



# THE BEACON

APRIL 2016

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

Deadline for the next BEACON is Monday, April 18, 2016—Send entries to [beacon@fccucc.org](mailto: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 Jeff Hobbs, recovering at home;*

*Prayers for Alberta Munde, recovering at home;*

*Prayers for Dick Herrmann, recovering at home;*

*Prayers for Gretchen Adams, recovering at Gorham House;*

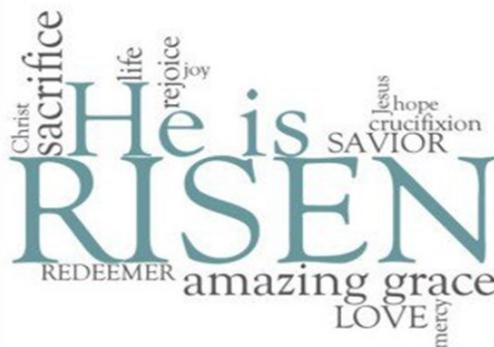
*Prayers for Clyde Ferris, recovering at Maine Veterans' Home;*

*Prayers for Debbie Riley's brother Thatcher Lord.*



## LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

- April 3      Second Sunday of Easter**  
 8:30 a.m.    Chapel Worship with Communion  
 10:00 a.m.   Sanctuary Worship with Communion, Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. Bob Morse will give the message. Fellowship time follows.
- April 10     Third Sunday after Easter**  
**Community Crisis Ministries Sunday**  
 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.
- April 17     Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
 8:30 a.m.    Chapel Worship  
 10:00 a.m.   Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir  
 Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows.
- April 24     Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
 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.





## CARE & CONNECTION

Is hospitality your “thing”? Do you like helping people get connected and build relationships? Are you concerned about helping others within our congregation? We may have just the opportunity for you!

The Ministry Council has approved the formation of a new ministry team called “Care & Connections.” Our focus will be building relationships and strengthening our support of one another. If the group is successful, it will ultimately result in a slight change to our organizational structure, as this new team will be on the same level as the other four ministry teams (Mission & Outreach; Spiritual Life & Worship; Education, Growth, & Fellowship; and Administration). With this in mind, all official members of the team will be voted on at our congregational meeting in May. But we don’t want to wait that long to get started. If you are interested in being involved in this start-up team, please talk to Cindy Maddox for more details.

### MISSION GLOBE, ALTAR FLOWERS & STEEPLE REMEMBRANCES

For Steeple dedications, please call the church office.

To remember or celebrate loved ones with flowers on the altar or light the Mission Globe, please contact Dana Wiggins at [danawig@gmail.com](mailto:danawig@gmail.com).

### ANNUAL REPORTS

Please remember to submit your reports (in Word format) to Nancy Irving by **Tuesday, April 19.**

### PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

The pictorial directories are available in the church office, so stop by and pick up the one for your family.

### SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES—ACTIVITIES

**Thursday, March 31, 9:00 a.m.**—Meet us at **Friendly’s** for breakfast. Call Kathy at church if you need a ride.

**Thursday, April 7—SAM Meeting at 1:00 p.m.** in the 2nd/3rd grade classroom above the church office. Please come with your ideas for new activities.

**Sunday, April 10, 1:00 p.m.**—We will leave the church at 1:00 p.m. for a **South Portland High School** performance of **“Pippin.”** Tickets are \$15 and our reservation is for a limited amount of tickets. Call the office early to reserve your tickets.

**Thursday, April 14, 1:30 p.m.**—We will show the movie, “Secretariat” in Davidson Lounge.

**Friday, April 22, 12:00 p.m.**—Meet us at **SMCC**, where we will enjoy a buffet lunch. The food is wonderfully prepared and also delicious. We hope that you will join us.

**Wednesday April 27—Birthday Party** for our friends who are **90 years old or will be celebrating their 90th birthday this year.** We have six new people joining us this year!

If you are at least 90, you and your guest attend for free. All those younger, we ask that you donate \$10 donation for a catered lunch, birthday cake and the joy of seeing so many smiling faces. RSVP to the church office (799.3361).

