



T H E B E A C O N

JANUARY 2017

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

Deadline for the next BEACON is Wednesday, January 18. Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org

LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP



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 Karen Ellis;

Prayers for Ed Saxby;

Prayers for Louise Nisbet;

Prayers for Jim Ekedahl;

Prayers for Barbara Sydleman;

Prayers for Thatcher Lord, brother of Debbie Riley;

Prayers for Debbie Conlon, wife of our sexton Tom, as she is undergoing dialysis and awaits a kidney transplant.



January 1

10:00 a.m.

New Years Day

Sanctuary Worship with Communion
Sara Bartlett will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

January 8

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

Chapel Worship

Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. Ed Saxby will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

January 15

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

Chapel Worship

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

January 22

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

Chapel Worship

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

January 29

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

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.

MISSION GLOBE, ALTAR FLOWERS & STEEPLE REMEMBRANCES

STEEPLE DEDICATION:

January 8-14—In celebration of, and appreciation for her family, **Andrew, Rachel and Bruce**, from Ann Lockwood.

January 15-21—In loving memory of **John, Madelyn and Gary Stephens**, from Glenn and Jane Foster.

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.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES

Thursday, January 5—SAM meeting at 1:00 p.m. in 2nd/ 3rd grade classroom above the church office.

Wednesday, January 11—Join us at the church at 11:30 a.m. to go to lunch at Anjon's in Scarborough. You should find good food and great company there. If you need a ride, contact Kathy Sahrbeck at 799-3361, Ext. 112 and please **RSVP by January 9**.

Stay tuned for a movie to be shown on **Thursday, January 19** at 1:00 p.m. We will watch a 1993 movie, "Heart and Souls," with Robert Downey, Jr. and Charles Grodin. It is described as a fantasy-comedy about a business man who is reunited with the four lost souls who were his guardian angels during his childhood. That's all we'll tell you, so come and watch the movie.

Thursday, February 2—SAM meeting at 1:00 p.m. in 2nd/ 3rd grade classroom above the church office.

COMMUNITY CRISIS MINISTRIES

A huge **THANK YOU** to church members and friends who participated in the Community Crisis Ministries Christmas gift program. Fifty children from 21 families in South Portland, ages 1 through 18, received fantastic presents thanks to your generosity. I wish you could have seen the excited looks on the faces of the parents. The only thing better might be a photo of the child opening his or her gifts Christmas morning!

You might already have heard, but another non-profit group gave us many, many toys. The children not only received what you chose for them, but each one now has at least one more gift this year.

It must also be mentioned that this has been the easiest year to have the wish lists selected from the wall. Sometimes certain ages or certain wish lists appear to scare people from choosing a child. This year it seemed like the ornaments were chosen as soon as they appeared on the wall. It was thrilling to see that happen. It makes one think of our 90 days of generosity last year and wonder if it hasn't lasted over the year.

Thank you also to the ornament takers who bought gift cards and gave Community Crisis Ministries cash or checks for the families. Every single card, check and dollar bill has gone to brighten a family's Christmas this year. In addition, a member of the Monday bridge group donated a 20 pound turkey and all the trimmings for Christmas dinner. We are blessed! ~ *Kathy Sahrbeck*

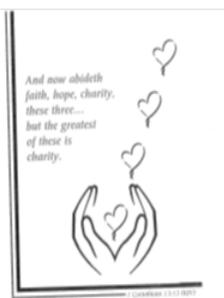
FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Thanksgiving and Christmas can seriously deplete your Fair Trade coffee supply. If you are running low, we have good news for you. Orders will be taken on **January 1 and 8**, with distribution on or before January 29. Have you wondered about some of the coffee on offer? "Bright Day Brew" is a medium roast described as having a bright & lively flavor. For the more heavy-duty coffee drinkers, there is "Midnight Sun," a French roast with "rich chocolate fudge & syrupy mouth feel. 100% of reviewers would recommend these coffees to a friend. For more information, go to the Equal Exchange website, www.equalexchange.coop. While you are at the site, check out the information on climate justice, and the new initiative just launched by Equal Exchange.



