



# T H E B E A C O N

FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

Deadline for the next BEACON is Sunday, February 18. 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 Henry Adams;*

*Prayers for Heather Allen;*

*Prayers for Debbie Conlon;*

*Prayers for Joshua DeVito;*

*Prayers for Jim Ekedahl;*

*Prayers for Karen Ellis;*

*Prayers for Barbara Merrill;*

*Prayers for Peter Moore;*

*Prayers for Donna Morong;*

*Prayers for Mary Parr;*

*Prayers for Adam & Jean Siulinski;*

*Prayers for Mary Suessmann;*

*Prayers for all who grieve.*

## LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

### February 4

8:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.

### Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Chapel Worship with Communion  
Sanctuary Worship with Communion, Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

### February 11

8:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.

### Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Chapel Worship  
Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

### February 14

12:00 p.m.  
7:30 p.m.

### Ash Wednesday

Sanctuary Worship  
Sanctuary Worship

### February 18

8:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.

### First Sunday in Lent

Chapel Worship  
Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

### February 25

8:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.

### Second Sunday in Lent

Chapel Worship  
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.**

### NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

We are very excited to introduce **Bridget Parker**, our new paid Nursery staff. Bridget has had previous child-care experience in the Yarmouth “Clippercure” program and is a dining room hostess at the Inn on Peaks Island in the summer. We hope to have Bridget here most Sundays from now through June. Please stop by the Nursery and say hello to Bridget.

### PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTIONS

Have you made your 2018 donation towards your Per Capita dues? This is the \$15.00 annual fee that the church pays on your behalf to the Cumberland Association and the Maine Conference.

### SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES

**Thursday, February 1 at 1:00 p.m.**, we'll go to the **Art Gallery at UNE** on Stevens Avenue in Portland to view the exhibit “Images of Children.”

**Thursday, February 8**—Join us for lunch at the **Schulte and Herr Restaurant** in Portland, leaving church at **11:15 a.m.** for delicious German food. **RSVP by Feb. 5.**

**Thursday, February 15**—**SAM meeting at 1:00 p.m.** We would love to hear your ideas for activities.

**Thursday, March 15**—**SAM meeting at 1:00 p.m.**

**Friday, March 23**—meet at the church at **1:00 p.m.** to attend the **Portland Flower Show** with others yearning for Spring. **RSVP by March 21.**

**Wednesday, March 28 at 2:00 p.m.** we will show a recent movie, which we won't name until we are certain to be able to view it.

So, **stay tuned** for a movie name and also a date for lunch at SMCC.

**SAM** also has a monthly newsletter that highlights our activities for those over 55 years old. If you would like to be on our mailing list, just call the office (799.3361).

### FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE – Volunteers needed February 18-25



Our next Family Promise Host Week is fast approaching! To date we have 40% of the 85 volunteer tasks filled. If you've not yet signed up for the volunteer position of your choice, please do so! There are two upcoming **training dates for new volunteers:**

- **Thursday, January 25**, from **5:30 – 8:30 p.m.** at **St. Ansgar Church**, 515 Woodford St., Portland
- **Saturday, February 10**, from **9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**, at **Hope Gateway Church**, 185 High St., Portland

If you have any questions about volunteering for Family Promise, please contact Debra Honey at [debrafv1@maine.rr.com](mailto:debrafv1@maine.rr.com) or 207.450.4122. Thank you!

### CHILDREN'S MUSEUM & THEATRE OF MAINE



We have a membership pass to the **Children's Museum & Theatre!** Church members may use this pass for free admission to the Museum for up to six people (in one group) per day. Please call or stop by the Church Office to reserve the date that you would like to visit the Museum and we will issue a pass. For information about Museum activities and hours, visit the Museum web site at [www.kitetails.org](http://www.kitetails.org)

### ***What's with Ash Wednesday? Isn't that a Catholic thing? It sounds depressing.***

I've heard these and similar questions a number of times over the years, in various ways and by a variety of people. I know some Christians who avoid Ash Wednesday, who don't like Lent, who would rather just skip that part of the church calendar completely. (And some of them are ministers!) We have this idea that Lent is about sin, shame, and guilt, and that Ash Wednesday is about death and dying and "You're going to be dust soon so you'd better get right with God!"

Ash Wednesday is about the brevity of life, but not as a warning. It is a reminder that life is short, so don't waste it; life is brief, so don't throw it away on that which doesn't bring *life* to your living. The Ash Wednesday service is a quiet, reflective service, but not a depressing one. Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of Lent and will be our first opportunity to consider our theme for the season.

Each Sunday during Lent I will preach from the writings of a Christian mystic—people like Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, and Anthony of Padua. Each of them had visions that enlightened them and brought them closer to the Divine. We will consider how our eyes might be opened as well.

