



THE BEACON

NOVEMBER 15, 2015

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 18

Deadline for the next BEACON is Friday, November 27, 2015—Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For those who live without sufficient food, water, shelter, or safety; for veterans and those in active service; for peace and peacemakers; for areas in strife around the world.

Prayers for Claudia Pandora, recovering at Maine Veterans Home from knee replacement surgery;

Prayers for Jim Dow, son of Dick & Chris, undergoing treatment for cancer;

Prayers for Gail Dransfield, recovering at home;

Prayers for Bruce Moir, recovering from surgery;

Prayers for Betsey Cummings, recovering from surgery;

Prayers for Steve Edmonton, undergoing heart surgery November 23.



LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

November 22 Reign of Christ—*Thanksgiving Sunday*

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir, Children's Choir and Sunday School. Rev. J. Barrie Shepherd will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

11:30 a.m. Book Reading and Signing

November 29 First Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows in Guptill Hall with Advent Wreath & Scarf Making

December 6 Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship with Communion

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship with Communion, Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows in Guptill Hall with Kids' Quarter Store.

December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir, Children's Choir and Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows in Wright Pavilion.

5:30 p.m. Advent Vespers



OFFICE HOURS 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

COMMUNION SERVERS

Doesn't Communion give you a very special, close to God, feeling? Would you like to be a more active part of the Communion worship service?

The Communion servers team is looking for some additional members. You would help to serve Communion to the congregation every 2-3 months. No prior experience is necessary. We will provide all the help/training/rehearsal that you need to feel comfortable during the service. Some of you may be past Deacons, who know the very special feeling that helping to serve Communion gives you.

Please join us serving Communion, a very important ministry within our congregation. We would like to include anyone who is interested. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Sue Stevens at sues618@aol.com or 799-6881.

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY THEMES

November—Thanksgiving Dinner; December—Soup

STEEPLE LIGHTING

November 22-28—in loving memory of **Wayne Lockwood**, from his son Bruce; Ann, Rachel and Andrew.

November 29-December 5—in celebration of **Prudy and June Wiggins**, for all they do for the church, from Faye Graham.

THANKSGIVING BOUNTY

November 22—**Thanksgiving Bounty**, from the Flower Committee to the Youth Ministry for food baskets for the needy.

To remember or celebrate loved ones with flowers on the altar, contact Dana Wiggins at danawig@gmail.com
For the Steeple, contact the office.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Thursday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m.—SAM meeting—Please join us with your activity ideas.

Friday, December 11, we will go to the **Magic of Christmas**, leaving the church at **1:00 p.m.** We have a limited number of tickets so call if you're interested.



Stay tuned for details about our **Christmas party and cookie exchange** on **December 17**.

Thursday, January 7- SAM meeting at **1:00 p.m.** in 2nd/ 3rd grade classroom above the church office.

THANK YOU

"Thanks to a wonderful crew of enthusiastic gardeners our gardens have been put-to-bed for the winter. We started by the entrance to the parking lot and worked our way weeding and raking all around the church. If working in the gardens is something you think you'd enjoy doing we'd love to have you join us when we start back up in the spring. ~ *Deb Sandler for the House Committee*

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

A big **Thank you** to **The Discovery Center Families** who participated in a food drive at the Center and donated many, many bags of food to the Pantry.

We are so blessed to have received these donations to help needy families in our community.

ADVENT VESPERS

Sunday, December 13, 5:30 p.m.

A candlelight service of music and readings to help bring comfort and peace within, as we prepare for the coming of The Christ.

Choir anthems—solos—and instrumental offerings

Tess Gionet—Violin

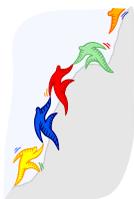
Vokhard Linder—Cello

Jane Sawtell—Tenor Saxophone



THE MISSION MALL— An Alternative Gift Option at the HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR

The Holly Daze Bazaar is a wonderful opportunity to purchase gifts for friends and family, including those who "don't need a thing." At the **Mission Mall** you can make an honorary donation to one or more of the 19 charities in our Mission Mall Catalog, including Community Crisis Ministries and the Emergency Food Pantry. For each donation, you will receive a Mission Mall Christmas card to give to one of the special people in your life.



We are pleased to announce that representatives from four charities will be at the Mission Mall on **November 21**, along with a mystery guest from the Animal Refuge League.

Look for us in the Curved Hallway, and remember to bring your checkbook!

IRS REGULATIONS REGARDING CONTRIBUTIONS

With the end of the calendar year approaching, please plan ahead for gifts that you would like to be tax deductible for 2015.

