



THE BEACON

JULY 2016

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 7

Deadline for the next BEACON is Monday, July 18, 2016—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 Debra Honey;

Prayers for Jim Ekedahl;

Prayers for Betty Deschenes, recovering at The Cedars;

Prayers for Thatcher Lord, brother of Debbie Riley.

Sympathies with the von Seggern family, following the death of Amy's father, Richard Pew.



- July 3** **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**
9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship with Communion
Sara Bartlett will give the message. Fellowship time follows with lemonade on the porch.
- July 10** **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**
9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Bonnie MacInnis will give the message. Fellowship time follows with lemonade on the porch.
- July 17** **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**
9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows with lemonade on the porch.
- July 24** **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**
9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows with lemonade on the porch.
- July 31** **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**
9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows with lemonade on the porch.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Visit our web site: www.fccucc.org



MAKING CONNECTIONS

Our new Care & Connections team is working on ways to help us connect with one another. One way we do this is through similar interests. With this in mind, we are claiming the curved hallway that runs beside the sanctuary as our “Connections Corridor.” We will soon install a bulletin board where we will post notices of people looking for other like-minded folks to gather together. Would you like to hike with other church members? Are you interested in writing? Want to join with other parents of preschoolers? This will be the place you go to post your interest or to see the interests of others. We also will have a section where you can post jobs you can post “requests for help.” It’s an old fashioned community bulletin board, which we will supplement by listing things on Facebook as well. Watch for this to appear in the next few weeks.

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.

WRIGHT PAVILION / GUPTILL HALL KITCHENS

The kitchens in Wright Pavilion and Guptill Hall are shared by many groups. There is a check list on gold paper in Guptill Hall that needs to be completed as each group is cleaning up from the event. The completed check list is placed in Nancy’s mailbox in the office area. Dish towels that are used in either kitchen should be laundered by a member of the group using the kitchen and returned. Thank you for your help in keeping the kitchens clean.



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES

Thursday, July 7—SAM meeting at **1:00 p.m.** in the 2nd/3rd grade classroom above the Church Office.

Wednesday, July 20—Please join us for a picnic. We will meet in the church parking lot at **11:30 a.m.** and picnic at a location yet to be determined. Rain date: Thursday, July 21.



Thursday, August 11—SAM meeting at **1:00 p.m.** Please come with your new activity ideas. Please note that this is the second Thursday of the month, not our usual meeting date.

Thursday, August 18—We will leave the church at 12:15 p.m. to go to Berwick to see a matinee performance of “Almost, Maine” at the Hackmatack Playhouse. Tickets are **\$15**. Please **RSVP by August 10**.



Wednesday, August 24—meet at the church promptly at **10:00 a.m.** to go to Casco Bay Lines for the **Diamond Pass Run** ferry. It is less than a two hour trip and the boat makes four stops. **Cost is \$10** and you must **RSVP by August 18**.



THANK YOU

The Community Crisis Ministries is grateful for the large donation from the **Firehouse Gang** bridge group. We appreciate the ongoing support from the “Gang” to help our neediest of families.

THE WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY CIRCLE - SUMMER READING LIST

***The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo**

Tidy up to get on with your life. Profound revelations come from simply dealing with your "stuff" one item at a time. It takes some persistence to read but will be worth it. Culturally different (Japanese) and seems intense, but it works! This book will knock your socks off!

***No Wrinkles on the Soul: A Book of Readings for Older Adults* by Richard L. Morgan**

This book has 62 two-page chapters. Each has a short Bible passage, ideas about it and a two sentence prayer. These are gems with much meaning in a brief format. Perfect for the summer. (This book is out of print but there are 3 copies in the library and you can find it used through Bookbinder.com)

***Markings* by Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations (d. 1961)**

A classic summer read. There are short thoughts with a big impact. It's very readable and very re-readable if you haven't picked it up in a while.

***Falling Upward* by Father Richard Rohr**

In *Falling Upward*, Fr. Richard Rohr seeks to help readers understand the tasks of the two halves of life and to show them that those who have fallen, failed, or "gone down" are the only ones who understand "up." Most of us tend to think of the second half of life as largely about getting old, dealing with health issues, and letting go of life, but the whole thesis of this book is exactly the opposite.

***Between the Dark and the Daylight – Embracing the Contradictions of Life* by Joan Chittister**

"There is a part of the soul that stirs at night, in the dark and soundless times of day, when our defenses are down and our daylight distractions no longer serve to protect us from ourselves," writes beloved author, Joan Chittister. "It's then, in the still of life, when we least expect it, that questions emerge from the damp murkiness of our inner underworld...These questions do not call for the discovery of data; they call for the contemplation of possibility."

***An Altar in the World- A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor**

This is a must read among the many books by BBT. This book is for anyone looking for ways to be faith-full and be present to God. It can be read all at once, and then, it will become a favorite "pick it up, read a chapter, it will always be meaningful," wonderful book.

***Fifty Days of Solitude* by Doris Grumbach**

Faced with a rare opportunity to experiment with solitude, Doris Grumbach decided to live in her coastal Maine home without speaking to anyone for fifty days. The result is a beautiful meditation about what it means to write, to be alone, and to come to terms with mortality.

