

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



**JUNE 2023 - 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*

**R**ummaging around in my home office space recently, in an ambitious but never-ending attempt to organize, discard, and simplify, I came across a newspaper publication entitled *Ellsworth 250*, dated 2013 upon the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of the city of Ellsworth. I read some of its 65 pages with new interest and fresh eyes since I, as your transitional minister, now count myself as among those serving this community. By the way, there were a couple of great aerial pictures of the First Congregational Church and its spire included in the pictorial! However, as much as I love learning about Ellsworth's past, I found myself wondering about the future and the future of the universal church. How viable and vibrant will the church be in coming years?

This question dove-tailed with Maine Conference Minister Marisa Laviola's presentation of "Alive and Thrive" at the spring gathering of the Sunrise Association a week ago. Quoting the Isaiah 43:19 passage of scripture "*Behold, I do a new thing; do you not perceive it?*", Rev. Laviola remains optimistic. "Connecting with the community" seems to be the trendy mantra and current panacea for re-launching the church. Whether "building relationships" will empower the church in a new age or whether we are merely re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic remains to be played out. Are we ready to move out into the world in Jesus' name, and make mission beyond the four walls of the church a high priority?

Breathtaking change and cultural upheaval that we are experiencing are nothing new, but "thanks" to the digital world in which we live things just seem to come at us faster today. One thing that is constant, however, is Jesus Christ "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). That promise reminds us that God was reliable in the past, we can trust God today, and we can hold fast to the hope that is tomorrow.

God bless each of you as we experience June's beauty and as we share the love of family and friends and the family and friendship that is our church.

*Keith*

Rev. Keith Bowie



## JUNE CHURCH MEETINGS

- Adult Forum** – Sundays, 8:30 a.m.  
**Busy Bodies** – Mondays, 10:30 a.m.  
**Choir** – Thursdays, 6 p.m. thru 6/22  
**Music** – TBA  
**Search Comm** – Thursday, June 8, 6:30 p.m.  
                            & Thursday, June 15, 6:30 p.m.  
**Deacons** – Sunday, June 11, 11:30 a.m.  
**Trustees** – Thursday, June 15, 7 p.m.  
**Christian Ed** – Sunday, June 18, 11:30 a.m.  
**Missions** – Sunday, June 25, 11:30 a.m.  
**Council** – Monday, June 26, 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 contact the secretary in the church office (T-W-Th) for Zoom instructions.



**MASKING is OPTIONAL**  
in the church building.

Please maintain physical distance and respect the space of those who wish to continue to wear a mask.



## JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS

### JUNE 4 – TRINITY SUNDAY

Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Matthew 28:16-20

### JUNE 11 – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 12:1-9 & Psalm 31:10-12 OR  
Hosea 5:15-6:6 & Psalm 50:7-15  
Romans 4:13-25  
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

### JUNE 18 – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) &  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 OR  
Exodus 19:2-8a & Psalm 100  
Romans 5:1-8  
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

### MAY 25 – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 21:8-21 & Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 OR  
Jeremiah 20:7-13 &  
Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18  
Romans 6:1b-11  
Matthew 10:24-39

## Memorial Service

for MJ Smith

Saturday, June 3, 2023, 10 a.m.



# DEACONS

- June 4 - Communion, Rev. Keith Bowie**
- June 11 - Rev. Keith Bowie**
- June 18 - Choir Appreciation & Father's Day with Rev. Keith Bowie**
- June 25 - Pilgrim Lodge Sunday with Rev. Mary Angela Davis**
- June Deacon: Cindy Sargent**

Dear Members & Friends who are Gardeners:

Flex your green thumb. Bring out your inner gardener. Missions and Deacons are offering the opportunity to purchase a standing garden bed for the courtyard to be used to grow vegetables, lettuce, and such. This would benefit the Welcome Table and we can offer fresh items to our clients or our parishioners.

Walmart sells boxed standing garden beds from \$55.00 to \$150.00. We believe that four different beds can be placed in this area that really isn't useful for anything else. You can

- 👉 donate a bed,
- 👉 help to purchase a bed, or
- 👉 adopt a bed to tend.

Since the Maine growing season is upon us, we need to start now! Please contact Katharine Schrader, Ginny Davis, or the church office to let us know of your interest. This is a new way to use our church property, serve our community, and show our love for God and neighbors.



## Prayer Calendar names

As we attempt to pray for our entire church family over the course of a year, the Deacons ask that you please include these names in your daily prayers during June:

- Anne & Chauncey 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

## GIVING THANKS FOR SUMMER

Gracious God, Creator of all, thank you for summer!  
 Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.  
 Thank you for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy your creation.  
 Thank you for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and help me slow down to savor the summer season.  
 Draw me closer to you this summer.  
 Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.  
 Warm my soul with the awareness of your presence and light my path with your Word and Counsel.  
 As I enjoy your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for you.

- Author Unknown

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- The C.S. Lewis **Screwtape Letters** book study has ended. Six people attended.
- Sunday morning's Adult Forum continues to be well attended. They meet in the Parlor at 8:30 a.m.
- We would like to know the names of those in the congregation who have been vetted to work in the Nursery. This is for childcare this summer as we need it.

## Meet our New Members

**BOB & MYRNA VALLETTE** - Bob is originally from Massachusetts, and Myrna is from Arizona. Both had careers in the Federal government, including the National Park Service and the Department of Energy. After Bob and Myrna married, they lived in New Hampshire, Maine, Nevada, and Maryland. Upon retirement, they moved to Farmington, Maine, then to Ellsworth in September 2022. Bob's daughter and oldest son live in Maine; Bob and Myrna's two sons, although born in Maine, live out of state. Wherever they have lived, Bob and Myrna have been members of UCC churches. They are very happy to have found a new, welcoming church family at the First Congregational Church of Ellsworth.

