

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



June 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

The listening sessions with the list of nine questions that congregants were asked are drawing to a close. This week I have scheduled two sessions with Council members where I will fill the role of moderator or facilitator and ask the questions to them with a scribe to take notes. As with you, their comments will remain anonymous. If you recall when this process first started, the purpose of these anonymous sessions was to gather information to help understand how our church family wants to move forward. If you haven't yet participated and want to do so, if somehow you weren't contacted or your name fell through the cracks, **there is still time**. But please contact a Council member or the church office right away so a listening session can be arranged for you. After the listening sessions have been concluded, the process isn't over. The findings will have to be compiled and then be readied to share with the Council and ultimately with the congregation.

From all reports that I have heard, this has been an amazing process. The sessions have gone well thus far, and people have been appreciative of being asked to participate. Participants did not hold back with their comments—both positive and negative—and this was a good thing to have happened. This whole initiative will surely pay dividends for the church down the road.

In my mind, this all goes to show the good results that can come about when we share and when we deeply listen to one another. Do you find it interesting that the words communicate, communion, and community sound so much alike? It is really no coincidence. They come from the same root and refer to processes of coming together and exchanging and sharing in order to create commonality. I think one reason why Jesus Christ was so effective with people was because of the singleness of the message he communicated. Because of his interior peace and simplicity, there was a harmony and unity between what he was and what he said. Everything about him communicated his authenticity.



Remember, we are still human beings just trying to stay connected to one another and sharing our existence with God and neighbor. As St. Paul admonished, let us be gentle and forgiving of one another.

Keith

Rev. Keith Bowie

JUNE CHURCH MEETINGS

- Adult Forum** – Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
- Busy Bodies** – Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
- Choir** – Tuesdays, 6 p.m. (thru June 14)
- Music** – TBA
- Missions** – Thursday, June 9, TBA
- Deacons** – Sunday, June 12, 11:30 p.m.
- Trustees** – Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m.
- Christian Ed** – Sunday, June 19, 11:30 a.m.
- Council** – Monday, June 27, 6:30 p.m.

Except for Choir, 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:

The project is progressing nicely.
Concrete takes time to set and dry,
and that can't be rushed.
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.

JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS

JUNE 5 – PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-21 OR Genesis 11:1-9
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17, (25-27)



JUNE 12 – TRINITY SUNDAY

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

JUNE 19 – 2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7) 8-15a
Psalms 42 & 43
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

JUNE 26 – 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

Our deepest sympathies...

To the family and friends of
Paul Davis who died May 20

Memorial Service

for Joseph Palmer
Saturday, June 25, 2022, 10 a.m.

DEACONS

June 5 – Communion, Rev. May Angela Davis

June 12 – Rev. Mary Angela Davis

June 19 – Rev. Keith Bowie

June 26 – Rev. Keith Bowie

June Deacon: Katharine Schrader

The Deacons have developed a Prayer Calendar that includes all members and friends of FCC. Each month there will be a list of some of our members and friends that will allow you the opportunity to hold them up in prayer for the month. By the end of the year, we will have prayed for our entire church family. We hope this will be inspirational and fortifying for everyone.

Prayer Calendar names:

- Anne Bancroft
- Donna & Victor Eastman
- Eleanor Jones
- Rev. John Lacey
- Albert & Polly Scott
- Ernie & Loretta Tracy
- Christopher Turner
- Jeff & Jeannie Jones
- Nancy & George Scott
- Mary Morrow
- Nancy Sargent



OUR CHURCH'S CARE TEAM

The Deacons are forming a Care Team. This group will consist of individuals who visit church members at home, in nursing homes, and make hospital visits if appropriate. The team will assist the minister in congregational care. One-on-one connections will greatly enrich our church community, particularly after the recent two years of COVID and the physical limitations the pandemic imposed on us.

If this visitation ministry interests you, please contact the church office and leave your name. Questions? Contact Katharine Schrader.

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



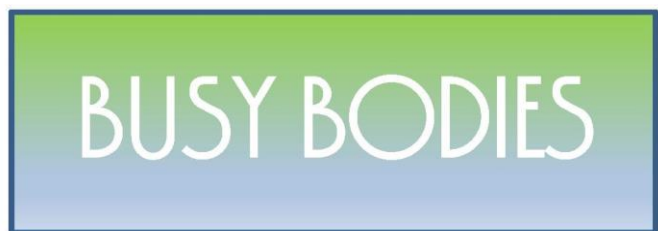
June 5th is PENTECOST

It's the birthday of the International Christian Church. In recognition of the Baptism of the Spirit we hope that everyone wears **RED** to worship remind us of the Flames that signify the spirit of the Holy Ghost descending upon us! Read Acts 2:1-21.



MUSIC COMMITTEE

- ♪ We are lining up special music for summer worship. If you have names or ideas, please speak with the Music Committee.
- ♪ Choir finishes for the summer on Father's Day, June 19.
- ♪ Organ maintenance has begun. Some parts are necessary to finish the job.
- ♪ **Organ Concert: Sunday, 11, 2022.** We are sending a letter to local organists asking them to participate in showcasing our wonderful instrument.



