

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OF ELLSWORTH, MAINE
FOUNDED 1812**



August 2022 - THE STEEPLE NEWSLETTER

First Congregational Church, PO Box 12, 2 Church Street, Ellsworth, Maine 04605 207-667-8321 ellsworthucc.org

From Rev. Keith Bowie, Transitional Minister

POTPOURRI

...Our church family has had quite a number of deaths in the past couple of months, either of a member or related to a member: Doug Smith, Paul Davis, Rev. Joe Palmer, Joan Merchant, and Ray Lanterman, Jr. May God look upon us in our sorrow and grant us peace and consolation.

...Small group responses have been collated (thanks, Joyce!), and will now be distributed to Council for their review at the upcoming Council meeting.

...It feels good to be visiting more of FCC members! I now spend an afternoon a week visiting those who are homebound and in the hospital. I'm also available, usually Wednesday afternoon, to meet with anyone not experiencing an emergency. Office hours, my phone number, and email address are in the bulletin each week.

...Our church will be having an afternoon concert on Sunday, September 11, to celebrate the 110th anniversary of our 1912 H. Hall pipe organ. Local area organists have been invited to showcase the instrument. More details will follow but mark your calendars now and plan to attend! The FCC Organ Celebration Committee is composed of Bonnie Carter, Lynn Hall, Joyce Johnston, Cindia Sargent, Leita Zeugner, and Juanita Higgins. Thank you all for your work on this project!

...Steps update: According to Troy Tainter, the gravel and conduit have been put in place. Troy says the steps are scheduled to be set next week. It looks like this project could be soon winding down. We will keep our fingers crossed!

...Voting will be held on Saturday, August 6 at a called meeting of the Maine Conference UCC to act on the nomination of The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola to be the new Conference Minister.

...Thank you to Lynn Hall, Kathy Schrader, Leita Zeugner, and musicians from the Monteux School for providing special music during worship so far during the summer months while the Choir is not singing. Your talents are appreciated!

May you be blessed in the coming days—with tenderness for your sorrows, energy for your work, a sweet awareness of the world around you, and recognition of the face of God in everyone you meet.

Keith

Rev. Keith Bowie

**The church office has a
new email address.
Read more on page 3.**

AUGUST CHURCH MEETINGS

- Adult Forum** – Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
- Busy Bodies** – Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
- Missions** – Thursday, Aug 11, TBA
- Trustees** – Thursday, Aug 18, 7 p.m.
- Deacons** – **Sunday, Aug 21, 11:30 p.m.***
- Christian Ed** – Sunday, Aug 21, 11:30 a.m.
- Council** – Monday, Aug 22, 6:30 p.m.
- Music** – TBA

***Note change of date.**

Our meetings are hybrid, in person AND Zoom, so that you may participate in the way you are comfortable. **All FCC Zoom events (meetings and worship) use the same meeting number and password.** Please call the church office (T-W-Th) for Zoom instructions.

FRONT ENTRANCE UPDATE:

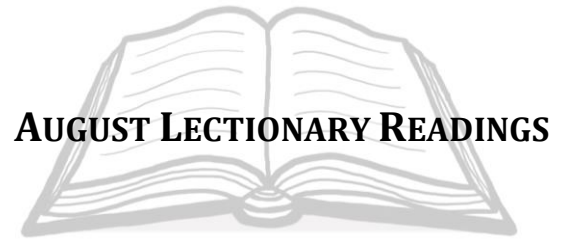
We're getting there! We know the process feels like forever.

Please continue to use State Street and education wing entrances. Questions? Speak with Jack or Troy.

**At this time,
MASKING is OPTIONAL
in the church building.**



The Re-Opening Committee suggests you maintain physical distance and respect the space of those who wish to continue to wear a mask. We appreciate everyone's cooperation. We will determine on a week-to-week basis if we host coffee hour after morning worship.



