



THE BEACON

JANUARY 2016

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

Deadline for the next BEACON is Monday, January 18, 2016—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 Alberta Munde, recovering from an illness;

Prayers for Sally Hinckley, having knee replacement surgery;

Prayers for Keith Lewis (son of Vinton Lewis), who is receiving treatment for cancer.



LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Family service with carols and a simple telling of the story, along with a surprise for each child, followed by a birthday party for Jesus

7:00 p.m. Worship with carols, readings, solos and Communion ASL interpreted for members of the deaf community

10:00 p.m. Service of Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight with the Meetinghouse Choir.

December 27 First Sunday after Christmas

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship (No Chapel Service) with Sunday School "Cozy Christmas." Bob Morse will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

January 3 Second Sunday after Christmas

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.

January 7 First Sunday after Epiphany—The Baptism of Christ

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.

STORM CLOSING NOTICES will be listed on the following TV stations: WCSH Channel 6, WMTW Channel 8, and WGME Channel 13.

OFFICE HOURS 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cynthia (Cindy) Doucette has three grown children and four grandchildren. She enjoys spending as much time as possible with her grandchildren. Cindy works per diem as a physical therapist, and her hobbies include gardening, reading, house projects, hiking, skiing and many others.

Jodi Gilano is originally from Buffalo, New York, and has lived in Portland, Maine for more than 23 years. She founded a start-up software company in 2015, after 28 years in corporate life. Jodi is also raising her 10 year old twins Lucy and Will, who are artistic, athletic and always wondering how they can connect and share with family, friends and new acquaintances.

Kevin and Amy Haskins moved to South Portland five years ago and love living in the Willard area. Their son Neil is five years old and attends Kindergarten and their daughter Maeve is three years old. **Kevin** is an attorney in Portland and **Amy** is an epidemiologist/researcher. The Haskins enjoy music, outdoor adventures, birding, hobbies (Amy—knitting, calligraphy; Kevin—fiddle), and most of all, parenting their big-hearted and energetic children.

Jennifer (Jenny) Jubulis moved to Maine three years ago with her husband and daughter Leah, who is four years old. Jenny is originally from North Carolina and works as a pediatrician at Maine Medical Center. She enjoys traveling, running and the beach.

Nicole Leclerc lives in South Portland with her partner Jan and their family of four leggeds. She is a graduate of Bangor Theological Seminary with a Masters in World Religions. Nikki works at the University of Southern Maine for the Department of History and Political Science. She sings in the church choir and recently started playing the electric guitar.

Bonnie MacInnis and Joanne Ogden are married and retired, living in a condo in the Old Port. They have lived in Maine for the past 20 years, moving here from Salisbury, Maryland. **Bonnie** has one grown daughter who lives with her family in Portland. **Joanne** has a son and daughter who live in California, and another son and his family in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and four grown grandchildren from California to New York City.

Mavourneen Thompson received her education from: Eastern Baptist College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree; University of Maine, graduating with a Masters in Education degree, where she also received a Certificate of Advanced Study. Mavourneen worked as a teacher at Portland High School, an Education Researcher at the University of Southern Maine, a South Portland Representative to the Maine Legislature, a Consultant in Education and Public Policy, Commissioner on the Maine Human Rights Commission and Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics. **Otis Thompson** is a retired teacher and former administrator, father of three children and grandfather of five. He likes to sing and pontificate.

We also welcome **Lawrence and Marilyn Pierce** back to our church!

COMING IN FEBRUARY

During Lent you will have an opportunity to discuss a bestselling book with two amazing teachers. Marvin Ellison and Jackie McNeil will lead a book group on ***Being Mortal: Medicine and What Happens in the End*** by Atul Gawande. The group will meet on **Wednesday evenings** and is open to everyone.

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY THEME

January—Toiletries



STEEPLE LIGHTING

December 20-26—in loving memory of our mother **Marietta French**, from her children Stacey, Todd, Brent and Alice

December 27-January 2—In loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Keith Dennison, Keith Dennison Jr., and Kathy Dennison**, from Joan, Kim, Chris, Sarah & James

To remember or celebrate loved ones with flowers on the altar,

contact Dana Wiggins at

danawig@gmail.com

For the Steeple, contact the Church Office to make your reservation.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, December 30—meet **9:00 a.m.** at **Friendly's** (near the Maine Mall) for breakfast. Contact Kathy if you would like to come and don't have a ride.

Thursday, January 7—**SAM Meeting** at **1:00 p.m.** to discuss new ideas for the New Year.

Wednesday, January 13—**Lunch 'n Fun** at **12:00 p.m.** in the **Laity Room**. Snow date—January 19.

Thursday, January 21—Join us for a movie (to be determined) at **1:00 p.m.** in Davidson Lounge. Snow date—January 28.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

For all of our loyal Fair Trade customers, we are sure you will be happy to know that, thanks to volunteers that stepped forward to help, we will be taking orders on January 3 and January 10, with distribution likely happening on January 31. Going forward, we will probably be again taking orders in March, June and September of 2016.



For those of you who are Fair Trade supporters but have not yet availed yourselves of ordering through the church, please consider that you not only receive the benefit of Fair Trade products at competitive prices but also have the satisfaction of knowing that a percentage of the amount spent is given to the UCC Small Farmers Fund by Equal Exchange at the end of each year. Since its beginning in 2004, Equal Exchange has donated nearly \$100,000.00 to this Fund. It's a win-win situation for everyone. Hope to see you at our table!

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)

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**Wishing you
a Happy and Blessed
New Year**

