

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



JULY 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

I gave the following story in church recently and was asked to share it again for *The Steeple*.

There's an old story—probably not true—about an actor who collapsed on stage during a performance in a theater. The audience gasped, then another actor waved his arms and shouted, "Is there a doctor in the house?"

From high in the balcony came a loud shout, "Give him chicken soup!"

The actor who had asked for a doctor shook his head. "Sir, this man is gravely ill. We need a doctor at once."

Again, the voice called out, "Give him chicken soup!"

"Sir," the actor yelled back. "You're not helping! Every second is precious. He may even be dead. Chicken soup will not do him a bit of good."

To which the voice from the balcony replied, "Couldn't hurt!"

As I said, that story is probably not true. But it makes me think of how very serious the world's problems seem, sometimes, and how small and ineffective the church's response seems to the task at hand. People are still hungry. There are countries without clean water. Disasters due to fire or flooding abound. American teens are more depressed than ever, in part owing to social media and some grown-up always telling them that their world is doomed. Maybe you are wondering if your gifts to the church of time, talent, and treasure are nothing but chicken soup—something that makes us feel good for having done it or having brought it, but is not the strong medicine the world needs.



The difference is that we are putting the chicken soup into the hands of Jesus! Jesus is the great healer of the world's ills. Our gifts, because of our shared faith in God, are combined with those of other believers everywhere, not only from our faith tradition, but ecumenically with many others. Have you noticed that in the stories of healing from the Gospels, sometimes all Jesus offers is a touch, which doesn't seem like it would help any more than chicken soup. But the power of Jesus transforms a touch into wellness. The power of Jesus transforms our small and tiny efforts into a transfusion of hope! So continue doing all that you do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and have some faith, hope, and love. After all, it couldn't hurt!

Rev. Keith Bowie

Keith

JULY CHURCH MEETINGS

- Adult Forum** – Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
Busy Bodies – Mondays, 10:30 a.m., not July 3
Music – TBA
Search Comm – Thursday, July 6, 6:30 p.m.
Deacons – no July meeting
Christian Ed – Sunday, July 16, 11:30 a.m.
Trustees – Thursday, July 20, 7 p.m.
Missions – TBA
Council – Monday, July 24, 6 :30 p.m.

QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

- Sunday, July 23, 11 a.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.



JULY LECTIONARY READINGS

JULY 2 – 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 22:1-14 & Psalm 13 OR
Jeremiah 28:5-9 & Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

JULY 9 – 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 &
Psalm 45:10-17 OR
Song of Solomon 2:8-13 OR
Zechariah 9:9-12 & Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

JULY 16 – 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 25:19-34 & Psalm 119:105-112 OR
Isaiah 55:10-13 & Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

JULY 23 – 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 28:10-19a & Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 OR
Isaiah 44:6-8 & Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

JULY 30 – 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 29:15-28 & Psalm 105:1-11, 45b OR
Psalm 128 OR
1 Kings 3:5-12 & Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-29
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**QUARTERLY
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**
Sunday, July 23

Please submit any items for discussion to the church office by Tuesday, July 18. Questions? Contact the Moderator. The meeting will convene at 11:30 a.m. in the Dining Hall.

DEACONS

July 2 - Communion, Rev. Keith Bowie

July 9 - Rev. Keith Bowie

July 16 - Rev. David Henry

July 23 - Rev. Keith Bowie

July 30 - Rev. Keith Bowie

July Deacon: Anne Bancroft

It's summer in Maine! Aren't we fortunate to live in this beautiful place? I hope that you can enjoy some lazy days of summer that are part of poems, songs, and many other things.

In the church, people ask me a lot about the liturgical color **GREEN** and what it means. I knew it is called Ordinary Time. Then I did a little more investigation. **Green** means **HOPE**. This is the time of hope for the Church overall. **Green** is the time between Easter and Advent when we live in celebration of Christ's resurrection. This feels appropriate and particularly relatable to our church at this time. We are in a time of **HOPE** with the many changes being proposed and the current search for a new spiritual leader. We need to pray for the many things happening throughout our church and community.

HOPE is as much a part of God's dreams and plans for us as our own dreams and plans for First Congregational Church. **HOPE** is **GREEN** and **GREEN** is **HOPE**!

MAKE & TAKE EVENT

JULY 15, 1-3 P.M.

So far, the weather has not helped us kick this off—so we're going to try again in July! Please join us Saturday, July 15, at Knowlton Park for Make & Take a Craft Stick Project. Anybody can do this. Bring a friend and make a project.

