

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



NOVEMBER 2021 - THE STEEPLE NEWSLETTER

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

From the Moderator

All of us at one time or another have been exposed to the idea that the Church is not the building, the Church is the people. All of us, I think, to a greater or lesser extent, would agree with that.

What does it mean to be the people who are the Church? What binds us together?

Part of that is pretty straightforward I would think. We believe in God. We gather together for worship, for mission, for fellowship and to learn and to grow together.

We are also called to share the faith of Jesus with the world around us. To be a city on the hill, to be a light in the darkness to paraphrase what Matthew says.

The world around us could certainly use some light, some Faith-centered inspiration away from the plague of hate and division that has become all too encompassing in our culture, and toward the love that God asks that we share with ALL of our neighbors. The love that God offers us through Jesus and the gift of grace.

We are called to live lives of faithful witness to God's extravagant love for all of humanity and all of creation.

How can we do that if the world around us doesn't even know that we are here, and has not yet considered all the blessings with which God has surrounded us?

We must become visible to the world around us to carry out our call to be disciples of Jesus. Part of that happens by our engagement in mission, things like the Welcome Table.

Part of that happens by doing all that we can to be noticed as who and what we are. A community called and gathered to spread the good news of the Gospel, God's call through Jesus to live lives dedicated to spreading God's love and discerning God's Justice.

Our Church building stands as a symbol of those aspirations and as an assurance of God's continuing presence in our midst. As an invitation to a better way of being. As a symbol of hope in a world caught up in chaos.

Our Church building is undergoing a much-needed facelift. Our sense of purpose and our efforts to discern God's plan for us need to be subject to the same process of rebuilding. The past is gone and the future awaits.

Let's meet the future full of love and thanksgiving! Let's strive together to be faithful advocates for justice in the ongoing work of the advancement of God's kingdom. Let's be the house that Love built!

Jack

ATTENTION

**CHURCH'S MAIN
ENTRANCE CLOSED**

While work being done on the church building, the Church Street entrance to the sanctuary is closed. Please use the doors at State Street or the education wing. Expect this inconvenience to last through the first week of November.

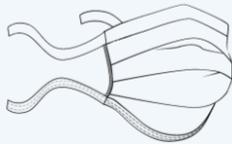
NOVEMBER CHURCH MEETINGS

- Adult Forum** – Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
- Choir** – Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Missions** – Thursday, Nov 11, time TBA
- Finance** – Friday, Nov 12, 10 a.m.
- Deacons** – Sunday, Nov 14, 11:30 p.m.
- Trustees** – Thursday, Nov 18, 7 p.m.
- Christian Ed** – Sunday, Nov 21, 1 p.m.
- Council** – Monday, Nov 29, 6:30 p.m.
- Music** – no November meeting

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



A mask is necessary for all who gather in the church building. The Re-Opening Committee hopes this will serve to mitigate the spread of Covid and enable us to remain open for worship.

We will decide on a week-to-week basis if we have a coffee hour after morning worship.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in these difficult times. This is hard on all of us.

NOVEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

NOVEMBER 1 – ALL SAINTS DAY

Isaiah 25:6-9 & Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

NOVEMBER 7– 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 & Psalm 127
1 Kings 17:8-16 & Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44



NOVEMBER 14 – 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Samuel 1:4-20 & 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Daniel 12:1-3 & Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

NOVEMBER 21 – 26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 23:1-7 & Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 & Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

NOVEMBER 25 - THANKSGIVING

Joel 2:21-27 & Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Matthew 6:25-33



NOVEMBER 28 - 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36



With Heartfelt
Sympathy

We pray for the family and friends
of Glenice Carpenter.

