# First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



# THEBEACON

**MAY 2016** 

**VOLUME 5, ISSUE 5** 

Deadline for the next BEACON is Wednesday, May 18, 2016—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 **Della Hitchcox**, recovering at home.

**Prayers** for **Dick Herrmann**, recovering at home;

**Prayers** for **Fred Howard**, recovering at home.

**Prayers** for **Thatcher Lord**, brother of Debbie Riley.



# LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

May 1 Sixth Sunday of Easter—Scholarship Sunday

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship with Communion

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship with Communion, Meetinghouse Choir and

Christ's Kids Club. Rev. Deborah Blood, our new Conference Minister, will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

May 8 Seventh Sunday after Easter

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.

May 15 Pentecost Sunday—Confirmation Sunday

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir. Confirmands will

lead worship. Fellowship time follows.

May 22 Trinity Sunday—Children's Sunday

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir. The children will

lead worship. Fellowship time follows.

May 29 Second Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir. Cindy Maddox

will give the message.

11:15 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting. Fellowship time follows.



Phone: 207.799.3361 Fax: 207.799.4095 E-mail: office@fccucc.org

## **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). 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

## **ALTAR FLOWERS:**

May 1—in loving memory of **Dorothy Jean Mills**, from her son Chris Mills.

May 8—in loving memory of Frank Potenzo, from his wife Bea Potenzo and children.

May 15—in loving memory of Miles E. and Mina Haskell, from Miles T. Haskell and family.

May 22—in gratitude for seminarians everywhere preparing for congregational, educational, and community ministries, from Marvin Ellison.

**May 29**—in loving memory of **Herb Strom**, from his wife Evie Strom and family.

**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.

## **THANK YOU**

We recently received gifts from the estates of Marie Nathan and Maxine Wright. We are deeply grateful for their gifts and for the generosity of spirit that was behind their planning. These bequests will support our ministries for many years to come.

# **SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES**

**Thursday, May 5—SAM Meeting** at **1:00 p.m.** Please come with your ideas for new activities.

**Tuesday, May 17**—leave church at **9:00 a.m.** for South Paris, seeing **McLaughlin Gardens** and visiting **A Ewe With a View** sheep farm.

Wednesday, May 25—meet at 11:30 a.m. to go to Bug Light for a picnic. Rain date is Thursday, May 26, same time.

Thursday, June 2—SAM meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 15—Lunch and Fun at noon in the Laity Room. Bring a boxed lunch and stay to play a board game after lunch.

**Thursday, June 23**—meet at church and leave at **11:30 a.m.** for lunch at **Ken's** in Scarborough.



THE HILLTOP GUILD will meet on Thursday, May 12, at 6:00 p.m. at Uncle Don's Country Kitchen Restaurant for our annual meeting. Uncle Don's is located at 150 Spurwink Road, Scarborough, Maine.

### THE MISSION TRIP AUCTION NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS!

Saturday, May 21 at 5:00 p.m. is the date and time for this year's Mission Trip Dinner & Auction. Beginning with our first Mission Trip to Cherryfield, Maine six years ago, we've been fortunate enough to raise the funds we need by hosting a dinner and auction each spring. This year we also will be sharing a portion of the proceeds with our youth, to help them attend the UCC National Youth Event in Orlando this summer. WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!

Your generous donations of original artwork, time spent at a lakeside camp or an oceanside cottage, an afternoon on a sailboat, Sea Dogs tickets, lobster stew, gently used furniture, yard work, babysitting, and many other items or services have made this fundraiser a HUGE success year after year!!

If you have something you'd like to donate to this year's auction, please drop it off in the church office preferably no sooner than the week before the auction. If you have furniture or something large you need picked up, call me and we can arrange it! Also, feel free to call me if you have any questions about donations or the auction. Tickets for the dinner are available every Sunday after church and cost \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, with a maximum of \$24 per family.

We are thrilled to have our very own professional auctioneer Tom Saturley with us again this year! If you haven't been to one of his auctions, you don't know what you're missing!! So, mark the date on your calendar and join us for a wonderful, as well as worthwhile, evening of food, fellowship, and fun, and who knows? You may go home with something unexpected!! ~ Deb Dagnan (749-5045)

ESKIMOS GUEST AND LADIES NIGHT – You are all cordially invited to attend a wonderful dinner with the Eskimos Men's Club on Wednesday, May 4. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. in Guptil Hall at a cost of \$10 per person. A program of four harp players will follow dinner at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. There is no charge for this program. You are welcome to attend either or both functions. For planning purposes, if you plan to join us for dinner please call Scott Berry at 767-0236 or Walter Jellison at 799-1023.

# **ANOTHER "DINNERS FOR ONE!"**

Our first "Dinners for One" event on April 3 was a big success! More than 12 of us gathered to share a delicious meal, followed by Scrabble, Dominoes and Cribbage. A fun time was had by all, and the left-overs to take home were yummy!

If you are single or live alone, please plan to join us for our second potluck dinner on **Saturday, May 14**, at **5:00 p.m.** in **Wright Pavilion**. Plan to bring a dish to share, as well as empty containers to take home left-overs. Drinks will be provided. This will be another evening of great food and conversation.



For more information contact Karen Westerberg at <a href="mailto:kwesterberg2@aol.com">kwesterberg2@aol.com</a> or at 799.1055. Hope to see you!

# **PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES**

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

# **Surf Shack Vacation Bible School Registration is Open!**

Surf Shack VBS is appropriate for children entering Kindergarten—5th grade.