**Thursday, May 7—SAM Meeting at 1:00 p.m.** Please come with your ideas for new activities.

### NOMINATION OF ELDERS

Each year we recognize individuals in our congregation by electing them to the honorary position of Elder. The designation of Elder recognizes people for their extended and exemplary service to our congregation and is a rich long-standing part of our legacy. As the Spiritual Life and Worship Team begins the selection process for this year, we would like to invite you to once again submit candidates for consideration. The selection process is always a challenge given the many worthy candidates, but we would like to give

consideration to all individuals who are brought forward. If you have someone that you would like to nominate, please email [drideout@maine.rr.com](mailto:drideout@maine.rr.com), or drop off in the church office a note that would identify the person and speak to why you feel they are deserving of the designation of Elder. Please submit your candidates by **March 31**. Nominations will be formally presented to the Congregation during our annual meeting in May. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Rideout at 883-4319. ~ *Spiritual Life and Worship Team*

### PILGRIM LODGE SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer camperships for our members and children to Pilgrim Lodge and Star Island UCC summer programs. Please contact Anne Fuehrer to apply for a Campership for either of these summer camps [abf@fccucc.org](mailto:abf@fccucc.org) subject line: Pilgrim Lodge or Star Island.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



On April 3, we will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual VBS Open House in Guptill Hall during Coffee Hour. Registration will begin on April 3. The camp runs from June 20-24, 2016. Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Please stop by and take a peek at our VBS program for June 2016: **Catch the Wave of our Awesome God at the Surf Shack!** The daily scripture themes and samples of some activities will be available, too. If you would like to help our program by leading a workshop or gathering materials or food items you can explore those options, too!

### TIRED OF COOKING FOR ONE?

If the answer is "yes," and you are single or live alone, then we have an offer for you!

Please join us for a potluck dinner on **Sunday, April 3, at 5:00 p.m.** in Wright Pavilion. Plan to bring an entrée or a large side dish to share, as well as empty containers to take home left-overs. Drinks will be provided. This will be an evening of great food and conversation!

We're hoping to make this a monthly event, so even if you can't make it in April, stay tuned for our May dinner date.

For more information contact Karen Westerberg at [kwesterberg2@aol.com](mailto:kwesterberg2@aol.com) or at 799.1055. Hope to see you April 3!





### HILLTOP GUILD

The will meet on **Thursday, April 14 at 5:00 p.m.** in the church parking lot. We will go on our annual **mystery ride**. Members will return to the church around 7:00 p.m. for a meeting and dessert.



**SAVE THE DATE!** Jess Procter is graciously hosting the next **GAME NIGHT AND POTLUCK, Saturday, April 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.** If you like to play games or would like to learn some new ones, please join us. We have some groups that love to play Cribbage and Scrabble— among many others! Bring your favorite board game or use one from the Game Room. New this time, we will offer an optional movie for little ones in the Youth Room (close to Guptill). Please sign up with Jess for your potluck dish [jessdeeprouter@gmail.com](mailto:jessdeeprouter@gmail.com). She will also have a sign-up at coffee hour for the next few weeks.



**NATIONAL UCC YOUTH CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER**—Our church is sending 11 excited youth and 2 brave chaperones to the United Church of Christ National Youth Event in July. We have set a fundraising goal of \$10,000 to help offset the cost of the trip. You can help us reach this goal in the following ways:

1. **Hire our church youth** to help with pet sitting, babysitting, housecleaning, yard work and other odd jobs. We have access to a truck for dump runs or moving needs. Please contact our Youth Minister Sara Bartlett ([sara@fccucc.org](mailto:sara@fccucc.org)) for more information or to schedule services from our youth.
2. **Bring your Returnables to church.** We have placed a receptacle to collect bottles and cans outside of Wright Pavilion.
3. **Attend the Pancake Breakfast.** Our youth will be serving breakfast on **Sunday April 3, from 7:30—10:00 a.m.** in Guptill Hall. Pancakes, bacon, coffee and juice will be on the menu. The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 max per family. You can purchase tickets after church on March 20, or at the door on April 3.
4. **Eat at Otto Pizza** on Cottage Rd in South Portland on **Tuesday, May 10, from 5:00—9:00 p.m.** Eight percent (8%) of all sales on that night will go to our Youth Group. This includes dine-in, delivery, take-out, merchandise, and gift card sales.

We will have more events in the next Beacon. Look for the poster with our fundraising goal thermometer outside of Wright Pavilion to see how we are doing with our efforts!

### THE SPRING RUMMAGE SALE HAS BEEN CANCELED

We will not be holding a rummage sale this spring. Please save your donations for our fall sale to help make it extraordinary!

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

**Post Office**

**Time Sensitive Newsletter**

**Non-Profit Org.  
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PAID  
Portland, ME  
Permit No. 944**

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