

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



**SEPTEMBER 2021 - THE STEEPLE NEWSLETTER**

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

*From the Moderator*

There are many things that would seem to be uncertain about the times that we live in. There is at least one thing that is clear: being the Church together is more important to all of us than any of

us might have realized before now.

Without question there have been and probably will continue to be difficult choices to make going forward. This is nothing new in the life of the Church, any Church. Paul's letters to the early Church make clear the struggles involved in trying to live faithfully and to be true to God's plan for creation as revealed in the life and ministry, the murder and resurrection of Jesus.

We have certainly had occasion to experience the pain of strife and division. We have also been witness to the workings of the spirit as we are guided forward with a renewed hope for our future together as a Church family—hope born in the spirit. I am thinking that we have all noticed the love and joy that has returned to our fellowship when we gather for worship on Sunday morning—clear and compelling evidence of God's love for all of us. Reason to be grateful, reason to be hopeful.

Paul offers this thought in 2 Corinthians 4:1 "Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart."

Two things come to mind, at least for me. First of course is the idea that we do ministry together, as the Church. Second is the concept that only through answering God's call to us are we able to be effective in offering ministry to the world.

We may not be who we were, and we may not yet be who we are to become. "We do know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28).

Let us go forward together and love extravagantly, live faithfully and become a shining example of a people answering God's call. ♦

*Jack*

*Love one another.* Be honorable. **SERVE THE LORD.**

*Rejoice!* Have hope. PRACTICE PATIENCE. Pray often.

**BE GENEROUS.** Live in peace. Speak kindly.

## SEPTEMBER CHURCH MEETINGS

- Adult Forum** – Sundays, 8:30 a.m.  
**Trustees** – Thursday, Sept 9, 7 p.m.  
**Deacons** – Sunday, Sept 12, 11:30 p.m.  
**Busy Bodies** – Monday, Sept 13, 11 a.m.  
**Stewardship** – Tuesday, Sept 14, 4 p.m.  
**Missions** – Thursday, Sept 16, 6:45 p.m.  
**Council** – Monday, Sept 27, 6:30 p.m.  
**Christian Ed** – no September meeting  
**Re-Opening** – TBA

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.**

Call the church office (T-W-Th) for updated Zoom instructions.

### GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING USE

Effective June 20, 2021, a mask is optional for those who are 2 weeks past full vaccination. We request that you use a mask if you haven't been inoculated.

Keep in mind that things can change suddenly, and we appreciate your understanding as we navigate this pandemic together.

4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month we require all worshipers to wear masks to enable "at risk" people to attend morning worship.

We thank everyone for their commitments to safety so that we may gather safely in person.

## SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS



### SEPTEMBER 5 – 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 & Psalm 125  
Isaiah 35:4-7a & Psalm 146  
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

### SEPTEMBER 12 – 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 1:20-33 & Psalm 19  
Isaiah 50:4-9a & Psalm 116:1-9  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

### SEPTEMBER 19 – 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 31:10-31 & Psalm 1  
Jeremiah 11:18-20 & Psalm 54  
James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

### SEPTEMBER 26 – 18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 & Psalm 124  
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 & Psalm 19:7-14  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

***Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.***

Psalm 124:8 NRSV



**ADULT FORUM**

**Sundays at 8:30 a.m., Zoom & Parlor**

Tom M. leads this discussion group that welcomes all people to join via computer, phone or in-person in the Parlor. Contact the office to get Zoom information.

# MISSIONS

## LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY PIE BOOTH AT THE BLUE HILL FAIR

Members of FCC will staff the booth Friday, September 3, from 1- 5 p.m. We need just one person to fill the 3-5 p.m. slot. But We need five non-refrigerated pies (i.e. no custard fillings). Contact Ginny D. about contributing pies.



## CHOIR PRACTICE THURSDAYS AT 7 P.M.

Have you been thinking about getting more involved in church but are not sure how? Please think about singing in the choir. You don't need to read music...the requirements are that you enjoy singing and can carry a tune! Rehearsals last an hour each week. We have a lot of fun and would love to have you!

**The choir will begin singing in worship on September 19.**

# BUSY BODIES

Busy Bodies reconvene Monday, September 13 from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. We will plan our Fall activities. If you have questions, please contact Sue F.



## THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REALLY WANTS TO KNOW!

At a recent meeting someone asked “What do folks *really* think when they get Stewardship materials from the church? Is it just *‘they want our money?’*” And the group talked about that for a while until someone said, “Well, let’s ask the congregation.”

So, what DO you think when you hear the word “Stewardship”, see the bulletin inserts, and read the Committee’s annual letter? The Committee is asking you to think on and answer these questions:

1. **Is Stewardship just about money?**
2. **Except for money, what do you think about doing for Stewardship?**
3. **What do you think your God-given gifts are?**
4. **In what ways can our church become more effective in meeting our responsibilities to God?**

Please number your answers like the questions. To send your answers electronically, use the church email: [fcellsworth@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fcellsworth@myfairpoint.net). Or mail your written answers to FCC, PO Box 12, Ellsworth ME 04605.

Feel free to speak with a Stewardship Committee member. Thank you for helping us!

# TRUSTEES

September promises to be a busy month at First Congregational Church. Trustees are moving forward with 'facelift' plans. The front of the building will be painted. Weather permitting, this will be finished by mid-October. This will be a small inconvenience to the congregation. We will have to use the State Street and Church Street entrances for a few weeks, but we will attempt to keep disruptions to a minimum. I am confident that the contractors will do an excellent job for us.

We will also have new front steps. The wooden steps have served their purpose, but it is time to do something more permanent. We have received quotes on new concrete steps. We have contractors willing to do the groundwork, and a retaining wall is being designed. Steve Shea has volunteered to consult with us regarding the step work, and the clock and steeple cleaning.

During the painting, we hope to replace the clock faces. The 50-year-old plywood is rotting and needs to be replaced. The bell tower needs attention. Our carillon and chimes need rewiring to sound out again all over town. I look forward to hearing the chimes again, at six o'clock each night.

It promises to be a productive fall, and with His help, we will work to that end.




Blessings to all...Troy T.

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**CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CALENDARS** - We have some leftover 2012 church calendars from our anniversary celebration. The calendars are full of wonderful church photos like the ones here that you might appreciate. If you are interested in having one, please speak with Lois S.



# SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	2 9 am Bulletin deadline 7 pm Choir	3 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 1-5 p.m. Pie Booth at Blue Hill Fair	4
5 <b>Green</b> 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service & Holy Communion 11 am Fellowship	6 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	7	8 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	9 9 am Bulletin deadline 7 pm Trustees 7 pm Choir	10 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	11
12 <b>Green</b> 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship 11:30 am Deacons	13 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 11 am Busy Bodies	14 4 pm Stewardship	15 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	16 9 am Bulletin deadline 9 am Steeple deadline 6:45 pm Missions 7 pm Choir	17 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	18
19 <b>Green</b> 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service Mask Sunday 11 am Fellowship	20 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	21	22 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	23 9 am Bulletin deadline 7 pm Choir	24 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	25
26 <b>Green</b> 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship	27 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:30 pm Council	28	29 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	30 9 am Bulletin deadline 7 pm Choir		



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