MISSIONS

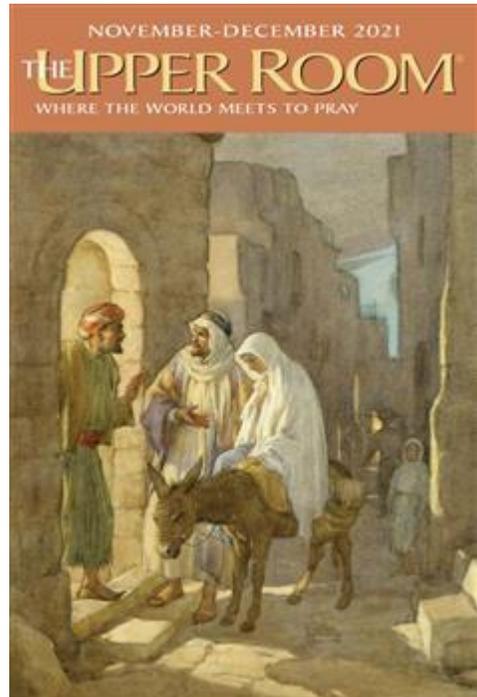
First Congregational Church will staff the food pantry the first two weeks in November. L&F needs folks to help people “shop” the shelves, and drivers to get perishables from the super-markets.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ginny D. or Lois S. right away to sign up.



HEARING AID BATTERIES

We have two new packages of size 675 hearing aid batteries looking for a home. Please speak with Lois S.



The November-December 2021 Upper Room daily devotional books are available at the State Street entrance in the literature rack.



ADULT FORUM

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

Adult Forum is currently looking at articles and scriptures in **Daily Guideposts for 2021**. This discussion group that welcomes all people to join via computer, phone or in-person in the Parlor. Contact the church office to get Zoom information.

BUSY BODIES

The Busy Bodies will meet on some Mondays. There is no regular schedule yet. If you would like to join them, call Sue F. to be added to the reminder list for updates on meetings.

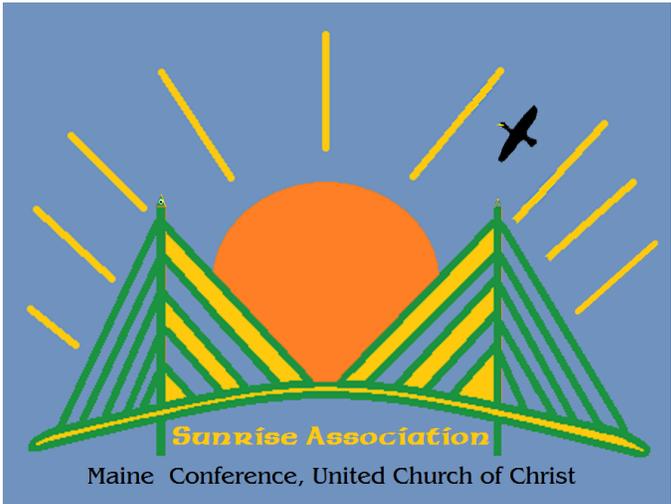


CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021

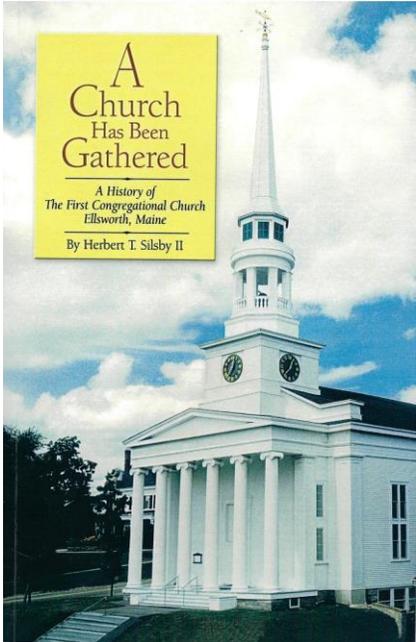
Please help us plan ahead! Our holiday fair will feature our popular Berry Bowls, knitted and crocheted items, crafts, jewelry, baked goods, fudge, attic treasures, books, puzzles and more. No clothing, please.

