First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



THEBEACON

OCTOBER 2016

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 10

Deadline for the next BEACON is Tuesday, October 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 Ed Saxby;

Prayers for Alberta Mundee;

Prayers for Barbara Merrill
(No calls please);

Prayers for Louise Nisbet;

Prayers for Jim Ekedahl;

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.



LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

October 2 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Neighbors in Need Offering—World Communion Sunday

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship with Communion

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

Choir and Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the

message. Fellowship time follows.

4:30 p.m. Blessing of the Animals at Fort Williams

October 9 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost—Homecoming

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

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

Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the message.

Fellowship time follows.

October 16 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

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

Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the message.

Fellowship time follows.

October 23 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Mission Trip Sunday

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

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

Sunday School. Fellowship time follows.

October 30 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship

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

Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the message.

Fellowship time follows.

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Friday: 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Phone: 207.799.3361; Fax: 207.799.4095 E-mail: office@fccucc.org Web site: www.fccucc.org

MISSION GLOBE, ALTAR FLOWERS & STEEPLE REMEMBRANCES

STEEPLE DEDICATIONS

October 2-8: In loving memory of Mark W. Andrews, from his mother Verna.

October 9-15: In loving memory of **Ken & Marcelia Berry**, from Scott and family.

ALTAR FLOWERS—This month is open.

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 Pat Calkin at rossclkn@gwi.net.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 6—SAM meeting at 1:00 p.m. in grade 2/3 classroom above the church office.

Wednesday, October 12—we will leave at 10:30 a.m. for a foliage ride and lunch at Cole Farms in Gray. Please RSVP by October 10, so we can arrange transportation.



Friday, October 21—meet at SMCC for lunch at noon. You may want to arrive early to find a parking spot. RSVP by October 14. They will be serving lunch only on Fridays at least for this semester.

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



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

All pets are welcome to be blessed at Fort Williams (Flag Pole—Battery Knoll) on Sunday, October 2 at 4:30 p.m.







THE HILLTOP GUILD invites you to an *All Women of the Church Dinner*, Thursday, **October 13 at 6:00 p.m. in Wright Pavilion.** Our special guests will be Cindy Maddox and Sara Bartlett, who will speak about their calls to ministry. If you would like to join us but are not on our regular call list, please contact Debbie Rideout at 883.4319. Feel free to invite a friend or relative, or any one who you think would enjoy our fellowship and program.

The NAME TAGS have been SHIFTED to the LEFT!!!! WHY?

On **September 26**. the name tags were shifted to the left to alleviate the overcrowding of the tags near the end of the alphabet. The D's and E's will be moved to the board at the foot of the stairs and others will be moved left of their current position.

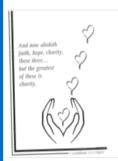
To help accommodate all the tags without crowding them, you do not have to hang yours in exact alphabet order as long as you can remember where you put them!! ;-) If you are tall, you could use the upper wires so folks that are more vertically challenged can use the lower wires. (If you rotate the clip upward before hanging your tag, the plastic holder will remain flat.)

Note: You do not need to be a member to ask for a name tag. Please sign up for one in the narthex.

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.





"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."



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.



FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Just a quick reminder that Fair Trade coffee & tea orders will be taken on **Sunday, October 2,** with distribution planned for October 23. At that time, we should be able to provide you with a schedule of order dates for the remainder of 2016 and for 2017.



Perhaps you have questioned why Fair Trade products should be supported. The following is a list of Fair Trade criteria for farmers, workers & artisans:

- Receive a fair price under direct long-term contracts
- Are small-scale producers in democratic co-ops or workers on larger farms who receive a living wage & can bargain collectively
- Don't use abusive child labor or forced labor
- Are guaranteed national health safety & minimum wage
- Use ecologically sustainable methods & conserve natural resources

We hope we can count on your continued support of Fair Trade coffee and tea.

NEWS FROM CHURCH SCHOOL

Classes have begun and we are fortunate to have at least one team ready for each group. We are still in need of alternate volunteers at each grade level. Please see Anne Fuehrer if you are willing to help with our church school this fall. A teaching commitment is two Sunday mornings a month or less if we have everyone in place. Training is provided and supported by Anne.

Children are grouped as follows: NURSERY—Infant through age 2, PRE-K—ages 3-4, K-1, GRADES 2-3, GRADES 4-5, and GRADES 6-8.

We are unveiling two new curriculums this fall. For many years FCC has used *Seasons of the Spirit*. After much consideration we are switching to the Bible story based *Spark* program for Grades Pre K-5. You may see the new leaflets that each child receives each week. The stories build chronologically until Advent, then pick up the traditional timeline later.

