



THE BEACON

JULY 2017

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7

Deadline for the August BEACON is Tuesday, July 18. 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 Heather Allen;

Prayers for Debbie Conlon;

Prayers for Peter Cotter;

Prayers for Karen Ellis;

Prayers for Jim Ekedahl;

Prayers for Donna Morong;

Prayers for Mary Suessmann.



LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

Sunday, July 2
9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sanctuary Worship with Communion
Cindy Maddox will give the message.
Fellowship time follows with lemonade on the porch.

Sunday, July 9
9:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sanctuary Worship
Cindy Maddox will give the message.
Fellowship time follows with lemonade on the porch.

Sunday, July 16
9:30 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sanctuary Worship
Cindy Maddox will give the message.
Fellowship time follows with lemonade on the porch.

Sunday, July 23
9:30 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sanctuary Worship
Cindy Maddox will give the message.
Fellowship time follows with lemonade on the porch.

Sunday, July 30
9:30 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sanctuary Worship
Cindy Maddox will give the message.
Fellowship time follows with lemonade on the porch.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

9:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

MISSION GLOBE, ALTAR FLOWERS & STEEPLE REMEMBRANCES

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

For Steeple Dedications, please call the Church Office.

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 anytime by using the Mission Mall basket in the Church Office.

"Helping others is the best gift of all" ~ SC

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES

Thursday, July 6—SAM meeting at 1:00 p.m. Please join us to help plan activities and have some fun.

Thursday, July 20 at 9:45 a.m.—We will meet at the church to **go into Portland for a “duck tour.”** If you would like to attend and need a ride to the church please call and **RSVP for the tour by July 10.** We will have lunch at a local restaurant after the tour, or you may bring a bag lunch. The tour is **\$20 per person.**



Thursday, July 27—SAM meeting at 1:00 p.m. Please join us to help plan activities and have some fun. **Note:** This is in place of a meeting during the first week in August.

Saturday, July 29 at 10:00 a.m. for a trip to **Casco Days** (about an hour ride). Lunch will either be at the festival or at nearby Pear’s Ice Cream & Hoagie Shop. There’s a parade, bingo, other games of chance, etc.—a fun summer day.



Thursday, August 10 at 12:30 p.m.—We will leave the church for a matinee performance of **“Steel Magnolias”** at the **Hackmatack Playhouse in Berwick.** **Tickets are first come, first served at \$20 per person.** We may go out to eat after the play if people are interested.

Thursday, August 24—SAM meeting at 1:00 p.m.

CARE AND CONNECTIONS REPORT OF PRAYERS AND PROVISIONS

The Care and Connections team has been busy at work with their Prayers and Provisions project and thought you might like to know what is happening with the project. Six families have been helped on a short term basis and 11 volunteers have cooked those meals. When we say meal, we really are giving only a casserole that they heat up whenever they need it. We have used all but a few of the cooks on our list and would certainly like to have more volunteers. On the other hand, we’d also like to help out more church members and possibly lengthen the time of assistance for the families. Please let us know if you can help or might provide help. Thank you. Call Kathy Sahrbeck for more information (799-3361 X112) or outreach@fccucc.org.



PROJECT SOUTH PORTLAND

About 15 of us gathered after church on Sunday, June 11 to listen to Mary Jane Ferrer describe the status of Protect South Portland to counter efforts to bring tar sands through the existing pipeline to Bug Light/South Portland. It was a very informative and helpful forum.



While "Protect" has a website, www.protectsouthportland.org, the site has not been kept current due to lack of a web master. If you have any interest in receiving their newsletter, donating, and/or volunteering, you can contact Mary Jane Ferrer at mjferrer@twc.com, for further information.