Details at http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/fccuccme

# Assorted Materials needed to make the Surf Shack Set

# At your local transfer station, please keep your eyes out for:

- Life ring—old worn out, from a boat or swimming pool
- Surf boards—old and/or busted
- Styrofoam sheet or scrap Tyvek
- Bamboo or sea grass screens/shades
- Old sunglasses
- Hawaiian shirts (cast offs or good will)

# To borrow: (please label with name)

- Children's play tunnel
- Beach chairs
- Beach balls
- Beach towels



# To be purchased:

- Dollar store items—pool noodles (2-4)
- Blue plastic table cloths (6-8)
- Duct tape—assorted colors and patterns
- Rolls of craft foam, assorted colors 18 X 24 or longer
- Black foam core (3 sheets) for poster mounting
- Assorted food items for snacks <u>during VBS week</u>

**Volunteers needed** to organize workshop (science, recreation, mission) materials before VBS. Lists are made up, like a recipe. This is something you can do on your own schedule. A huge part of VBS is the prep work. This is a great help if you want to assist, but can't be here during camp week. Please see or contact Anne at abf@fccucc.org if you would like to prepare a workshop.

We are also looking for a photographer to take photos during VBS week and build a slide show for the last assembly.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR**

# May 1

- Christ Kid's Club rehearsal for Children's Sunday
- Teacher Brunch
- (Deadline for UCC Campership requests Pilgrim Lodge, Star Island)

### May 8

Classes

## **May 15**

- Confirmation
- Last day of Sunday School classes

# May 22

• Children's Sunday (all in worship) Cherubs

#### Sing!

# **May 29**

- Memorial Day weekend no classes
- Game Room open, Nursery 5 and under
- Game Room open, Nursery 5 and under June 12
- Acolyte Picnic after Church
- Game Room open, Nursery 5 and under June 19
- Game Room open, Nursery 5 and under June 20-24
- Surf Shack Vacation Bible School (VBS)

## June 26

VBS Slide Show



Our congregation is actively involved with the Church World Service Blanket Program. For many years, our church has been helping to keep our neighbors warm by providing blankets to families here in the United States and around the world. We will have a special offering on May 8 – Mother's Day.

Because of our blanket offering, we make a difference for families, like the Pacifique's. The Pacifique family is much like any other family. Mom and Dad go to work each day and their children go to school. Each night they share a meal together and they are thankful for all they have been given. But life wasn't always this easy for the Pacifique family. They fled from war in Democratic Republic of Congo, where more than 5.4 million people died, to nearby Zambia. They tried setting up a new home and leading a "normal" life, but they never felt safe. Eventually, the Pacifique's were chosen to be resettled to the United States. When they arrived in their new home, CWS Blankets were among the supplies waiting to welcome them.

Today we have an opportunity to provide hope to many families. Our church is taking a special offering Sunday. May 8 to help provide blankets and other emergency items to families all around the world. For only ten dollars, you can give a blanket that can provide warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy, and healing and hope wherever God's people may need care. These blankets are a wonderful gift and you can provide a little bit of hope at the same time. You will find envelopes in the pews or you can note the memo line of your check. These can be placed in the offering plate. Please give generously. Thank you. ~ The Mission & Outreach Team

**THE MUSIC COMMITTEE** is looking for a specific sized file cabinet and wondered if any one in the congregation maybe had one they were not using. We need it to be a **five (5) drawer letter size** cabinet no more than 15—15-1/4 inches wide because it needs to fit in the space we have. If you have such an item to give, please contact Debbie Rideout (883-4319) or Cathy Counts (799-4785). Thank you.



#### AN OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY SERVE

On June 5, Founders Day, we will honor the Elders in our church. These valued members of our church community have served the church in a variety of ways over a number of years and it is our tradition to host a luncheon following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Each year a group of volunteers assist in preparing and serving the meal to our honored guests. We appreciate all who have helped out in the past and would welcome any volunteers to participate this year. It could be simply preparing a dish from our menu, helping out in the kitchen, setting up the tables, serving the meal or helping to clean up. The time commitment would vary with what you would be willing to do. It is very rewarding and the Elders really appreciate the work of the volunteers. Dana Wiggins and Leslie Gatcombe-Hynes will be preparing the menu and organizing the meal. Dana will be present the day of the luncheon as well. It is an opportunity to work with cheerful church members and contribute to the life of the church. If you would like to participate in some way, please contact Dana or Leslie in church, call one of us, or send an e-mail to Leslie at <a href="lesliegatcombe@gmail.com">lesliegatcombe@gmail.com</a>. Every year we have had a great team of volunteers, and we also get to eat after the meal is complete. Thank you for your assistance.

## THE MALAWI PROJECT

The Malawi Project is no longer sending prescription drug bottles to Malawi, so we are suspending our collection as well.



Thank you for your past donations.



NATIONAL UCC YOUTH CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER—Our church is **EVE** 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 JULY 26-30, 2016 \$10,000 to help offset the cost of the trip. You can help us reach this goal Coronado Springs Resort Hotel \* Walt Disney World 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) 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. 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, takeout, merchandise, and gift card sales.
- 4. Get your Car Washed on May 21, from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at AutoZone in South Portland or May 28, from 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. at NAPA Auto Parts in South Portland.

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!

# WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

The 10<sup>th</sup> 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

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**Post Office** 

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# OFFICIAL CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

The members of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, are hereby called to meet on Sunday, May 22, 2016, following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship for the following:

- 1. To receive the annual reports of the Officers of the Church, the Minister and Staff, Boards and Committees;
- 2. To elect Church Officers, Council and Team members for the 2016-2017 program year.
- 3. To vote on the nomination and election of Elders;
- 4. To hear and act upon any other business which may properly come before the Church.

Janet B. Butler, Clerk