

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



MAY 2024 - 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

It is disgusting and utterly disgraceful to see rampant, unchecked antisemitism raising its ugly head at some of our nation's most elite universities like Harvard, Yale, and MIT. The actions of these anti-Israel agitators need to be roundly condemned. This is not free speech, it is hate speech. Shouting slogans like "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "We are Hamas," and "Long Live Hamas," these far-left radicalized extremist activists hate Israel, hate the United States, hate capitalism, and hate religion. And these are our future leaders? God help us. They are not protestors but rather disruptors and anarchists who need to be suspended from school. They need to be taken away in cuffs (thankfully, some of them have) after blocking and disrupting traffic on the Golden Gate Bridge and Brooklyn Bridge. They cover their faces with masks and refuse to speak to the press.

Most of all, they are abysmally ignorant. They don't seem to know some basic facts, like that Israel is the *only* country in the Middle East that has been an uninterrupted democracy since its founding in 1948, after the United Nations granted the Jews a state following the horrors of the Holocaust. The Arabs were also granted a state at the time, but they chose to refuse it and start a war. They don't seem to care that Israel is a tiny state the size of New Jersey with a population of 9 million surrounded by twenty-one Arab countries, population approximately 423 million. Who is the David and who is the Goliath here? They charge Israel with being a colonialist state, which is absurd, as Israel is a refugee state that was decolonized from British rule. While everyone seems to have a strong opinion about Israel, how many people actually know the facts? I have found it helpful to read Noa Tishby's book *"Israel: A Simple Guide To The*

Most Misunderstood Country On Earth” to help separate fact from fiction. Written with wit and passion, it is well worth the read for anyone needing understanding and perspective on all the complexities of this part of the world.

May God protect and safeguard all Jewish students on these college campuses who are being intimidated, threatened, and who are having their studies disrupted. May God protect Israel from those who desire Israel’s total annihilation. May God grant some backbone to those political leaders who publicly support Israel but privately are working to throw Israel under the bus. And, yes, may God grant some enlightenment and tolerance to the antisemitic mobs.

That in all things God may be glorified,

Keith

Rev. Keith Bowie



MAY CHURCH MEETINGS

- Adult Forum** – Sundays, 8:15 a.m.
- Busy Bodies** – Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
- Choir** – Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- Music** – TBA
- Search Comm.** – Thursday, May 2, 6:00 p.m.
- Christian Ed** – Sunday, May 12, 11:30 a.m.
- Deacons** – Sunday, May 12, 11:30 a.m.
- Trustees** – Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m.
- Council** – Monday, May 20, 6 :30 p.m.
- Missions** – Sunday, May 26, 11:30

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.



THE BUSY BODIES

The Busy Bodies will be holding our Fair again in August.

Please consider donating a handmade craft or knit/crochet project.

We always appreciate any help you can give us.



MAY LECTIONARY READINGS

MAY 5 THE 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 john 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

MAY 9 IS ASCENSION DAY

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 OR Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

MAY 12 THE 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 11:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 john 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

MAY 19 – PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or **Acts 2:1-21**
John 15:26-27; 16:4b -15



MAY 26 - TRINITY SUNDAY

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17



PENTECOST PRAYER

*Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.***



DEACONS

- May 5 - Communion, Rev. Keith Bowie
Loaves & Fishes Sundy
- May 12 - Mother's Day, Rev. Keith Bowie
Ministerial Discretionary Fund
- May 19 - **Pentecost**, Red Sunday, Rev. Keith Bowie
- May 26 - Memorial Day, Guest Minister
- May Deacon of the Month: Anne Bancroft

MUSINGS FROM THE DIACONATE CHAIR

I feel like I have been on a whirlwind of carnival rides, and it seems to be continuing to be moving right through Spring towards the Summer with an uncanny speed. Our church calendar also attests to this by the seasons of Lent, Easter, and the Resurrection as we move toward the birthday of the church on Pentecost. This is one of the bigger holidays in the Church year. This is the day we recognize the sharing of the Holy Spirit with the disciples to equip them to spread the news of Christ and God to the world. What a gift we are able to receive because we believe in our Lord ! Remember to **WEAR RED** on the 19th to join in for the celebration of PENTECOST.



{{ Let's Celebrate Our Member of the Month }}

We would like to recognize a different church member each month.