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 July:

- Peter & Sue Bedard
- Louise & Sid Emerson
- Barry & Marianne Jordan
- Brian & Jane Langley
- Donna Shea
- Mary T. Turner
- Martin Vachon
- David & Susan Jordan
- George Sealy
- Abby Morrow
- Chris & Gayle Cambridge

TRAIL OF HOPE

Painted rocks are popular right now and we want to propose a project that First Congregational Church initiates and invites the whole community to participate. We want to start a "Trail of Hope" whereby each of us adds a rock with a word or image painted on it. The rock trail would surround the church. How far, how long can we make a Trail of Hope grow?

This will be advertised in the Ellsworth American and throughout the community for folks to bring a rock and add to the trail. **This event begins Sunday, July 2 and will continue through the summer and fall.**

Questions? Speak with Katharine Schrader.



*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **HOPE**.*

- Romans 15:13

CHURCH VEGGIE GARDEN

We have planters in the church courtyard. Now we need seedlings and green thumbs to tend them. Contact Ginny Davis or Katharine Schrader with your interest.



On Communion Sundays, we are asking folks to bring donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food pantry. Donations may be non-perishable food items or monetary gifts. Look for the donations and collection boxes in the front of the sanctuary.

You may also bring your donations to the church during regular office hours, Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

If you have questions, please contact Ginny Davis or Lois Stevens.

BLUEBERRY CRAFT FAIR SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 8 A.M. - NOON

The Blueberry Fair takes place August 5.

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.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Everyone is welcome to attend the Adult Forum on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Questions about the group? Speak with Tom MacDonald.
- Thank you to those who responded to our query about covering summer nursery and Sunday school as needed.



- ♪ If you know of musicians who might provide special music during summer Sundays, please contact Bonnie Carter.
- ♪ **The McIntyre family band will be our guest musicians during morning worship on Sunday, July 9. We hope you will be at worship that day to welcome them.**
- ♪ Many thanks to everyone who helped restore the Choir room after the burst pipe incident. It's nice to be back home in our lovely rehearsal space.
- ♪ Can someone help to fashion and install a shelf over the rod in the choir robe closet? Contact Bonnie Carter or Sid Emerson.
- ♪ **The [Maryland State Boychoir](#) will perform a free concert in our sanctuary! Please join us on Monday evening, July 17, at 7:30. (We need servers to feed the choir before the event. Contact Lois Stevens.)**



MONDAY,
JULY 17

The Maryland State Boychoir **Concert Choir - LIVE IN CONCERT**

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

First Congregational Church of Ellsworth
2 Church Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605






CONCERT - 7:30 PM

www.marylandstateboychoir.org

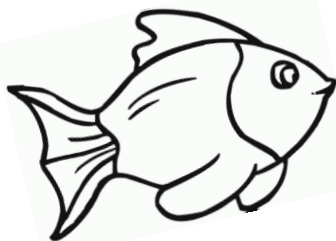
+1410.554.8644

info@marylandstateboychoir.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="display: inline; margin-left: 20px;">JULY 2023</h1>						1
2 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service & Communion <i>TRAIL OF HOPE BEGINS</i>	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 OFFICE CLOSED 	5 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	6 9 am Bulletin Deadline 4 pm Chess Club 6:30 pm Search Committee	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8
9 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	10 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	11	12 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	13 9 am Bulletin Deadline 4 pm Chess Club	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 <i>1 pm Make & Take</i>
16 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am CE	17 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities 7:30 pm MSBC concert	18	19 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	20 9 am Bulletin & Steeple deadlines 4 pm Chess Club 7 pm Trustees	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 5:30 pm Church Supper
23 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Quarterly Congregational mtg	24 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities 6:30 pm Council	25	26 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	27 9 am Bulletin deadline 4 pm Chess Club	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 Green 8:30 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	31 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	1 AUGUST →	2 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm Welcome Table take-out	3 9 am Bulletin deadline 4 pm Chess Club	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 Blueberry Fair 8 am-noon  3 pm Dunn service

Baked Haddock Supper

Saturday, July 22, serving 5:00 to 6:30 pm



Baked haddock, mashed potatoes, carrots, green beans, salad, rolls, homemade pies and beverages (coffee, tea, lemonade)

\$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.

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
Tom MacDonald, Vice Moderator
Sue Fuller, Clerk
Troy Tainter, Building Maintenance Director
Leita Zeugner, Treasurer

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

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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Ellsworth, Maine 04605

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