Middle School (6-8) is testing a *video* Bible study called *Reform Ancestors*. Each week the youth watch a 8-10 minute video about important biblical heroes and heroines, followed by discussion and "anti-work" book activities. This group is also invited to participate in the Youth Ministry projects and activities throughout the year.

Registration is open continuously through the year. It is important to give us your information every year. It is how we double check our data base and measure how much material to purchase for each grade.

Special programs to watch for this fall:

Christ's Kids Club (CKC) will include a music component each month. We love to have volunteers join us for a craft, music, special snack or any other way you would like to share with our young people. Each CKC is different and is usually centered around a theme. We love our time together each month.

October 2: 9:15 a.m. Donuts and juice, new and current Acolytes meet with Ms. Anne in Laity Room

4:30 p.m. Blessing of the Animals at Fort Williams

October 9: CKC with Anne (please note change from Oct 2)

November 6: NYE Youth Service- All Children in Worship (Nursery open for children to 5 years)

November 12: Talent Show and Birthday Party in Guptill Hall—All interested should sign up with Anne.

You are invited to sit at your birthday month table.

2016 ART SHOW First Congregational Church UCC invites the entries of artists who wish to exhibit an original work of art that reflects the show's theme, *Divine Diversity*, in its second art show funded by the Dream Initiative on **Saturday**, **October 8**, **2016**, **1:00-4:30 p.m**.

A panel of judges will award cash prizes in three categories: painting/drawing; photography; other media such as sculpture, stained glass, fabric arts, metal arts. First prize – \$300; Second prize – \$200; Honorable Mention. There will also be a Visitors' Choice award of \$100. Visit our web site at **www.fccucc.org** to register.

Nonviolent Communication Workshop October 28 – 30, 2016 in South Portland

Founded by Marshall Rosenberg, Nonviolent Communication (NVC) is a process that helps us to cultivate moment-to-moment awareness of what is alive in ourselves and others, and to act in ways that contribute to life. It is designed to help us develop our ability to respond in a beneficial way and to inspire compassion.

NVC is based on a practice of thinking that reinforces our ability to retain our heart-centered qualities. It is our commitment to reconsider the way we express ourselves and how we listen to others. The process has two parts: expressing ourselves authentically and listening with empathy. These two actions take place in four steps:

- Observing facts without evaluation, interpretation or judgment
- Expressing feelings
- Expressing the needs behind those feelings
- Formulating clear and concrete requests for actions

Although it is taught in reference to a concrete model and designed as a communication process, NVC is indeed much more than a process or a language: it is a way of being more compassionate and of living more compassionately in relationship to ourselves and others. It is a permanent invitation to focus our attention where we have the greatest chance of finding what we are seeking, connection. The objective of NVC is to remind us of the profound value of human interactions and help us live with that awareness.

The workshop is presented by Peggy Smith, a certified NVC trainer. Peggy trained with Marshall Rosenberg and other international trainers. She is a cofounder of the Maine NVC Network. She taught elementary and middle school in Maine for 32 years. She brings her extensive teaching skills, humor and presence to her work.

Peggy has a keen interest in connecting people with their innate compassionate nature. She has a life long interest in spiritual traditions and the fostering of compassion. She has studied with Zen teacher and peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh since 1991. She is a dharma teacher within his tradition.

Peggy lives in Lincolnville, ME and greets the day watching the sunrise over Islesboro.

Please see the reverse side and/or the website for details: (click the link 'schedule')

www.opencommunication.org

From Conflict to Connection:

Beginning the Journey of Nonviolent Communication and Empathy October 28 - 30, 2016, South Portland, ME

Co-sponsored by Open Communication and The First Congregational Church, UCC of South Portland

Location:

First Congregational Church, UCC of South Portland, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland 04106

Schedule:

* Friday Oct. 28, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

This evening session is open, free of charge, to anyone who wants a brief, interactive, stand-alone experience of *NVC*. The remaining 2 days are for registered participants only.

* Saturday Oct. 29, 9 am - 4 pm

There will be an hour for lunch. Please bring your own bag lunch or choose from a variety of eateries within walking distance.

* Sunday Oct. 30, noon - 4 pm

Cost:

\$120 if registration is completed by Oct. 1st \$140 from Oct. 2nd onward

FMI & registration by mail, please contact the local organizer:

Elinor Redmond 24 Heron Point Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107 eredmond@maine.rr.com / 207-767-4198

Registration is available online at http://www.opencommunication.org/schedule.html with the option to use PayPal to make your payment.

If you prefer, you may print this page, fill it out, and send to Elinor at the address above. Please make your check payable to: Open Communication.

Registration details

Name:	 	 	
E-mail address:	 	 	
Mailing address:	 	 	
Phone number:			

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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