In general, gifts/pledges must be received by the church office by **December 31**, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2015.

However, checks that are written and postmarked in 2015 will be deductible in 2015, even though they may not be received by the church in 2015. Stock transfers must be received in our brokerage account at Morgan Stanley

Smith Barney by December 31. Checks that are placed in the church offering on the first Sunday of 2016 (January 4), will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2015, even if the check is predated to 2015 or was actually written in 2015.

Additionally, please do not file your 2015 tax return until you have a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Per the IRS, your contributions may not be tax deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions.

~ Nancy Irving (business@fccucc.org)

FOR CHILDREN: FOLLOW THE STAR AT THE HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR

All you have to do is follow the "Star Path," just like the Magi and Shepherds, to the third floor Community Room. *We will be using the stairs near the sanctuary.* Sara Bartlett and Anne Fuehrer will be coordinating a really cool, kid friendly area with returning favorites and some new activities.



ADVENT: A VERY SPECIAL WORKSHOP

On the first Sunday in Advent, **November 29**, you may "Make Your Own Advent Wreath," during Coffee Hour in Guptill Hall. Partial and whole kits are available for a nominal fee. Everything you need to make or reconstitute your wreath from last year! This is a fun activity for the whole family or for anyone who wants to begin Advent with a hands-on project. It is also a spirit-filled gift of generosity if you would like to make one for someone else.



THE KIDS' QUARTER STORE

The fourth annual Kids' Quarter Store will be open on December 6th! This unique opportunity is for children ages birth to 12 years old to shop for gifts for their family and friends. All items will be sold for 25 cents each. No one over the age of twelve will be admitted unless accompanied by a child! The sale takes place after Sunday services at 11:15 a.m. in Guptill Hall. I am looking for donations from the congregation for small, new or gently used, washable items to add to our gift selection. I particularly want to encourage children to give gifts to friends and siblings so toys, sports equipment and books would be greatly appreciated. Think small and encourage all in your family to donate. Please leave items in the church office. Thanks in advance for all your help. ~ Sue Ross (329.7704)



FROM OUR YOUTH MINISTRY

Back in September, I attended the Grace Street service with the youth group. We gathered around a small table on the corner of Preble and Portland street. During the service we had communion and shared prayer along with bread and juice. We all brought a pair of new socks to hand out to the homeless and those in need. At the end of the service they handed out a song sheet and we sang Amazing Grace. I noticed that the people that came to the service ranged in age and included a young mother with a baby. We were able to provide her with socks for the baby. I found the experience quite humbling. I hadn't realized how many homeless there were in Greater Portland area, I thought that was all in the real big city's like Chicago, New York, and Boston. I'm glad to have had this experience, and it helped me to appreciate how lucky I am to have a roof over my head and food on the table every night and morning. ~ Nicolas Borelli

THANK YOU TO THE FIREHOUSE GANG BRIDGE GROUP

The Firehouse Gang donated \$1,000+ to Community Crisis Ministries in memory of Jane Lancaster. We deeply appreciate the Gang's generosity.

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY—AND GIVING

As we celebrate the Advent season, our Church provides various ways to give for a variety of reasons and causes. This year will be no different. One thing we can agree on – it can be a very confusing time for many of us. So the Mission Outreach Team decided to make sure everyone, particularly our newer members, knows what those activities are so you might make decisions about the activities you would like to support. The Bulletins each week at service, our Beacon newsletters for November and December, and the Weekly Word available on-line will provide important information on how to help by giving in the coming weeks. The events you have already heard much about lately are the **Thanksgiving Baskets** and the **Holly Daze Bazaar**. Both of these events are to happen this coming weekend. The Mission Mall will be present as always at the Bazaar. Both are opportunities to buy Christmas gifts for family and friends and support the church at the same time.

The **Mission Mall** will accept donations to support a number of agencies and programs in our area. You will be provided with inserts with information about your chosen groups for your Christmas cards for those you wish to make a gift in their name. Mission Mall catalogs for Year-round giving will also be available.

What follows are the rest of the giving opportunities leading up to Christmas:

Community Crisis Ministries Christmas Gifts – the CCMF committee will be placing ornaments on the curved wall in the hallway just outside the sanctuary. Individuals and families can decide which child's wish list they would like to fill. These donations go to South Portland or Cape Elizabeth children referred to us by any number of social service agencies or programs serving our community.