**Please join us on February 14** for one of our **Ash Wednesday services—at noon and 7:30 p.m.** Yes, that is Valentine's Day, but I hope you will consider making time in your day to remember the Divine love that covers us all. ~ *Cindy Maddox*

### **CARE GROUPS**

After several months of planning and recruiting, our care groups will be starting in the next few weeks. It looks like we have 5-7 groups that will be forming, each around a special interest or demographic. These include a group for families with young children, a group for persons who identify as LGBTQ, a group for people who live in Cape Elizabeth, a group that will go out to dinner together once a month, a "Chop & Chat" group that will prepare meals for our Prayers & Provisions group, and possibly a group whose only demographic or identifier is those who want a daytime group at the church. Plus the prayer shawl or knitting group may also serve as a care group. What unites all these different groups is that we will all discuss the same short reading (max 2 pages) and provide a place of fellowship and care for one another. If you would like to participate but haven't signed up, please let Cindy know right away. There's still room.



**PRAYERS AND PROVISIONS:** Just a reminder that we would love to help you or somebody you know who could use help with meals. Please contact Rev. Cindy or the church office. Thank you.

## *Bible* **DISCOVERY**



**BIBLE DISCOVERY WORKSHOP will begin the first week of March.** The children learn the Books of the Bible Song and sing on Palm Sunday. Bible presentations are also on Palm Sunday, March 25 during worship. A special reception for the BDW graduates during Coffee Hour on March 25.

Bible Discovery Workshop is open to any 3<sup>rd</sup> grader or older student who would like to participate. They will meet for 1.5 hours after school on Mondays during Lent. Each child will get to know their bible with fun, singing and games. Instructors are Carolyn Foster and Grace Stacey.

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**ATTENTION: All graduating seniors and students currently enrolled or any church member pursuing post-secondary education.**

Your church supports your continuing education and awards several scholarships each year. You are encouraged to apply for one of those listed below.

The **General Scholarship Fund** is available to any church member who is either a high school senior enrolled in, or intending to study at the college, university, or graduate level, or any church member pursuing post-secondary education. Applicants need to have been accepted or are attending a college or university in order for the funds to be awarded. **Award considerations** include church involvement during and after high school.

The **Loretta Thompson Pond Scholarship** was established in 1995 and is for graduating high school seniors who are members of this church. Criteria for the Pond Scholarship include service to the church and the community, involvement in church activities, academic achievement, and financial need.

Applicants for the Loretta Thompson Pond Scholarship need to complete the General Scholarship Fund Application as well; two letters of reference and one essay are also required.

**Scholarship Applications** will be available by February 1, from our website ([www.fccucc.org](http://www.fccucc.org)) under the GROW heading, or by calling the church office at 799-3361. Completed applications need to be returned to the church office by **Thursday, March 8**. If you have questions after reading the applications, direct them to [scholarship@fccucc.org](mailto:scholarship@fccucc.org) or the church office.

### **Comments from recent scholarship recipients:**

*"The church has done so much for my family and I, and I am thankful for all of it. The church truly has shaped me into the person I am today."*

*"I respect the other...seniors and admire each as individuals. I am lucky to have grown up in this church community. Thank you for your confidence and support in my education."*

*"The money I was awarded was one of the many ways the church has been able to assist me through my life."*

### Scholarship Committee:

*Jeri Sides, Sally Sutton, Barbara Powers, Judy Kimball, and Cindy Maddox*



Church Calendar

Feb 2018 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary				1pm - Sr. Trip @ Art 6:30pm - Care & 6:30pm - S, L & W @ 7pm - EF&G @ 7pm - Mission		9am - Children's 5:30pm - Soup
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary		1pm - Prayer Shawl 7pm - Choir	9am - Children's 6:30pm - Children's 8:30pm - Eskimos @	12pm - Staff 6:30pm - Administtr 7pm - Pastor Parish		10am - Labyrinth
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary 11:30am - Rehearsal 6pm - Confirmation		1pm - Prayer Shawl 7pm - Choir	12pm - Ash 2pm - CCM Review 6:30pm - Children's 7:30pm - Ash	1pm - SAMS @ 2nd 7pm - Council		9am - Children's
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Family Promise @ All Classrooms						
Beacon Deadline 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary 11:30am - Rehearsal		1pm - Prayer Shawl 7pm - Choir	9am - Children's 6:30pm - Children's			
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary 11:30am - Rehearsal		1pm - Prayer Shawl 7pm - Choir	6:30pm - Children's			

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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Time Sensitive Newsletter

United Church of Christ  
New England Women's

*Celebration* 

**A SEAT AT THE TABLE**

Come for all things are now ready.  
- Luke 14:17b



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**APRIL 6 - 8, 2018**  
Portland, Maine

### WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

Thirty-six years ago a group of UCC women from New England wanted to have a gathering with opportunities for spirituality, education and comradery. One thousand women met for Celebration I in Portland. Since then there has been a Celebration every four years either in Portland or Burlington, Vermont, and **April 6-8** will be **Celebration X**. The number of attendees is down to approximately 600, but it has been a rewarding experience for most. Please join us for this gathering at the Holiday Inn by the Bay and register before February 15, for a lower fee. Scholarships are available. Find a sitter for your kids so you can attend this event. If you'd like to be involved in helping contact Kathy Sahrbeck at 799-3361 #112 or [outreach@fccucc.org](mailto:outreach@fccucc.org).