



T H E B E A C O N

MAY 2018

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 5

Deadline for the June BEACON is Monday, May 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:

Margaret Anderson

Debbie Conlon

Kathie Cook

Karen Ellis

Carolyn Foster

Cindy & David McLaughlin

Donna Mooring

Sal Rendall

Prayers for the families of:

Harriet Dawkins

Jim Ekedahl

Ellie Hall



May 6

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

May 13

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

May 20

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

Pentecost Sunday—Children's Sunday

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

May 27

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

Trinity Sunday

Chapel Worship
Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. Fellowship time follows.



FROM OUR PASTOR

Sabbatical (from Latin *sabbaticus*, from Greek *sabbatikos*, from Hebrew *shabbat*, i.e., *Sabbath*, literally a “ceasing”) is a rest from work, or a hiatus, for enrichment and renewal.

Congregations in the United Church of Christ and many other denominations provide sabbatical leave for their pastors in order to offer time for spiritual renewal and theological study. Although the pastor should be involved in study and enrichment all the time, the responsibilities of worship preparation, preaching, pastoral care, and administration often push the pastor’s own spiritual needs to the background. Pastors are also “on call” most of the time, which can be draining. It is vital, not only to the pastor but to the entire congregation, that the pastor receive dedicated time away for his or her spiritual wellbeing and professional development.

The Louisville Institute’s clergy sabbatical program has this to say: *“When clergy have opportunity for learning, growth, and recreation, they also learn the habits and practices that sustain them in and for meaningful ministry. During a season of personal renewal, study, and reflection pastoral leaders embrace the gifts of time and Sabbath for their lives and ministries. As they are renewed and strengthened so are their families, and so is the Church.”*

SABBATICAL Q & A

How long is sabbatical?

Sabbatical agreements vary by church, but typically they are given after four to six years of service. Our agreement with our senior pastor is for a three-month sabbatical after every five years of service.

Has our senior pastor been here five years already?

Not quite. Her anniversary date is in November, but obviously that is not a good time of year for our senior pastor to be away. We agreed when we called her that her first sabbatical could take place the summer before her 5th anniversary so that it would occur at a better time for the church, but without her needing to work nine years between sabbaticals. (Her last sabbatical with her former church was 3 years before she came to us, so 8 years ago now). To balance her getting sabbatical a few months early this time, her next sabbatical will be offered *after* her 10th anniversary, meaning a six year gap between the two.

Does the pastor get paid during sabbatical?

Yes. The concept of sabbatical implies that the person is paid for this time away; otherwise pastors could not afford to take sabbatical.

Is this merely an extended vacation?

No. There is certainly time for rest, and the pastor may add vacation time to the sabbatical period, but sabbatical is for spiritual renewal and rejuvenation.

Who does the pastor’s job while she is away?

A variety of people will be filling different roles. Members of our congregation will take turns preaching. Jill Saxby will be our worship coordinator. Bob Morse will be available for funerals, and Peter Foss will handle hospital and homebound visitation.

Will the pastor still be around and available to me?

Yes and no. Our pastor’s plan includes some travel so she will be in and out of town throughout the summer. However, she is not available either professionally or personally. Sabbatical time is a release from all responsibilities, particularly the care of the congregation. If the pastor maintains contact, she will naturally be involved in ministry and will not get the rest she needs. However, if you see her at the grocery store, you don’t need to hide! Feel free to say hello!

SABBATICAL Q & A (continued)

But what if I have an emergency?

If you are in the hospital or need other care, call the church office on weekday mornings to let us know. Basic administrative questions can be addressed to our business manager, Nancy Irving. For other church-related matters contact our Moderator, Ron Bennett. He will take concerns to the Ministry Council as needed. If a large crisis arrives in the life of the church, Ron and Nancy will make the decision together whether our senior pastor is to be called.

What will our pastor be doing with her sabbatical?

Cindy will be attending two conferences and participating in two retreats, plus worshipping in a variety of churches and catching up on reading. She also will be working on a Dream Initiative project that she hasn't had time during her regular schedule to complete.

Will our pastor definitely be coming back?

Absolutely. The Terms of Call for our senior pastor state an expectation that the pastor will continue in the role for at least one year after returning.

What are the dates of our pastor's sabbatical?

Pastor Cindy's sabbatical will begin on May 14. She will return to the office on August 28, which is three months of sabbatical and two weeks of vacation.

