

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



November 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 calendar tells me autumn has arrived, but nature makes a more presumptive statement. The trees change clothes, then shed them. When we look down our streets and at our buildings, we see what had been hidden by curtains of green. Clouds increase and, with a shudder of anticipation, we wonder how severe winter's weather will be. We wonder at the mysteries of nature as we will soon wonder at the mystery of the One who came and who comes that we might have life.

Welcome to November! There are only four Sundays in November, but each Sunday presents a different emphasis and opportunity:

November 6 — All Saints Sunday and Reformation. How do the saints of yesteryear challenge us today? Is a 21st century reformation of the church on the horizon?

November 13 — Stewardship Sunday. This will be a challenge this year with the worst inflation in our country in 40 years and record high gas prices. How will we respond?

November 20 — Thanksgiving Sunday. The beginning of every prayer should be to give thanks. Come and learn how thanksgiving can make you a more generous person.

November 27 — First Sunday of Advent. Advent candle lighting...**Hope, Peace, Joy,** and **Love.** Need I say more?

Covid has been hard on all of us, including the church. But the most important letter in the word "church" is U. **You** make the difference! **You** make it possible, with God's help, for First Congregational Church to be a viable force for good in the Ellsworth community. Come back, attend, and support the church that you know and love so much!

God bless,

Keith

Rev. Keith Bowie



NOVEMBER CHURCH MEETINGS

- Adult Forum** – Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
- Busy Bodies** – Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
- Choir** – Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
- Music** – TBA
- Stewardship** – Wednesday, Nov 2, 3 p.m.
- Deacons** – Sunday, Nov 6, 11:30 a.m.
- Missions** – Thursday, Nov 10, TBA
- Trustees** – Thursday, Nov 17, 7 p.m.
- Finance** – Friday, Nov 18, 10 a.m.
- Christian Ed** – Sunday, Nov 20, 11:30 a.m.
- Council** – Monday, Nov 28, 6:30 p.m.

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.



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.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 13, 2022
11:30 a.m.

Purpose: To ratify
a Search Committee

NOVEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

NOV 1 – ALL SAINTS DAY

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 & Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

NOV 6 – 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 OR Psalm 98
Job 19:23-27a & Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38



NOV 13 – 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 65:17-25 & Isaiah 12
Malachi 4:1-2a & Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

NOV 20 – 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 23:1-6 & Luke 1:68-79
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

NOV 24 – THANKSGIVING DAY

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 100
Philippians 4:4-9
John 6:25-35



NOV 27 – 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Roman 13:11-14
Matthew 36:44



With Heartfelt
Sympathy
to the family and friends of
Elsbeth Jordan

DEACONS

- Nov 6 - Communion, Rev. Keith Bowie
- Nov 13 - Rev. Keith Bowie
- Nov 20 - Rev. John Lacey
- Nov 27 - Rev. Keith Bowie, Advent I

November Deacon: Cindy Sargent

There have been many uplifting things happening at church lately. The exterior of our building has been refurbished and the steps and entrance to our building has been rebuilt. In the winter, the heated steps will just melt the snow away—how miraculous is that! The Choir Room has started to look better, and the Library is on the way to becoming a nice space. Everyone is pitching in, and we want to offer more ways for people to participate.

Thank you to those who came to the Congregational meeting on October 23. As you heard, there were important things discussed, and options to serve our church family were presented. The Trustees have some projects that need short-term help. Please reach out if you have some skills that not all of us have. (I can guarantee that nobody wants Katharine Schrader to work on anything relating to construction! She is gifted, but please don't give her a hammer.)

The Deacons are looking for volunteers to research the definitions of Open & Affirming. We are forming a group to provide information and educate the rest of the congregation. If you are interested, please contact a Deacon. We are at a turning point for our church, we need everyone to step forward and help in their own special way.

Finally, please come to church on Sunday, October 30. We will celebrate the individuals and companies that have been involved in the restoration of our building. Ongoing stewardship of our building honors our past, present, and future. Let's continue the bountiful life of faith here at First Church.

Prayer Calendar names

Prayers are as important as physical labor. In November, please include these names in your daily prayers:

- Julie & Bill Bromley
- Cathi Goebel
- Roberta Keep
- Stephen Merchant
- Margaret Smith
- Julianna Wood
- Christina Allen
- Kassidy Robidoux
- Robert Wullen Jr
- Evan Lacey
- David & Linda Ballard



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Rev. Bowie is leading a study on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Parlor every other week: November 2, 16, 30.
- Adult Forum at 8:30 on Sundays is thriving. Everyone is welcome.
- We hope to add scripture videos to our Facebook page. We are exploring all that it would entail.
- We have placed Christian reading materials in the Little Libraries around town.



