

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



OCTOBER 2020 - THE STEEPLE NEWSLETTER

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

Thank you to the in-person congregation who signed the card asking God's blessing on me. It meant a lot to receive it and a small plant on the anniversary of my ordination, September 27.

From our Pastor



As we move deeper into Fall, the colors of trees and bushes are changing into vibrant oranges and reds. What a delight for the eyes! The colors made a beautiful backdrop for the outdoor memorial services for one of our summer worshippers, Ronald Clapp.

In September, the church's schedule appears to have shifted into a higher speed, with more activities. After a hiatus of six months, Ruth and her team produced a delicious turkey supper takeout. What a delight for the taste buds! What was learned in the process is that the pandemic has reduced the number of volunteers who can work, and so the next supper may be delayed until after the pandemic. Thanks to all who cooked and cleaned up! 107 meals were purchased.

I am also grateful for the willingness of people to assist with the additional tasks created by the reopening of the sanctuary for Sunday worship and memorial services for Peggy Simpson and Carolyn Blake.

We have just passed the half-way point in the ten-sermon series that covers Moses' lifespan. Pictures of the displays for the first six sermons are shown later in this newsletter. Thanks to Cindy's creativity and the help of Lois and Joyce, we are reminded of the journey of God's people from Egypt to the border of the Promised Land. These displays also help our children learn the story of the Exodus, which occupies the 40 chapters of Exodus and ends in Deuteronomy. If you are looking for a spiritual practice, try reading one chapter of Exodus a day.

The congregation will welcome Sue and Ken into full membership the first Sunday of October and then join in the World-Wide Communion Sunday celebration. If you worship with us via radio, Facebook or Zoom, consider preparing some bread and juice for October 4's worship service. The Neighbors in Need offering will be dedicated that day. And then at 11:30, a drive-thru version of the Blessing of the Animals will occur. Spread the word. What a busy and joyful morning!

On October 18, the children are planning to participate in leading worship in the sanctuary. I hope nothing prevents that eagerly anticipated event.

Our Stewardship season will begin October 10. The committee has been dreaming up inspiring events and materials. I've discovered that toasting marshmallows and eating s'mores around Andy and Becky's fire pit can really inspire creativity.

Looking ahead to November 1, which is called All Saints Day in many churches, I hope to have a few moments set aside to remember the saints, that is, Jesus' followers, who have passed into the fullness of God's glory.

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OCTOBER CHURCH MEETINGS (ZOOM)

- Stewardship** – Thurs, Oct 1, 3:15 p.m.
at Andy Stephenson's
- Busy Bodies** – Thurs, Oct 8, 11 a.m.
- Trustees** – Thurs, Oct 8, 6:45 p.m.
- Deacons** – Sun, Oct 11, 12:30 p.m.
- Missions** – Thurs, Oct 15, 6:45 p.m.
- Christian Ed** – Sun, Oct 18, 12:30 p.m.
- Re-Opening** – Thurs, Oct 22 at 6:45 p.m.
- Council** – Wed, Oct 28, 7 p.m.
- Re-Opening*** – Thurs, Oct 29 at 6:45 p.m.*
(* If needed)

FCC Zoom events use the same meeting number and password. Call the church office (T-W-Th) for Zoom instructions if you need them.



**Sunday Morning
Adult Study**

ADULT FORUM

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
via Zoom

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



**Sundays via Zoom
11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
Except October 18**

**Contact Cathy L.
for details**

OCTOBER 2020 LECTIONARY READINGS

OCTOBER 4 – 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 & Psalm 19
Isaiah 5:1-7 & Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

OCTOBER 11 – 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 32:1-14 & Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Isaiah 25:1-9 & Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

OCTOBER 18 – 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 33:12-23 & Psalm 99
Isaiah 45:1-7 & Psalm 96:19, (10-13)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

OCTOBER 25 – 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 & Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 & Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-36



Burke Billings died 9/30/20.

Rev. Priem has done memorial services for
Peggy Simpson on 9/19/20
Ronald Clapp on 9/28/20

**A memorial service for Carolyn Blake
will take place in the sanctuary
(plus Facebook and Zoom)
on Saturday, October 10, 2020, at 10 a.m.**

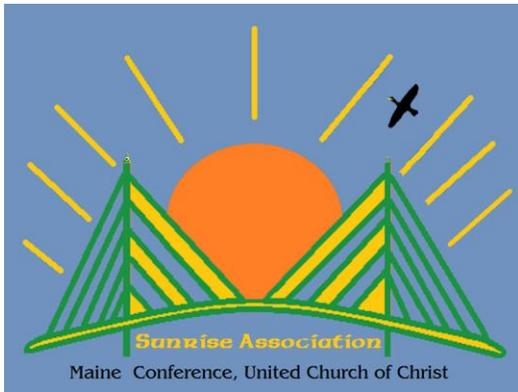
We pray for their family and friends.

Blessing of the Animals



**Sunday, October 4, 2020
11:30 a.m.-noon**

First Church will host a drive-through **Blessing of the Animals** on Sunday, October 4. The public may bring animals or pictures of animals to the church's parking lot on State Street, from 11:30 a.m.- noon. Rev. Priem will offer a prayer of blessing. Owners may wear masks and pets may remain in vehicles. For more information, call 412-2035.