AUGUST LECTIONARY READINGS

AUGUST 7 – 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 & Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Genesis 15:1-6 & Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

AUGUST 14 – 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 5:1-7 & Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Jeremiah 23:23-29 & Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

AUGUST 21 – 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 1:4-10 & Psalm 71:1-6
Isaiah 58:9b-14 & Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

AUGUST 28 – 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

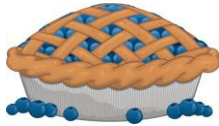
Jeremiah 2:4-13 & Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Proverbs 25:6-7 & Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14



**To the family and friends of
Ray S. Lanterman, Jr.**

BUSY BODIES

BLUEBERRY INDOOR YARD SALE Saturday, August 6, 8 a.m.-noon



We will also have books and puzzles. There will be a Bake Sale and we would appreciate donations brought to the church on Friday afternoon August 5, or early Saturday morning. As always, we thank our church family for all your support. You help make our Fairs a success. Need more info? Contact Sue F.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We have asked the Council to vote on the Child Policy at their July meeting. We anticipate an increase in Sunday School of two. If anyone has an interest in serving as a teacher, we will welcome their "application".

The Forum continues to be well attended and, according to participants, a source of sincere fellowship and support.

We are looking for small but doable ideas to increase God's Word in the community. One idea is to donate relevant books to the little libraries already in existence. If anyone has any books that they would like to see recycled in this way, please let us know.



New Church Email!

Our new church email reflects our church website address. The address is

office@ellsworthucc.org

Please update your devices so that we can retire the old Fairpoint address as soon as possible.

TRUSTEES

It has been a busy summer at the church and will be very busy in the following months. The Trustees are working on a plan for the front lawn. The new concrete steps will be in place in the next two weeks. Work has begun on the downstairs bathrooms, with an eye towards making them handicap accessible. Proposals for finishing the old choir room are being considered. Work continues on the present choir and music rooms.

The Trustees thank Patriot Construction for their work on the sanctuary front, and the office wing entrance. We will soon have a new door on the State Street entrance, but material and manpower shortages have caused delays in this, as well as the other projects.

Our new internet connection has improved our electronic media outreach. We can support Zoom and Facebook together without causing interruptions! Discontinuing our old Fairpoint connection will save money each month, while improving services through the new line. Thank you to Mark, our internet and computing tech, who worked to make the transition as painless as possible.

DEACONS

August 7 - Communion, Rev. Keith Bowie

August 14 - Rev. Dr. David Henry

August 21 - Rev. Keith Bowie

August 28 - Rev. Matt McDonald

August Deacon: Jon Rosemeier

Please note this change: the Deacons next meeting takes place on the third Sunday of the month, August 21

We are moving through the summer and things seem to be moving at church too! Rooms are being cleaned, cottage meetings have continued, the front steps seem to be moving toward becoming steps again (!), we think the radio is working (most of the time), and we continue to see more faces in church. We even have been seeing NEW faces.

Soon we will be thinking of the children back in school. I'm thinking ahead about September and would like to restore our Wednesday night Bible Study. We learned a lot in the spring, and I think it will be a great way to kick off our fall.

The Deacons are looking at how our worship service is built and thinking about changes, if you have any ideas, please let us know. As always, we want to help folks, but we cannot help if we don't know of the need. Remember to call us and ask for that visit or car ride, call or send us an email.

Your Deacons want you to know that they are always available to listen to you, and to help you in any way they can.

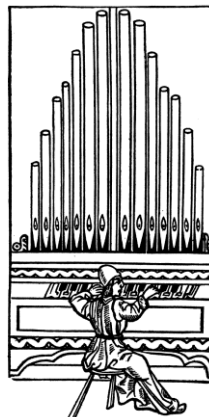
Prayer Calendar names

In August, please include these names in your daily prayers:

- Marion Bennoch
- Lorraine & Jon Foss
- Elsbeth Jordan
- Becky Leamon & Andy Stephenson
- Beth Van Dyk
- Amy Zenke, Hope & Joy
- David & Brenda Keep
- Lisa & Steven Salsbury
- Daniel Lacey
- Emily Cambridge



Choir will begin singing at September services and we welcome new members (see Nancy Sargent for further information). We are also thinking of recycling older music that is no longer used. We have heard of the Bagaduce Music Library in Blue Hill. Are there any other sources for such items? Please contact Nancy or Bonnie Carter if you have relevant information



We are trying to organize an **Organ Concert** for September 11 to celebrate 110 years since the Black Family of Woodlawn donated our Hall pipe organ. We have three organists who are available to play, counting Lynn Hall. We could use about three more musicians and hope this will happen soon. We will keep you posted.