**A MESSAGE FROM
THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

We thought the church would always be there. Everyone did. And then it was gone. How could that happen? That’s been the experience of too many churches. Could it happen in our church? We think of course not; but we are wrong. It could. How can we keep our church alive? It will take all of us working together. That’s our stewardship responsibility as members. Our theme:

Together

Enabling Our Church

How? With our prayers, our participation, our being together at worship in our church on Sunday mornings, our realistic sharing of our resources in financial giving, in working to make our church truly welcoming to all, and in the life and work of our church. We can keep our church alive and vital **TOGETHER**. And with determination that no misunderstanding, no difference of opinion, no hurt feelings, no conflict of any kind will be able to separate us from the faithful life and fellowship our church.

TOGETHER we will keep our church alive and serving God as the faithful disciples of Jesus.

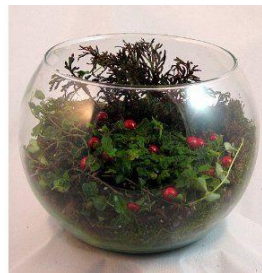
**SEARCH
COMMITTEE**

The church is seeking persons interested in serving on the Pastoral Search Committee. Is that you? Please contact Moderator Jack Lacey or Rev. Keith Bowie by November 10, 2022.

**There will be a
Special Congregational Meeting
on Sunday, November 13, 2022,
at 11:30 a.m. to ratify
the new Search Committee.**

BUSY BODIES

**LOOKING AHEAD:
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022**



Our fair will feature our popular Berry Bowls, crafts, jewelry, knitted and crocheted items, puzzles, boots, baked goods, fudge, attic treasures, and more. Craft donations for the fair are appreciated and can be left at the church. Baked goods can be left on Friday afternoon December 2, from 12-3 o’clock or early Saturday morning.

If you have questions, please contact Louise Emerson (667-4414) or Sue Fuller (610-1626). We can’t wait to see you at our Christmas Fair!





In November 2022 (also National Hospice & Palliative Care Month), whenever a \$2.50 Hannaford Community Bag is purchased at the Hannaford located in Ellsworth, Maine, \$1 will be donated to HVHC. This is a great way to broaden awareness and help our cause.



SCRIPTURES FOR THANKSGIVING

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
2. Philippians 4:6
3. Psalm 107:1
4. Psalm 7:17
5. Ephesians 5:20
6. James 1:17
7. Psalm 50:14
8. Colossians 3:15
9. Hebrews 13:15
10. Psalm 100:4
11. 2 Corinthians 2:14
12. Psalm 116:12
13. Lamentations 3:23
14. Colossians 4:2
15. Colossians 3:17
16. Psalm 31:19
17. Psalm 103:2
18. 2 Corinthians 4:15
19. Psalm 28:7
20. 1 Corinthians 15:57
21. Psalm 95:2
22. 1 Chronicles 16:34
23. Luke 6:38
24. Psalm 69:30
25. 1 Timothy 2:1
26. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
27. 1 Timothy 4:4-5
28. 2 Corinthians 4:15
29. 1 Chronicles 16:8

NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 ALL SAINTS DAY 6 pm Choir	2 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out 3 pm Stewardship 6:30 pm Bible study	3 9 am Bulletin deadline	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service & Communion 11:30 am Deacons Daylight Saving Time ends	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 6 pm Choir	9 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	10 9 am Bulletin deadline TBA Missions	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 Stewardship Sunday Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Special Congregational Meeting	14 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies	15 6 pm Choir	16 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out 6:30 pm Bible study	17 9 am Bulletin deadline 7 pm Trustees	18 OFFICE CLOSED 10 am Finance	19
20 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Christian Ed	21 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies	22 9 am Steeple Deadline 6 pm Choir	23 9 am Bulletin deadline	24 OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING 	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 Advent I Violet - HOPE 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	28 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies 6:30 pm Council	29 6 pm Choir	30 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out 6:30 pm Bible study	<i>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15</i>		



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ends in the wee hours of November 6. When you go to bed on Saturday the 5th, set your clocks backward one hour. On Sunday morning, enjoy an extra hour of sleep or linger over coffee and breakfast. Then we'll see you in church!

Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.

Church office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Rev. Keith Bowie, Transitional Minister
Joyce B. Cornwell, Secretary
Lynn Hall, Organist
Nancy Sargent, Choir Director
Jack Lacey, Moderator 745-1348
Tom MacDonald, Vice Moderator
Sue Fuller, Clerk 610-1626
Troy Tainter, Building Maintenance Director
Leita Zeugner, Treasurer

Sidney Emerson & Lynn Hall,
Financial Secretaries
Katharine Schrader, Deacons 266-2541
Ginny Davis, Missions
Bonnie Carter, Music & Christian Education
Council Members at Large:
Joyce Johnston
Rhyne Robidoux



First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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