and any other items you may traditionally have at your Thanksgiving table.

We will be sorting and packing the baskets after worship at 11:30 on November 20th and would love some extra hands, so please come join us for some joy-filled service! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Suzanne Lindner at thanksgiving@fccucc.org.

Holly Daze Bazaar - 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. 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.

Mission Mall November 19, 2011: 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.

Won't you consider adding the Mission Mall to your gift list? We will be located in the Wright Pavilion at the Bazaar and hope to see you there!

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.

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

At Fellowship after service on Oct. 30, the children were invited to participate in a game to learn about donating food. AnnElissa Leveque, a member of the Food Pantry Committee, helped the children create

healthful and helpful donations. 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 on the 6th, feel free to drop your donation in the Mission: 1 boxes located around the Church during the 11 days in November.

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 for more information.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE ORDERS

The next order dates for coffee will be **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 quantity 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.

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE...

...or where you are on life's journey, or how **allergic** you are to **fragrances**, you are welcome here! We've never said it quite like that, but we've heard from several regular worshipers who are very sensitive to other's perfumes and after-shaves... not just a little nuisance, but who become ill from these strong fragrances in the sanctuary.

Even if your best friend won't tell you your pastors need to: you may no longer be aware of your favorite aroma, but others are! If we could make Sunday morning "fragrance free" others will feel much more comfortable.

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.

Electronic Giving Options

You now have the option to give electronically your pledges, and gifts to the church through our website @ www.fccucc.org. Basically, you have two options: 1) sign up with our provider "Vanco Services" at our website; or 2) use your electronic bill payer at your bank. Below, I have summarized what this "electronic giving" is all about. The example assumes a pledge of \$ 20 / week for an annual contribution of \$1,040. Note the fees of the various giving scenarios. Vanco charges .45 / transaction + 2.75% for credit card transactions. However, they only charge .25 / transaction for EFT using direct transfer from your bank checking or savings account.

Electronic preference	Annual donation to church	Annual Fees to Vanco
Vanco credit card Weekly	\$ 988	\$ 52.00
Vanco credit card Monthly	\$ 1,006	\$ 34.00
Vanco EFT weekly (checking)	\$ 1,027	\$13.00
Vanco EFT monthly (checking)	\$ 1,037	\$ 3.00
Your Bank bill payer	\$ 1,040	0

How does this affect the church? Ideally, if you sign up for Vanco, it would be in everyone's best interest for you to chose monthly over weekly (given the per transaction fee). When you use Vanco, your donation is deposited directly into our bank account. Imagine, if everyone did this, there would be no need for counting the offertory every Sunday! When you donate by your bank's "bill payer" we receive your checks, we deposit them, and 100% of your gift goes to the church. The choice is yours to make. We want to facilitate your giving to whatever best works for you. And, yes, giving each week, in church, during the offertory is always an option!

Hopefully this sheds some light on the subject of electronic giving options. Please do contact me if you have more questions/suggestions.

Cyndi
cda@fccucc.org
 or 799-3361 x 103

the 2011
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
 is coming!



December 19 - 9am service

KIDS 1st-6th grade: Signups on October 30, November 6, and 13

Rehearsals on December 3, 10 and 18

Questions? Want to help out? Talk to Sally Keiter by calling 767-6182 or emailing sallyjkeiter@gmail.com

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HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR
9 A.M. - 2 P.M.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2011

FCC UCC, 301 Cottage Rd., So. Portland, ME 04106
207.799.3361 www.fccucc.org