SUNRISE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, October 10, 2020
9:30-11:30 a.m.
via Zoom**

Contact Pastor Cynthia if you wish to attend and need the Sunrise Association Zoom information.



INTRODUCING THE REV. JONNA JENSEN TRANSITIONAL CONFERENCE MINISTER



Hello, Dear Saints of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ! I am looking forward to the gifts of meeting you all and the holy work of listening among you. In these months of beginning, I want to spend as much of each workday as I possibly can listening to your voices. Please, tell me a story. Then, tell me another and another. Please, tell me a dream. Please, tell me where something hurts. Please, tell me what is launching your hallelujahs. Please, tell me what is feeding your souls and your ministries and what you're hungry for.

Thank you for helping me find listening spaces that we can share. Invite me to join you for your on-line worship services. Invite me to remotely join gatherings of groups or committees in your congregation. Invite me for some Zoom conversation with you or some telephone time. Write me an email or a letter with a stamp on it.

Day by day, you stir in my prayers. Day by day, I look forward to raising those prayers with more names and faces attached.

I thank God for the gifts and promise of this season...and for each of you.

Email: jjensen@maineucc.org

Office Phone (Direct Line): 1.207.530.9591

Cell Phone: 1.207.616.6704



FROM THE DEACONS

Are you tired of not seeing others? Would you like to be able to call people from our congregation? Well, the Deacons have the nicest job for you! You can request a list of members to check on and see how they are faring over the pandemic.

If this sounds like something you would like to do, please call deacon Katharine S., 207-266-2541, and she will develop a list of individuals that you can support and visit by phone. This is a way to support the family of God and our church!

**We thank soloists
Leita Z., Kathryn S., and Amy Z.
who sing at worship in our stead during
the pandemic. We appreciate the
musical gifts you graciously share.**



**Our hymn this morning will be
"How Can I Keep From Singing."**

[Pastor's Column continued]

Of course, November also reminds us of Thanksgiving. This year is the **400th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims**, some of the spiritual ancestors of the Congregational churches and the United Church of Christ. So, here is a big question on my mind. Does First Congregational Church want to celebrate their November 11th arrival in New England or December 16th arrival in Plymouth Harbor? If so, when? How? It would only take two or three people to plan how we can make this 400th anniversary extra special. Please talk to me or the chair of Deacons, Katharine S.

And don't overlook the call for volunteers for the food pantry (bottom page 6).

Cynthia



Dear Rev Priem & First Congregational Church,
The Pilgrim Lodge Leadership Team thanks you for your support of the vital PL ministry, mission, and vision. Your generous donation has helped us meet the unique challenges of this unusual summer and plan for PL 2021 with greater confidence.

Gratefully -
Marcia Charles
(PLLT Member)

THE STORY OF MOSES IN PICTURES

Rev. Priem's sermon series on Moses continues in October. Please listen at 10 a.m. on Sundays on [WDEA 1370 AM](#) or watch live on our [Facebook](#) page. Many thanks to Cindy S. for arranging these tableaux.



In the bulrushes
Exodus 2:1-10



The burning bush
Exodus 3:1-6



The first Passover
Exodus 12:1-14



Parting the sea
Exodus 14:19-31



Quail & manna
Exodus 16:2-15



Water from rock
Exodus 17:1-7

OCTOBER 2020 EVENTS AT FIRST CONGO UCC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9 am Bulletin Deadline 3:15 pm Stewardship	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Kids Church 11:30 am Blessing of Animals (State Street)	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6	7 3-5 pm Welcome Table take-out	8 9 am Bulletin deadline 11 am Busy Bodies 6:45 pm Trustees	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 10 am Blake memorial service Our delegates attend Assn Mtg
		Joyce out of office				
11 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Kids Church 12:30 pm Deacons	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13	14 3-5 pm Welcome Table take-out	15 9 am Bulletin deadline 6:45 pm Missions	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17
18 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Christian Ed	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20	21 3-5 pm Welcome Table take-out	22 9 am Bulletin deadline 9 am November Steeple deadline 6:45 pm Re-Opening	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 Our pastor & delegates attend Zoom Maine Conference Mtg
25 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Kids Church	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 3-5 pm Welcome Table take-out 7 pm Council	29 9 am Bulletin Deadline 6:45 pm Re-Opening	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31



Our church will staff the food pantry the first two weeks in November on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (Nov 2,4,6,9,11 & 13.) We need

- 1 Driver** who can lift things
Mondays 7:45-9:30 a.m.
Wednesdays 7:45-10 a.m.
Fridays 7:45-10 a.m.

- 2 Pantry workers**
Wednesdays 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wednesdays 3:30-7 p.m.
Fridays 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Pantry workers will stock shelves, help clients shop and package items as necessary, OR answer the phone and take orders.

Only five people can be in the building at a time. Everyone must wear a mask and observe 6-ft physical distancing.

Following regulations set by the State of Maine, a volunteer over age 70 must have a Medical Release Form from a physician saying that the volunteer has no underlying health conditions that put them at risk.

Contact [Ginny](#) 667-6304, to sign up or ask questions.