CELEBRATE SPECIAL OCCASIONS WITH THE MISSION MALL

The Mission Mall is a year-round opportunity to honor friends and family on their special occasions by donating to any of 17 charitable organizations in our Mission Mall catalog. For each contribution made, you will receive a beautiful greeting card graced with the name of our congregation. You can give any-time by using the Mission Mall basket in the Church Office.



"Some of the advantages of using the Mission Mall as a means of gift giving have to be obvious: the convenience; the means of avoiding commercialism; the avoidance of pressure to find 'just the right gift.' But when I think of gift-giving and the occasion which prompts it, I am reminded that the motivation is about showing love, respect and especially, caring for and about the recipient. How could I possibly ignore the opportunity to not only express that caring for the person I know but also for the person(s) I don't. Surely this is the foundation of our faith."

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 2016.

In general, gifts/pledges must be received by the church office by **December 31**, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2016.

However, checks that are written and postmarked in 2016 will be deductible in 2016, even though they may not be received by the church in 2016. 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 2016, even if the check is predated to 2016 or was actually written in 2016.

Additionally, please do not file your 2016 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)

**OFFICIAL CALL TO THE BUDGET MEETING
JANUARY 29, 2016**

The members of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, are hereby called to meet on **Sunday, January 29, 2016**, following the regular 10:00 a.m. service of worship, for the following purposes:

- I. To receive and act upon the 2015 church budget proposed by the Church Council, and
- II. To hear and act upon any other business that may properly come before the church.

ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY – The many environmental issues that are currently on the table can seem overwhelming. But this moment in time is the perfect opportunity for people of faith to take action, faith action, right now. For those who may be called to join a peaceful, environmental movement: join us on **January 8, after worship** to discuss what an environmental ministry can look like at FCCUCC. Prayer vigils, art activism, letter writing, divestment--there are many ways that we as a faith community can work together to make a greener, better world. Questions about Environmental Ministry can be directed to nikileclerc72@yahoo.com



STEEPLE DEDICATIONS

Our beautiful steeple is a local landmark and a celebration of Christianity. It is even more beautiful when it is illuminated in memory or celebration of those we love.



If you would like to continue to honor your loved one(s) by illuminating the steeple, please call or send an e-mail the office with the following information:

- The week (Sunday-Saturday) in 2017 that you wish to honor your loved one(s)
- The name(s) of the honored
- The name(s) of the donor(s) you wish listed in the bulletin

The suggested donation for steeple lighting remains at \$35. Please let the office know if this poses any hardship.



THE HILLTOP GUILD will hold its next meeting on **January 12 at 2:00 p.m.** in **Davidson Lounge** with dessert to follow in the Laity Room. Bob Morse and a representative of Hobbs Funeral Home will discuss arrangement of funerals. If you would like to join us, please contact Debbie Rideout at 883.4319.



Church Calendar

Jan 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am - Sanctuary	2 Office is Closed for	3 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir Practice	4 9am - Children's 6:30pm - Children's 6:30pm - Eskimos @	5 12pm - Staff Lunch 1pm - SAMS @ 1st & 6:30pm - Admin 6:30pm - Care & 6:30pm - S, L & W 7pm - Mission	6	7 9am - Children's 5:30pm - Soup
8 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary	9	10 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir Practice	11 11:30am - Senior 2pm - CCM Review 3pm - Budget 6:30pm - Children's	12 10:30am - Leisurely 12pm - Staff 1:30pm - Guild Set 2pm - Hilltop Guild 7pm - Pastor Parish	13	14
15 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary	16 Office is Closed for	17 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir Practice	18 Bescon Deadline 9am - Children's 6:30pm - Children's	19 10:30am - Leisurely 1pm - Seniors 7pm - Council	20	21 9am - Children's 1pm - Seniors 5pm - Game Night &
22 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary	23 7pm - Investment	24 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir Practice	25 6:30pm - Children's	26 10:30am - Leisurely	27	28
29 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary 11:30am - Congrega	30	31 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir Practice	1 9am - Children's 6:30pm - Children's 6:30pm - Eskimos @	2 10:30am - Leisurely 1pm - SAMS @ 1st & 6:30pm - Admin 6:30pm - S, L & W 7pm - Mission	3	4 9am - Children's 5:30pm - Soup

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