Contact: Kathy Sahrbeck at 799.3361 or outreach@fccucc.org

Long Creek Christmas Gift Giving - Long Creek Development Center was established for the education and rehabilitation of both male and female juvenile offenders in southern Maine. Its mission is to create and provide an opportunity for personal growth in a safe and secure environment through a variety of programs. Each year envelopes are placed on our Sanctuary Christmas Tree when it first goes up. Each envelope has a list of items a particular resident has chosen to receive. Separately, gift cards will also be accepted. Contact: Jan Hamilton at janscout@maine.rr.com or Margaret Anderson at mga@maine.rr.com

In the case of the CCM Christmas Gifts and the Long Creek Christmas Gift Giving multiple individuals or families can share the ornaments or envelopes so many more wishes can be filled.

Mitten Tree – When our sanctuary tree is emptied of envelopes all are welcome to redecorate the tree with donations of mittens and hats for distribution to homeless children and adults through Preble Street.

Contact: Bob Morse at 799.3361 or rmorse03@maine.rr.com

Traditional Special Offerings:

Christmas Offering – December 20 – Each year the Mission Outreach Team selects one or more organizations to share the Christmas offering with our church. In keeping with our theme of Shelter and Safety the Team will be announcing our choice for this year on December 6.

The Christmas Fund – Christmas Eve – December 24

For 113 years, the Christmas Fund Offering for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a means by which we, as members of the United Church of Christ, live out the mandate to be Christ's Body in the world. The Christmas Fund is a ministry of compassion and care to those who serve our church. Your giving enables the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program to provide monetary assistance to these individuals and families in need. Contact: Jan Bosse at 799-0528 or janbosse201@yahoo.com

Please give what you can, give what you wish, everything helps, everything is welcomed. Thank you in advance for your generosity. ~The Mission and Outreach Team

HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR
Saturday, November 21, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



The members of your Bazaar team need your donations. Always appreciated are: knitted items and small pies and loaves. You might wish to donate books, jewelry or other gift items.

Please call any of the people listed below and offer a few minutes or a few hours of your time. This year will mark our third annual **Cookie Walk**, so pick up a box and fill it with your favorite cookies. Cookies will be sold by the pound. If you plan to bake for the Cookie Walk, please limit your baking to **Holiday Cookies, only**. (Please—no chocolate chip cookies or brownies; however the **Food Court** would love to have them.) Please drop your cookies for the **Cookie Walk** off at the Church on **Friday, November 20**.

There will be a children’s activity room this year!

We need more volunteers! Please call any of the people listed below to offer a few minutes or hours of your time. Working together, we can once again make the Bazaar an outstanding success.

Reminder: Donations to the Bazaar may be left in **Guptill Hall through Wednesday, November 18**. **Cookies and food** should be dropped off on **Friday, November 20, before 2:00 p.m.** (or early Saturday morning. Jewelry can be dropped off in the office.