***Big Magic – Creative Living Beyond Fear* by Elizabeth Gilbert (author of Eat, Pray, Love)**

"Gilbert offers a guide to mustering the courage to live a creative life. That doesn't necessarily mean a career in the arts; instead, she proposes a life fueled by curiosity rather than fear. Gilbert, more than most, can understand how a big success can make one feel as if the follow-up must not disappoint. She notes that this kind of pressure can be an instant creativity killer and encourages readers to let go of perfectionism and embrace being good enough."

Continued on the next page...

Outcasts United – An American Town, A Refugee Team, and One Woman’s Quest to Make a Difference

by Warren St. John.

A good youth novel. “*Outcasts United* is another equally moving account of refugees finding a new life in the U.S. Based on the adult bestseller, this young people's edition is a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh. Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical southern town until it became a refugee resettlement center. This book tells the reader how the Clarkston was changed as the Fugees soccer team inspired an entire community.”

Weavings – A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life

This quarterly publication offers writings, prayers, and poetry relating to a particular topic such as The Self as Beloved, Let the Oppressed Go Free, Presence, Why are You Afraid, Diversity. Every issue is filled with spiritual insight. Our church library has dozens of volumes. Graze through them and find a topic you want to read about. You won’t be disappointed.

Becoming Wise – An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living by Krista Tippett

Those who love listening to Krista Tippett’s *On Being* on NPR will want to read this book. “In *Becoming Wise*, Tippett distills the insights she has gleaned from this luminous conversation in its many dimensions into a coherent narrative journey, over time and from mind to mind. This book offers a grounded and fiercely hopeful vision of humanity for this century – of personal growth but also renewed public life and human spiritual evolution. It insists on the possibility of a common life for this century marked by resilience and redemption, with beauty as a core moral value and civility and love as muscular practice.”

From Within the Heart of God – The Journals of Jesus by Michael Dwinell

“The Jesus who lives in the pages of *From Within the Heart of God* is a radical, perhaps even shocking Jesus, revealed through words that he himself might have written in this imaginal journal. This book, this journal, was inspired by the stories of Jesus in the New Testament: stories that portrayed a man who was steeped in integrity and courage. A man who relentlessly sought the truth and challenged hypocrisy. A man who would not give into temptation. A man whose every experience was filtered through his ultimate passion—the continuous and growing presence of God into this world.”

Earth Prayers From Around the World – 365 Prayers, Poems and Invocations for Honoring the Earth Edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon

This treasure book contains a multitude of writings grouped by concepts, i.e., ecology, sacred places, passion of the earth, healing the whole.

Bird by Bird – Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott

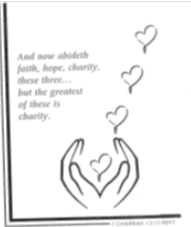
Anne Lamott writes of her own writing journeys and those of others she has known and taught, with much humor and sometimes irreverent humanity. Inspires the reluctant to pick up that pen or laptop, and start revealing life, word by word.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST and a unanimous choice of all.....Anything else by Anne Lamott !!

***WSC WILL START UP AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 21ST at 7:00 P.M.
WE HOPE THAT YOU’LL JOIN US.***

CELEBRATE SPECIAL OCCASSION WITH THE MISSION MALL

The Mission Mall is a year-round opportunity to honor your 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. Look for the Mission Mall basket in the Church Office.



"Through the marriage equality struggle in Maine, loving donations through the Mission Mall helped to keep lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth safer in our schools and helped Gay-Straight-Trans Alliance (GSTA) student leaders develop strength and skills to create a healthier school climate for all. In schools that have had a GSTA for three years or more, the rate of youth suicide attempts drops by at least half school wide, for all populations. Now, with the political backlash underway after the U.S. Supreme Court declared marriage equality a Constitutional guarantee under the 14th Amendment, gifts flowing through the Mission Mall continue to help strengthen and support young GSTA leaders in their schools. Thank you for this important witness for justice and love." ~ Betsy Parsons

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Any of you yard sale shoppers, this is the season where they are all over the place. Please, while you are out and about, think of us. If you see something you think might fit into Grandma's Attic, Gifts or Trash & Treasures. How about buying it for a donation to our Bazaar! There are lots of nice items out there for a couple of bucks. Even if you are not a yard sale person, just stop once in awhile when you are driving by one. We really need everyone's help. I know it's only June, but now is the time to collect. If you don't want to store the things you collect, bring them to me, Jan. Thanks ~ Jan Files & Lynne Lanctot



RUMMAGE SALE

Our Rummage Sale will be held on **October 22**, so save the date, your clothing, furniture, books, etc. for the big sale. For more information, contact Prudy Wiggins at 799.5705. **Please do not bring any items to church until we announce a drop-off date.**

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM & THEATRE OF MAINE



School is out for the summer, so don't forget that 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 a pass will be issued. For information activities and hours at the Museum, visit the web site at www.kitetails.org

WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

The 10th UCC Women's Celebration is being planned for **April 6-8, 2018**. The celebration will be held in Portland and organization is beginning to happen. Not only do we need all the help we can get but there are many things more easily done by people close by.

Committee members are from all over New England and although there are leaders in place, these women need our help. Please contact the church office or Kathy Sahrbeck if you would like more information or know you could help. Thank you!

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

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

Post Office

Time Sensitive Newsletter

MID-SUMMER PICNIC—JULY 31

Everyone is invited to join us for an all-church potluck picnic at Fort Williams on July 31.

We will start gathering around 4:00 p.m. in the Ship Cove area.

The church will supply paper goods and drinks, so bring your favorite dish to share.