

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



**September 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*

**O**n February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Most observers thought this war would be over in a matter of days or weeks. Wrong! Here we are at the six-month mark in that conflict, and it shows no signs of abating. Yet, it seems to me that many of us “over here” have lost interest in this war “over there.” We have closed our eyes to this conflict in order to get on with our lives and do business as usual. Ukraine is no longer in the daily headlines unless something happens, like the capture of a nuclear reactor, that makes all of us nervous again. Partly to blame is human nature, of course. Unless we have some personal connection to either Russia or Ukraine, perhaps someone we know or someone living there, this war will be played out behind the scenes (“out of sight, out of mind,” as the saying goes).

We have a vision problem. Even with our eyes wide open, there are things that we see and other things that we ignore and sweep under the rug. Once Jesus complained about people who could so easily focus upon the speck in their neighbor’s eye, while completely ignoring the huge plank in their own (Luke 6:42). Another time Jesus was reprimanded by leaders of a synagogue for healing a crippled woman on the sabbath. They couldn’t see the miracle occurring right in front of their eyes, since they were focused on their religious rules and regulations (Luke 13:10-17).

Growing up in South Carolina, I remember racial segregation. I can remember, as a boy, seeing rest rooms with signs reading “Whites Only.” There were pockets of utter poverty including “Briar Hollow,” the name of the neighborhood in my hometown where all the blacks lived, whose streets were avoided by whites. Of course, the schools and churches were segregated at that time. Integration would come a few years later. What a tragic description of the way most of us lived. Yet we were told “this is just the way things are.”

We live in a world where scenes of misery are acted out safely beyond our view, but in other cases, right in front of our eyes. Then Jesus comes and renders for us a picture of the world as it should be, the world that is being remade by the hands of our Creator. What does it take for me and you to see that new world? I guess it would take someone rising from the dead to show us that which we are so determined not to see. Perhaps then we might pay attention and begin to really see. Well, someone HAS come back from the dead; someone HAS risen in order to help us see!



*Keith*

Rev. Keith Bowie

## SEPTEMBER CHURCH MEETINGS

- Adult Forum** – Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
- Busy Bodies** – Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
- Choir** – Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
- Missions** – Thursday, Sept 8, TBA
- Trustees** – Thursday, Sept 15, 7 p.m.
- Deacons** – Sunday, Sept 18, 11:30 a.m.
- Christian Ed** – Sunday, Sept 18, 11:30 a.m.
- Council** – Monday, Aug 22, 6:30 p.m.
- Music** – TBA

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.

## THE FRONT ENTRANCE IS RESTORED!

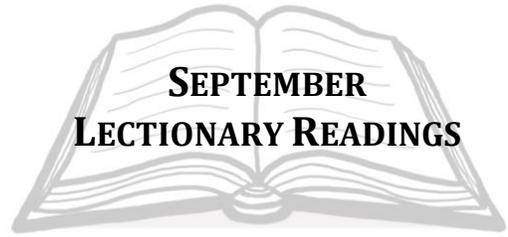
Walk up the front steps again! It is a pleasure to report that the front of the church has new steps, new rails, and new landings—all much safer for use. And it looks great! We thank everyone for their endless patience during this lengthy project. We look forward to new flowers and fresh landscaping to complete the church's face-lift.

**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.

## SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS



### SEPT 4 – 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 18:1-11 & Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 & Psalm 1  
Philemon 1:1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

### SEPT 11 – 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 & Psalm 14  
Exodus 32:7-14 & Psalm 51:1-10  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

### SEPT 18 – 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 & Psalm 79:1-19  
Amos 8:4-7 & Psalm 113  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

### SEPT 25 – 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 & Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
Amos 6:1a, 4-7 & Psalm 146  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31



to the families and friends of  
**Lewis Higgins**  
and **Betty Robidoux**

# DEACONS

- Sept 4 - Communion, Rev. Keith Bowie
- Sept 11 - Rev. Matt McDonald
- Sept 18 - Rev. Keith Bowie
- Sept 25 - Rev. Keith Bowie

**September Deacon: Anne Bancroft**

**Musings from the Chair of Deacons:** Deacons have been thinking about our neighbors and what that word means. Who is our neighbor? Well, physically it is a cemetery, City Hall, Hancock County Jail and Courthouse, and the group that took over the old DMV. But I believe that this means all those in our community and surrounding communities. What can we do for our neighbors? We can pray for all these people and businesses that surround us, that we support and from whom we benefit. Next: we invite our neighbors to join us for some events that we hold at this church. It is also important to know that most will not come the first time invited, so continue inviting each person or business that you associate with. Be proud of our CHURCH and all we do. We are worth knowing about. Give people and businesses time to learn about us.

Please, everyone, let us pray for this community, our neighbors, and our church. Be persistent and invite people until they come to something we are offering. Remember that We Want the Best World For All and one way to make sure that this happens is to introduce our friends and neighbors to Our Savior and Lord and Magnificent God!