THE DISCOVERY CENTER

Summer is here and The Discovery Center is now enrolling for the 2017-2018 academic year. Our mission is to provide a preschool program that will nurture your child's individuality, creativity and spirituality. We offer a theme-based curriculum and a supportive environment that helps to develop creative, compassionate and confident students. Our program has two classes, limited to 20 children, and has a very low student to teacher ratio, For more information please send an email to discoverycenter@fccucc.org or contact Jinny DeRoche at 523.9684.



Save the Date

Join the Casco Bay CROP Hunger Walk

Date: Sunday, October 15, 2017



Back Cove Trail
Portland, ME



Walk start time: 1:00 p.m.

Contact Information: Marilyn Pierce
marilyngus@yahoo.com

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!

THE CARE AND CONNECTIONS TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

The “new” governance structure for the church has now been in place for years, has stood the test of time, and continues to serve the needs of the church extremely well. However, one exception continued to be very evident: How do church members and friends build relationships and connections with each other? The Care and Connections Team was formed, with the first meeting on September 1, 2016. Projects have included:

- **Bulletin Board:** Deb Riley accepted a request to create a bulletin board which would be prominently displayed on the wall along the corridor just outside the sanctuary. The magnificent result provides an opportunity for anyone to promote a new group, or other approach, that will enable members and friends to establish connections and enhance relationships with each other.
- **Mission Statement:** Our team felt that developing a Mission Statement was especially important, and after a number of attempts, this is it.

The mission of the Care and Connections Team is to facilitate caring relationships and community among church members and friends demonstrating God’s love for each other in attitudes and actions. It shall connect members with support and social activities that encourage everyone to participate in the vibrant community of the First Congregational Church of South Portland, United Church of Christ.

- **Prayers and Provisions:** We now have about 20 persons who have volunteered to prepare a meal for someone who may need some short-term help following surgery, or some other disruption in their normal routine. The team created the entire structure for making this work very effectively. We are actively seeking self-referrals or suggestions from members when they know that meals might be especially appreciated by someone. Feedback has been very positive.
- **Sock Swap:** A fun experience, which also included a pizza supper. Each person brought a sock filled with items of their choice not exceeding \$5.00. Each sock contained a fun-fact about the person. The recipient of the sock had to locate the person who matched the fun-fact. The result was much inter-relationship and communication with persons who might not have known each other well.
- **Care Packages:** As a suggestion from Sara Bartlett, the Team sent boxes of cookies to college freshmen just before their final examinations. It turned out to be a very appreciated and welcomed surprise for them.
- **Care Groups:** We are currently working on the development of Care Groups. They would include up to ten persons who would gather monthly around a specific focus. This time together would be for discussion, reflection, prayer, and an opportunity to move to a deeper level of relationship with other group members. This has been very effective in other churches, and we are assessing their experiences. You may already have helped us by filling out a “Care and Connections Team Survey” which was available at morning worship. It has provided valuable feedback and information about what the congregation would like to see take place.

Members of the Care and Connections Team include: Andy Chandler, Anne Hill, Peggy Murray, Joanne Ogden, Sue Ross, Peggy Sutton, and Anna Whitaker. Kathy Sahrbeck & Bob Morse are Ex-Officio.

Church Calendar Jul 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 9:30am - Sanctuary	26 8:30am - VBS @	27 8:30am - VBS @	28 8:30am - VBS @	29 8:30am - VBS @ 10am - Seniors 2:30pm - SAM	30	1 9am - Children's 5:30pm - Soup
2 9:30am - Sanctuary	3 Office is closed	4 Office is closed	5 6:30pm - Eskimos @	6	7	8 10am - Labyrinth
9 Mission Trip	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30am - Sanctuary	17 7pm - Investment	18 Beacon Deadline	19 2pm - CCM Review	20 9am - Children's 9:45am - Seniors'	21	22
23 9:30am - Sanctuary	24	25	26	27 1pm - SAM @ 2nd &	28	29 10am - Seniors'
30 9:30am - Sanctuary	31	1 6:30pm - Eskimos @	2	3	4	5 9am - Children's 5:30pm - Soup

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