Will we hear about her sabbatical when she returns?

We will hear all about our pastor's sabbatical during worship on her first Sunday back.



Dear members and friends of First Congregational Church,

Thank you so much for this gift of sabbatical. Although the conferences of our denomination all recommend that churches provide their pastors with sabbatical time, not all churches do. The fact that this church has been offering sabbatical time for many years attests to your generosity toward your pastors.

It will feel very strange to be out of contact with you all. I will miss knowing what's going on in your lives and sharing with you what is happening in mine. I will miss our shared worship and even the meetings that keep us connected. At the same time, I am looking forward to some quiet time, time for reflection, as well as inspirational time at conferences. And of course I'll be taking a little bit of summer vacation with my family as well.

Although I will not be worshipping with you, I will be in worship. I will visit other congregations, filling my spirit from a variety of wells. I encourage you to be in worship also. Summer is a slow time in terms of church responsibilities, but we still need the strength that comes from gathering together in worship—praying, singing, and focusing on the mystery of God. Plus, your fellow church members will be speaking and they need your support. So I ask you to commit to being faithful in your attendance and giving so that the ministry of the church will continue.

You will be in my thoughts and prayers while I am away. I will take the church directory with me on my travels and will pray for every one of you by name. I will lift you to God and trust you to God's care. And I will return rejuvenated for the exciting ministry God has in store for us in the days to come.

Peace and Blessings,
Cindy

OFFICIAL CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

The members of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, are hereby called to meet on Sunday, May 20, 2018, following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship for the following purposes:

- I. To receive the annual reports of the Officers of the Church, the Minister and Staff, Boards and Committees;
- II. To elect Church Officers, Council and Team members for the 2018-2019 program year.
- III. To vote on the nomination and election of Elders;
- IV. To hear and act upon any other business which may properly come before the Church.

MISSION GLOBE, ALTAR FLOWERS & STEEPLE REMEMBRANCES

ALTAR FLOWERS:

May 6—In loving memory of **Dorothy Jean Mills**, from her son Chris.

STEEPLE DEDICATIONS:

April 29—May 5—In loving memory of **Ed Saxby**, from his wife Jill and family.

Please call the church office for reservations.

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, May 3—We will leave church at 11:30 a.m. to have lunch at the **El Rayo Restaurant** in Scarborough. Please **RSVP by April 30**, and contact us if you need a ride.

Thursday, May 17—Please join us for a **SAM meeting** at **1:00 p.m.** to plan future activities.

Thursday, May 24—The first picnic of the season! We will meet at the church at **11:30 a.m.** to go to **Two Lights State Park**. Bring your lunch AND your shovels to remove the snow from the picnic tables!

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).

THE HILLTOP GUILD: END OF AN ERA

The Hilltop Guild held its final meeting April 12, 2018.

It all began in 1945. The group called itself *The Junior Matrons*. In the fall of 1947, they became *The Hilltop Guild*.

The prodigious body of good works the Guild accomplished in 71 years speaks volumes for the fine, faithful women who worked hard to get everything "just right." Well done, ladies, well done.

The contact for Eskimo dinners is Debbie Rideout. For funeral and memorial service receptions, contact Prudy Wiggins.





FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE—WE NEED YOUR HELP

Great news! We understand that three of our families whom we've hosted in the past have found new homes, and three new families have entered the program. They are all from Africa. We are now operating at full program capacity.

As we prepare for our fourth FCCUCC Family Promise Host Week we are reminded of how grateful we are to our amazing volunteers:

- Thank you for your past support. Your generosity of time and talent enabled us to host over 30 members of nine homeless families during our first three Host Weeks.
- Thank you for your continuing support. Many of you have already signed up for our next **Family Promise week which is June 3-10**. We are currently at 23% of reaching our volunteer goals.

We ask for your help in our final Host Week of the first program year.

If you are an already trained Family Promise volunteer go to the Family Promise sign up and select your day and assignment. <https://signup.com/>

Your Family Promise Coordinators,
Debra & Tim Honey and Peter & Linda Foss

THE MISSION TRIP AUCTION NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS!

We have a team of volunteers heading to Cherryfield again this summer to help the Seacoast Mission Home Repair organization. We will repair, replace or repaint homes for low-income families who may not have the ability or funds available to do it themselves. Since this is the only fund raising event for the mission trip, we truly appreciate everything you donate to our auction.