BUSY BODIES



If you have glass vases that once held berry bowl arrangements from Christmases past, the Busy Bodies would love to have them back to make *more* berry bowls at the holidays. This is a huge favor to them AND eliminates some clutter from your cellars and sink cupboards. It's a win for everyone! You may leave the vases in the church office.



17TH CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint—some of them are so hard to live with—but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen.



**MORE FOOD.
MORE FAMILIES.
MORE OFTEN.**

The **NEW BUILDING** Campaign
for Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

THE MISSION

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry feeds and serves the hungry in Hancock County, striving to eliminate food insecurity in our community. We treat all clients with respect, so that they leave the pantry with dignity and hope as well as groceries. Loaves & Fishes is committed to ensuring that anyone who needs food assistance receives it.

THE CHALLENGE

Food insecurity has risen during the pandemic and has affected many families and individuals who never thought they'd need help. Loaves & Fishes is preparing to move to a new home that will enable us to better meet the ongoing need in our community.

OUR NEW HOME

This past summer, we were fortunate enough to find a property in Ellsworth that aligns with our vision for providing more food to more hungry people. The Genesis Community Loan Fund helped us buy the building for \$550,000.

Once renovated, the centrally located, easily accessible 8,000 square foot facility will have:

- A 3,200 square foot market that will accommodate at least ten people at a time versus the current three. Clients will be welcome to come shop as often as they need to instead of once a month.
- A community garden to provide educational and experiential opportunities for families who are interested in learning how to grow their own vegetables. Our clients will be able to harvest the fresh produce as part of their shopping experience.
- Adequate room for receiving and processing food, plus on-site commercial refrigeration.
- Space for private client consultations and a conference room to share with community partners who serve our collective client base.

With preliminary renovations slated to start as funds are raised, it's our hope and goal to raise the required funds and open the new facility by the end of 2022.

CAMPAIGN GOAL

Our campaign goal of \$850,000 will help us:

- Serve more clients and normalize the shopping experience so families have access to nutritious food when and where they need it.
- Store everything under one roof, simplifying the logistics of keeping the pantry stocked.
- Own our "forever home," allowing for future program development and expanded community engagement.
- Retire the Genesis Community Loan Fund loan used to purchase the new building, freeing up more of our funds to directly help our clients.

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

We're asking you to help us realize our vision and strengthen the food safety net for Hancock County families. The More Food, More Families, More Often campaign will help Loaves & Fishes move to our new home and expand our services to clients.

BY THE NUMBERS-2021

2,850 family visits
(**7,115** individuals)

150 families who were
first time users

\$4,000 average amount
currently spent on
purchased food each
month (one visit per
month allowed)

\$6,000 anticipated
monthly cost of
purchased food when
the new pantry opens
(multiple visits per
month allowed)

\$415 average retail value
of food provided per visit

More than **250,000**
pounds of food
distributed



Emmaus Homeless Shelter Invites you!

**Please Join us for a Cookout to
Celebrate Our 30th Anniversary**

June 10, 2022

5 pm to 7 pm

51 Main Street

Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Rain or Shine



"SERVE FIRST THOSE WHO SUFFER MOST"



Email JuneteenthEllsworth@gmail.com for more information

19 JUNE | 12-4PM

FOOD | VENDORS | MUSIC | FREE EVENT

JUNETEENTH

Commemoration

*Illuminating the Continuum of the
Black Experience in Maine*

Hosted by Healthy Acadia, GBA Branch NAACP, YWCA MDI,
MDI Racial Equity Working Group, Mano en Mano
& WERU Community Radio

Knowlton Park, 11 Shore Rd, Ellsworth, ME

On June 19th, 1854, Black Americans in Galveston, Texas, were first told that they were freed from slavery, 2½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation. This date is now known as Juneteenth. Local businesses and associations are planning a Juneteenth 2022 event.

Everyone is invited to this free event at Knowlton Park in Ellsworth on Sunday, June 19th, from 12-4 p.m. to commemorate Juneteenth with a free festival that will feature Black performing artists, speakers, food vendors, and activities for all ages, as we illuminate the continuum of the Black experience in Maine.

In addition to your presence, Healthy Acadia welcomes tax deductible donations of any amount to help cover the costs of this event. You can give online at bit.ly/support-juneteenth-ellsworth-2022, or send a check made out to Healthy Acadia, with JUNETEENTH on the memo line, to Healthy Acadia, PO Box 1710, Ellsworth, ME 04605.

JUNE 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9 am Bulletin deadline	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
	Rev. Bowie on vacation					
5 PENTECOST Red 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service & Communion 11:30 am Deacons	6 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies	7 6 pm Choir	8 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	9 9 am Bulletin deadline TBA Missions	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
Rev. Bowie on vacation						
12 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Christian Ed	13 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies	14 6 pm Choir	15 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	16 9 am Bulletin deadline 7 pm Trustees	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18
Rev. Bowie on vacation						
19 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	20 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies	21 9 am Steeple deadline	22 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	23 9 am Bulletin & Steeples deadlines	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 10 am Palmer memorial service
26 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	27 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies 6:30 pm Council	28	29 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	30 9 am Bulletin deadline		



REV. BOWIE IS ON VACATION

JUNE 1-14

For pastoral care or emergencies,
please contact Moderator Jack Lacey,
at 745-1348 or 843-7856.