MAINE CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Official Call to Special Meeting of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ on August 6, 2022

A Special Meeting of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ will **convene at 1 p.m. Saturday, August 6, 2022**. The meeting will be held using a hybrid format. Delegates may attend the meeting either on-site at **First Parish Church UCC in Brunswick, Maine** or **remotely by Zoom** (link to be provided).

The Special Meeting is called by the Maine Conference Board of Directors to carry out the following business:

The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola will be presented to delegates of the Maine Conference for their vote to elect and call her as our next Conference Minister.

This follows the unanimous selection of the Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola by the Conference Minister Search Committee and her unanimous recommendation by the Maine Conference Board of Directors.

Stephen Hastings, Conference Clerk
Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ

Thank you, dear Ellsworth friends,

We are so very grateful for your generous gift of \$665 to the Maine School of Ministry, an essential education program of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ.

Your gift helps us in so many ways—from the development of new programs to the recruitment of talented and knowledgeable teachers, and towards empowering the outreach and growth of the Maine School of Ministry overall.

Thank you!

Blessings,

*The Rev. Ron Baard, Dean
The Maine School of Ministry*





Introducing the Maine Conference Social Action Committee

Have you heard about the Social Action Committee of the Maine Conference of the UCC? If not, allow me to introduce you. We are a

committee of UCC ministers and lay people with an interest in general issues of social justice. The Committee is relatively new, having formed in the spring of 2021. The goal is “to work with resource teams, associations, churches, and people of the Maine Conference UCC to promote engagement in social action.” Or more simply, “Faithfully engaging others toward a more just society and planet.”

I am a member at the Bar Harbor Congregational Church UCC and have been serving as Co-Chair of SAC with Rev. Stephen Hastings. I invite you to some of the activities SAC has been engaged in through our general posts about current issues and theological reflections in our [Facebook group](#).

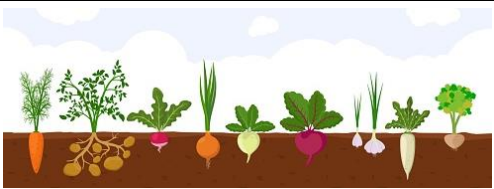
From November 2021 to February 2022, the SAC hosted a series of Zoom workshops on the topics of “Immigration and ‘Loving Your Neighbor’”, “Organizing for Social Action in the Local Church”, and “A Climate to Thrive”. Recordings of all of these are available in the [Facebook group](#).

We have also followed some of the issues before our state legislature this spring, including [LD 1626](#), “An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act”. In the course of our discussion over the complex issue of Native/Non-Native relations, we hosted a Zoom book club in June to discuss “[The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations](#)”, by Shirly N. Hager and Mawopiyane (a name chosen to collectively represent all the other co-authors, meaning “let us sit together” in Passamaquoddy). Since the book study, we have been developing a resolution regarding Indigenous/Settler relations to be presented at this fall’s Maine Conference Annual Meeting.

SAC meets monthly, and you are welcome to join us! Please feel free to reach out to me with questions at woodsidekat@gmail.com or contact Hannah Mondrach (hannah.mondrach@gmail.com), Sunrise Association’s Representative to SAC, and you can always [join our Facebook group](#).

Kathy Woodside
Maine Conference SAC Co-Chair

AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies	2	3 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	4 9 am Bulletin Deadline TBA Missions	5 OFFICE CLOSED 11 am Afternoon set-up for Blueberry fair	6 8 am Blueberry fair 
7 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service & Communion	8 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies	9	10 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	11 9 am Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Trustees	12 OFFICE CLOSED 10 am Finance	13
14 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	15 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies	16	17 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	18 9 am Bulletin deadline	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Deacons 11:30 am Christian Ed	22 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies 6:30 pm Council	23	24 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	25 9 am Bulletin deadline	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	29 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies	30	31 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out			



*Just a little thank you...
...for everything!*

Truly more of a BIG thank you as we were overwhelmed and felt blessed beyond measure by the incredible outpouring of love in all the beautiful (and some funny) cards from all our dear friends. It made 70 years feel like only a few.

Much love in Christ Jesus,
Lewis & Nita