The **Mission Trip Dinner & Auction** will be held on **Saturday, May 19**, and we need things to auction! Some of the items we've received in the past include:

- hand-made items like quilts, knitted items, baked goods, stained glass, and paintings/artwork
- a day or weekend at a camp or vacation home
- "re-gifting" of things you'll never use
- sporting goods (in good shape), outdoor games, kids' items, pet items
- donated services like yard work, auto reconditioning, babysitting, etc.
- gift certificates from area restaurants, shops, and other businesses
- tickets to area sporting events, musical events, theaters, movies
- gently used furniture such as tables, lamps, chairs



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. More information about the dinner part of the evening will be coming soon.

We have a full crew signed up for the Mission Trip this year, so we need lots of items to auction. The money raised at the auction helps to pay for the materials that we use on our projects as well as our provisions for the crew. If you have any questions or need something picked up, please call or email Bruce Lockwood at blockwood@portlandresearch.com or call at 799-9187. As always, thanks for your support!!



PILGRIM LODGE AND STAR ISLAND CAMPERSHIPS

Please contact Anne Fuehrer if your son or daughter is going to one of these UCC camps this summer. Many thanks to Chris Keiter for providing a parents view of his children's experience at Pilgrim Lodge. **Deadline is May 1.**



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Preparations for Children's Celebration Sunday

Traditionally, this is a service led by our children and youth. Each class is contributing to the Worship Service on **May 20**. Some classes have already begun rehearsing bible story skits. **Joyful Noise** is rehearsing after each Sunday between now and May 20. Attendance is important while we put the finishing touches on the program. All kids will rehearse with Ms. Anne during Christ Kids Club on May 6.

Vacation Bible School Survey Results

Thank you to all that responded to the VBS survey a few weeks ago. We don't have enough children available, and don't have adult/teen youth helpers to run a VBS camp this year. Sorry for any disappointment.

Calendar

- April 29 **Confirmation** and Classes (for Grades 2/3 and lower). Grades 4 and up will stay in worship.
- May 6 **Christ Kid's Club** and **Teacher Appreciation Brunch** at 11:30 a.m. (Laity Room)
- May 13 Classes-*The Holy Spirit*
- May 20 **Children's Sunday** followed by our **Annual Meeting** (Child care in Nursery and Game Room for older kids)
- May 27 Memorial Day weekend-Nursery and Game Room open with Ms. Anne and Bridget
- June 3 **Acolyte Ice Cream** (for breakfast!) **Social** (4/5 grade room with Ms. Anne at 11:30 a.m.)
- June 10 Program with Ms. Anne, Nursery and Game Room Open
- June 17 Program with Ms. Anne, Nursery and Game Room Open
- June 24 Program with Ms. Anne, Nursery and Game Room Open

Wanted: Parts for the Cranium Super Fort

Next to the bowling set, this is probably our favorite Game Room toy. We could use more connecting noodles if anyone should run across them at yard sales. They do not make this Super Fort anymore so the second hand market is our only option. <http://www.ebay.com/itm/like/302691885139> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5EaG06IUpM>

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Advance Notice to all our fair trade coffee people. Please get in any orders for coffee by **June 3**. The Fair Trade Committee will be on "summer recess" until September so it's important to get your orders in ahead of all your summer visitors. You will be notified when your order is available for pick up. Any questions, contact Judy Kimball at judyk53@me.com or 761-9512.



May 2018 (Eastern Time)

Church Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary	30 7pm - Investment	1 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir	2 9am - Children's 6:30pm - Children's 6:30pm - Eskimos @	3 11:30am - Seniors 6:30pm - Care & 6:30pm - S, L & W @ 7pm - EF&G @ 7pm - Mission	4	5 9am - Children's 5:30pm - Soup
6 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary 11:30am - Teacher	7	8 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir	9 2pm - CCM Review 6:30pm - Children's	10 12pm - Staff 6:30pm - Adminstr 7pm - Pastor Parish	11	12
13 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary	14	15 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir	16 9am - Children's	17 1pm - SAMS @ 2nd 7pm - Council	18 Beacon Deadline	19 9am - Children's 12pm - Set Up 5pm - Mission Trip
20 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary 11:15am - Annual	21	22 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir	23	24 11:30am - Seniors	25	26
27 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary	28	29 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir	30	31	1	2 9am - Children's 5:30pm - Soup

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
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