*Love your neighbor  
as yourself.*

from Mark 12:31

## Prayer Calendar names

**In September, please include these names in your daily prayers:**

- Greg & Jenn Berry
- Jeanne Fernald
- Pat Jordan
- Jane & Tom MacDonald
- Ruth Silsby
- Linda Walton
- Brenda Jordan
- Alice Lippert
- Lyle Stephenson
- Aaron Lacey
- Tucker Cambridge



**ORGAN CONCERT**  
**SEPTEMBER 11, 2:30 P.M.**

We will celebrate 110 years of using the Hall pipe organ in our worship services. Local organists will showcase the instrument donated by the Black family of Woodlawn. This event is free and we look forward to seeing you there.



**Choir returns to worship** on September 11, with rehearsals beginning Tuesday, August 30, at 6 p.m. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact director Nancy Sargent. Choir welcomes new voices.



# OIL PAINTING OF OUR STEEPLE

The church unexpectedly received a painting of our iconic and beloved steeple. This letter from Karl Schultz accompanied it:

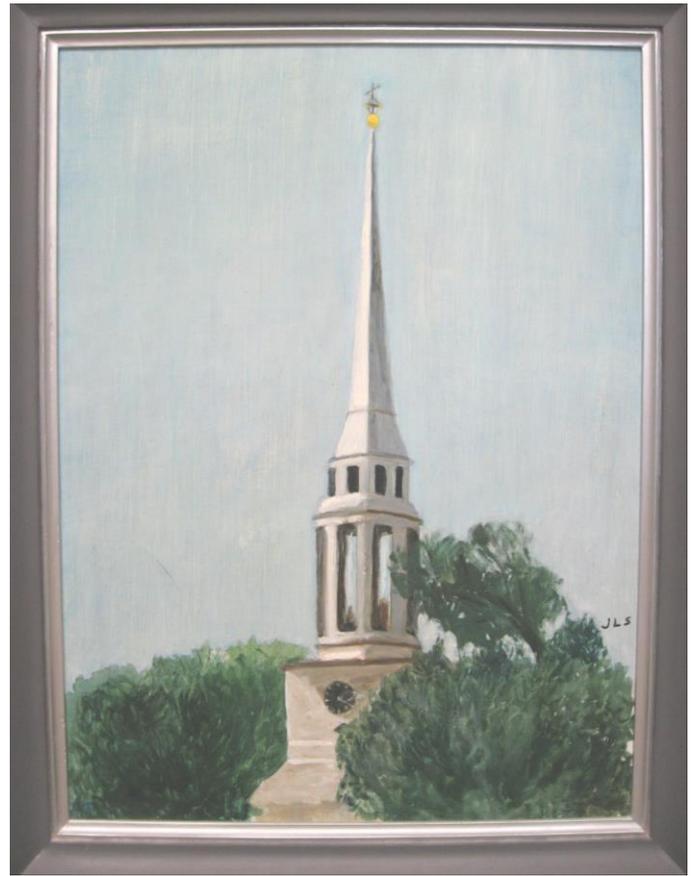
My mother painted this in 1963-4. After her passing in 1974, my sister, Gretchen, took it and displayed it in her home until her passing late this year. Her son, Kirby, passed it on to me. But I believe it really belongs to the church. Enjoy! On the back of the painting, I have attached this document:

**“This painting of the Ellsworth Congregational Church steeple was done by my mother, Julia Laurene Bovee Schultz (1907-1974). My father was Floyd Van Nest Schultz (1910-1986). They lived in West Lafayette, IN. He was a professor at Purdue University.**

**This was originally written on the back of the painting by my mother:**

***Old Congregational Church – Ellsworth, Maine. A landmark for homebound sailors. It has given more great men to the State and Nation than any other church of its size in New England. As seen on our visit in August 1963.***

***A church steeple represents the living church which can bring peace, quietness, and inspiration.”***



## The Neighbors in Need Offering,

which we will receive formally in worship on October 2, supports the UCC’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. **BEHOLD! With your assistance, we together can help our Neighbors in Need.**

# SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9 am Bulletin deadline	2 OFFICE CLOSED 4 pm wedding rehearsal	3 3:30 pm wedding
4 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service & Communion	5 OFFICE CLOSED <b>LABOR DAY</b>	6 6 pm Choir	7 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	8 9 am Bulletin deadline TBA Missions	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10
11 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 2:30 pm Organ concert	12 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies	13 6 pm Choir	14 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	15 9 am Bulletin deadline 7 pm Trustees	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17
18 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Christian Ed 11:30 am Deacons	19 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies	20 6 pm Choir	21 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	22 9 am Bulletin & Steeple deadlines	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	26 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies 6:30 pm Council	27 6 pm Choir	28 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	29 9 am Bulletin deadline	30 OFFICE CLOSED	



## NEW CHURCH EMAIL



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

**[office@ellsworthucc.org](mailto:office@ellsworthucc.org)**

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

(By the way, changing an entry in the address book does not make a global change. Email's auto-prompt will continue to suggest the old address and you must override it a few times by painstakingly typing in the new address *before* auto-prompt gets on board! Sometimes technology = teeth-gnashing.)