Donations for the fair will be appreciated and can be left at the church. Please leave baked goods at the church on Friday, December 3, from 12-3 p.m., or early Saturday morning. Many thanks for your help in the past and for this next one.

If you have questions, contact Louise E. or Sue F. See you at our Christmas Fair!



The Sunrise Association's Committee on Ministry recognizes that churches who have gone through difficult times often need spiritual guidance. The Association has appointed the Rev. Joe Schulte as FCC's designated spiritual guide. He is available for consultation if you wish to speak with someone about what has taken place. Please contact him via email.



CHURCH HISTORY BOOK

How many folks have a copy of our church's history book? Is anyone interested in having a copy of Herbert Silsby's book? We are looking into having it reprinted and want to know how many folks might like to have one.

DEACONS

OUR NOVEMBER MINISTERS

- Nov 7 - Communion with Rev. Keith Bowie
- Nov 14 - Rev. Keith Bowie
- Nov 21 - Rev. Matthew McDonald
- Nov 28 - Advent I with Rev. Keith Bowie

Our congregation generously supports The Minister's Discretionary Fund (MDF). Historically, this fund allowed the minister to help those in need as requested. When strangers outside the church family seek assistance from the pastor, it has been difficult to determine if the needs were appropriate. All the pastors comprising the Ellsworth Area Ministers Association (EAMA) have experienced strangers seeking aid. [Families First](#) will aid local pastors and churches by administering discretionary funds. Individuals seeking aid that are not part of a congregation will be directed to Families First. Our church has chosen to participate in this program. A portion of our MDF gifts will go to Families First, and we will retain a portion of MDF gifts to support the needs of our congregation. This is all done anonymously.

Please contact any of our church leadership with questions you have about MDF and how we are directing funds. We are blessed that our generosity spreads Christ's love to the larger community.

PROMISED GIVING DEDICATION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Stewardship is our response to the loving gifts and trusts that make us partners with God in the business of living. Remembering all that God has entrusted to us, lets us know that we are never alone in life. We are not alone in our joys, our pain, our pride, our sorrow, our work, our family, our church, or any part of our living. Our partner God is our companion in it all. God is with us in all that is the life of our church, and our church depends on the faithful work of us all.

Our promised giving is the symbol of our accepting partnership with God in the life and mission and welcome that is our church. Our sharing our time, our talent, our resources, our love for one another, and in our welcome to all who would join with us is our response to God's love offered in His partnership with us here. Support of all kinds including money, labor, love, and prayer is always needed for the life of the church.

Everyone is invited to share in promised giving as this people of God. Promised Giving cards have been sent to all. Please prayerfully consider your giving and fill out your card and bring it to worship with you on November 14. If you are not able to be at church that Sunday, please send in your card to PO Box 12, Ellsworth, Maine, to be dedicated with others that morning. A meaningful moment of dedicating our promises will be part of our worship. We shall celebrate God's rich blessing of us that day. We hope that you can be there. Your Stewardship Committee.



They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yielded their fruit in its season.

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 6 pm Choir	3 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	4 9 am Bulletin deadline	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
M-W-F VOLUNTEER AT LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY						
7 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 6 pm Choir	10 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	11 9 am Bulletin deadline TBA Missions	12 OFFICE CLOSED 10 am Finance	13
M-W-F VOLUNTEER AT LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY						
14 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service & Promised Giving 11:30 am Deacons	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 6 pm Choir	17 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	18 9 am Bulletin & Steeple deadlines 7 pm Trustees	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 1 pm Christian Ed	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 6 pm Choir	24 9 am Bulletin deadline	25 OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 Advent I Violet 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	29 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Council	30 6 pm Choir				

*You will show me the way of life,
granting me the joy of
your presence and the pleasures
of living with you forever.*

Psalm 16:11 New Living Translation