**NANCY SARGENT** - "I was raised in the Congregational church in the 50s and 60s. I played the organ and piano for youth church and children's choir and sang in the adult choir there. Since being an adult, I have worshipped and been a member of many churches of different denominations where I've developed a deep faith in God. Since attending this church and participating in choir back to the days of Beth Van Dyk's leadership, I have felt at home and learned it's a place of deep commitment to the teachings of Jesus. I am confident now that the First Congregational Church of Ellsworth is a good place for my membership, and, thank you for your welcome!"

## MUSIC COMMITTEE

- ♪ The Choir will begin its summer hiatus after June 18. Many thanks to our director Nancy Sargent and choir members who have faithfully rehearsed and enriched our services each week. They've earned a break.
- ♪ The McIntyre family will be our guest musicians on July 9.
- ♪ We continue to look for musicians to provide special music for summer worship services. If anyone has names for us, please speak with Bonnie Carter, Nancy Sargent, Anne Bancroft, or Sid Emerson.



## PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE BLUEBERRY CRAFT FAIR

The Blueberry Fair takes place August 5, 2023. The Busy Bodies are seeking items for their Attic Treasures table. Things that usually sell well are gently used, clean household items, books, puzzles, and other appropriate items. No clothing or electronics. Donated items may be left at the church. Please mark "Attic Treasures". Homemade crafts are also welcome for this event. We thank our church family for all your support. You help make our Fairs a success.



## Our website has a new look!



Have you seen the new website? Visit [ELLSWORTHUCC.ORG](http://ELLSWORTHUCC.ORG). All the information from the previous website is there plus a new feature: Past Sermons. This tab is at the top of the homepage along with Home, About, Newsletter, Welcome Table and the others. When you select Past Sermons, it takes you to a page that has audio files of the last four sermons.

Also, during our Public Suppers season, there is a bright red header at the top of every page announcing the event, date, and menu.

Thank you Chris Popper and the folks at Townsquare Media for our new look.

Public Suppers are back! The next public supper is Saturday May 27th and is a Turkey Dinner with all the Trimmings! We will serve from 5-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person, \$27 per family, children under age 5 eat for free.

A screenshot of the website for First Congregational Church UCC. At the top, a red banner contains the text: "Public Suppers are back! The next public supper is Saturday May 27th and is a Turkey Dinner with all the Trimmings! We will serve from 5-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person, \$27 per family, children under age 5 eat for free." Below the banner is a navigation bar with the church logo and name on the left, and menu items: HOME, ABOUT FIRST CONGO, NEWSLETTER, THE WELCOME TABLE, PUBLIC SUPPERS, COVID-19 GUIDELINES, PAST SERMONS, and CONTACT US. The main content area is titled "Past Sermons" and includes the text "Did you miss a sermon? Want to hear the sermon again?". There are two audio player controls: "May 21st sermon" (0:00 / 16:30) and "May 14th sermon" (0:00 / 14:25). A Facebook icon is visible in the bottom left corner, and an up arrow icon is in the bottom right corner.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="color: red; font-size: 2em;">JUNE 2023</h1>				1 9 am Bulletin Deadline 4 pm Chess Club 6 pm Choir	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 10 am MJ Smith Memorial service
4 <b>Green</b> 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	5 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	6	7 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	8 9 am Bulletin Deadline 4 pm Chess Club 6 pm Choir 6:30 pm Search Comm	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10
11 <b>Green</b> 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Deacons	12 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	13	14 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	15 9 am Bulletin Deadline 4 pm Chess Club 6 pm Choir 6:30 pm Search Comm 7 pm Trustees	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17
18 <b>Green</b> 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am CE	19 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	20	21 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	22 9 am Bulletin Deadline 9 am Steeple deadline 4 pm Chess Club	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 5:30 pm Church Supper
25 <b>Green</b> 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Missions	26 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities 6:30 pm Council	27	28 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	29 9 am Bulletin deadline 4 pm Chess Club	30 OFFICE CLOSED	

# Roast Pork Supper

**Saturday, June 24, serving 5:00 to 6:30 pm**



*Roast pork, gravy, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, green beans, salad, rolls, beverages (coffee, tea, lemonade) and homemade pies*

***\$10 per person ~ \$25 per family***

**We need volunteers to set up, cook, serve, wash dishes, and bake pies. Please contact Ruth Tainter immediately about the ways you can help.**

*Our purpose,*  
*First Congregational Church, UCC, Ellsworth, Maine:*  
*To embrace the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ*  
In meaningful and dynamic ways through  
creative worship,  
supportive fellowship,  
compassionate outreach, and  
stimulating Christian education for all ages;  
*To be a faithful community which, led by the Holy Spirit,*  
expresses hospitality,  
nurtures spiritual growth, and  
promotes a deep sense of belonging;  
*To strive to build on commonalities while seeking to*  
understand, accept, and  
celebrate our differences;  
*To stand as a beacon of hope in a hurting and troubled world by*  
sharing the Good News of the Gospel, and  
practicing God's love as embodied by Jesus Christ.  
*We welcome all to walk with us on the journey of faith.*  
*As adopted by the Congregation at its Annual Meeting – January 22, 2012*



**First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**  
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