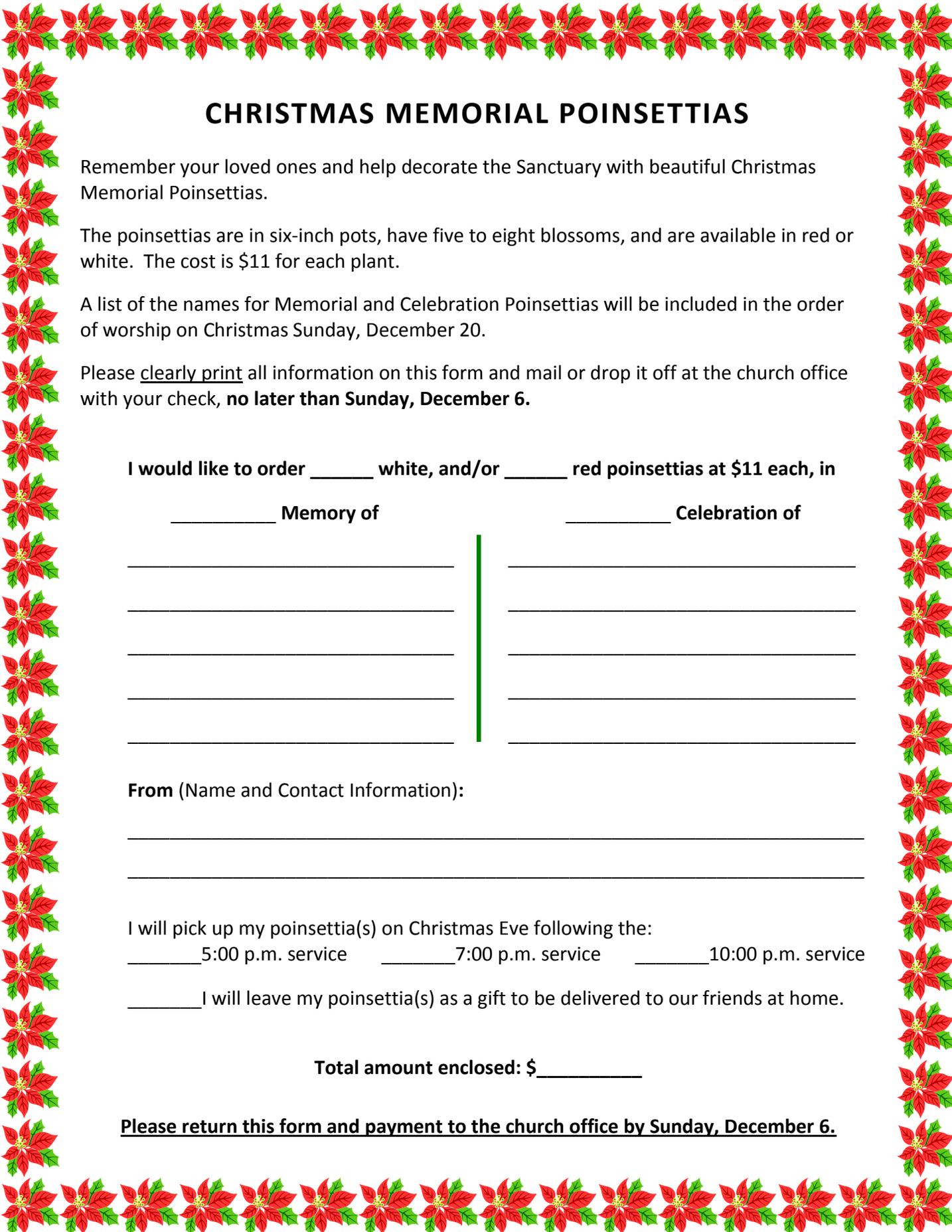
Luncheon hours: 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

The marvelous menu includes yummy haddock chowder, fresh crabmeat and lobster rolls, chicken salad rolls and apple crisp. So, come and sit with your church friends and neighbors and savor the meal and the moments. Take-out will be available.

The Bazaar is chaired by Janice Files, 799-3457, and Lynne Lanctot, 799-1785. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication.



<u>Trash & Treasure</u>		<u>Knit & Purl</u>		<u>Gifts</u>	
Scott Berry	767.0236	Elinor Redmond	767.4198	Carol Mileson	799.1257
<u>Grandma’s Attic</u>		<u>Jewelry</u>		<u>Books</u>	
Prudy Wiggins	799.5705	Deb Riley	767.3149	Mary Anne Wallace	774.4096
<u>Food Court</u>		Sue Mitchell		<u>Christmas Room</u>	
Karen Westerberg	799.1055	<u>Fair Fancy</u>		Deb Dagnan	749.5045
<u>Greens</u>		Marilyn Andress		Pat Harmon	883.6535
Bea Potenzo	883.8287	Marilyn Mitchell		<u>Luncheon</u>	
Margaret Anderson	799.2846	<u>Candy</u>		Judy Magnuson	799.3034
Louise Nisbet	767.2375	Kathy Cotter	799.4808	Carrie Skeffington	874.6612



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

Remember your loved ones and help decorate the Sanctuary with beautiful Christmas Memorial Poinsettias.

The poinsettias are in six-inch pots, have five to eight blossoms, and are available in red or white. The cost is \$11 for each plant.

A list of the names for Memorial and Celebration Poinsettias will be included in the order of worship on Christmas Sunday, December 20.

Please clearly print all information on this form and mail or drop it off at the church office with your check, **no later than Sunday, December 6.**

I would like to order _____ white, and/or _____ red poinsettias at \$11 each, in

_____ Memory of

_____ Celebration of

From (Name and Contact Information):

I will pick up my poinsettia(s) on Christmas Eve following the:

_____ 5:00 p.m. service _____ 7:00 p.m. service _____ 10:00 p.m. service

_____ I will leave my poinsettia(s) as a gift to be delivered to our friends at home.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please return this form and payment to the church office by Sunday, December 6.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
301 Cottage Road
South Portland, ME 04106
(207) 799-3361

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

Post Office

Time Sensitive Newsletter



What have you done to be generous this week?

Join us on Sunday, November 29, after worship, to help make scarves for people in our area who need help keeping warm. The scarves are easy to make—no skills required—and will be a lovely gift of generosity.