To kick start our celebration we are introducing our new Church Clerk, Myrna Vallette. Myrna joined our church family in April of 2023 with her husband, Bob. They had moved to Ellsworth from Farmington. Myrna has been an active member of Busy Bodies. Myrna was born and raised in the arid state of Arizona. She has two children and two stepchildren; all are successful adults that she and Bob enjoy visiting. Myrna is a retired federal employee. Myrna is very happy to be an active participant in this congregation. She appreciates the very warm welcome she has received since coming to our church family.



Prayer Calendar names

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

Bruce Becque

Bob Clement

Kara Ibarguen & Brendan Minear

Charlie & Cindy Sargent

Ruth & Troy Tainter

Belva Scott, Caleb & Cameron

Jacqueline Goebel

Catherine Engel

Barbara Rolleston

Kristin Kimball



The UCC Offering for the month of May were donations for “Blankets” and are used worldwide. Offering envelopes can be found in the pews.

Missions are planning to start planting in the church window boxes and raised beds in the courtyard as soon as the weather is warm enough. We will be planting with seeds or seedlings for vegetables and herbs . Potting soil is going to be needed if anyone would like to help.

Don't forget the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry box at the State Street entrance of the church. A list of most needed items is on the box with take home lists available on the table. A money donation allows the Pantry to stretch the dollars the furthest.

The Welcome Table serves over 100 meals a week. Money donations are the most helpful donation for the Welcome Table. We really hope to see more friends/volunteers wanting to help out on Wednesdays getting the meals prepared or ready for carried-out.



CALLING ALL...
LAITY, DELEGATES, PASTORS AND
GUESTS
OF THE SUNRISE ASSOCIATION
MAINE CONFERENCE UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

YOU ARE INVITED TO...SPRING MEETING 2024
SATURDAY / May 4, 2024 / 8:15 - 12:15


Hosted by Pilgrim Lodge - Maine Conference United Church of Christ
Address: 103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane, West Gardiner, ME 04345 Phone:
(207) 724-3200

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- 8:15 Breakfast
- 8:45 Welcome & Worship
- 9:15 Handouts & Meeting Logistics
- 9:45 Business Meeting *Committee Reports *Responsible Gun Reform Legislation
- *Sunrise Immersion possibilities among the Wabanaki & in El Salvador
- *November Election Response Team
- 10:45 Break
- 11:05 Pilgrim Lodge Presentation
- 11:45 Outstanding Business
- 12:00 Adjournment
- 12:15 Lunch
- 12:45 Special Tour of Pilgrim Lodge

NOTE: PILGRIM LODGE OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION FROM PL CAMP DIRECTOR LIZ MCGOUGH ON PAGE 2. WHAT TO BRING...IS A SEPARATE ATTACHMENT

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:00 am Bulletin Deadline 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm To-Go Welcome Table 6:30 pm Book study	2 4 pm Chess Club 6 pm Choir	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 Acadia Choral Society 4:00 pm
5 White 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 1ST Quarterly Meeting	6 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	7 Work on June Steeple has begun. Send in articles and notices any time	8 11:00 am Bulletin Deadline 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm To-Go Welcome Table 6:30 pm Book study	9 Ascension White 4 pm Chess Club 6 pm Choir	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 White 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am CE 11:30 am Deacons	13 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	14	15 11:00 am Bulletin Deadline 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm To-Go Welcome Table 6:30 pm Book study	16 4 pm Chess Club 6 pm Choir 7 pm Trustees	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 Pentecost Red 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	20 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	21 Steeple articles, notices & updates much appreciated	22 11:00 am Bulletin Deadline 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm To-Go Welcome Table 6:30 pm Book study	23 4 pm Chess Club 6 pm Choir	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 5:30 pm Church Chowder Dinner 5:00 – 6:30
26 White or Green 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Missions	27 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities 6:30 pm Council	28 June Steeple Information before noon today.	29 11:00 am Bulletin Deadline 1-4 pm Bowie office 2:30-4 pm To-Go Welcome Table 6:30 pm Book study	30 4 pm Chess Club 6 pm Choir	31 OFFICE CLOSED	

Chowder Supper

First Congregational Church
of Ellsworth, UCC
2 Church Street

Saturday, May 25, 2024
Serving 5:00 to 6:30 pm



Fish or corn chowder, tossed salad, oyster
crackers or Saltines, homemade pies,
and beverages (coffee, tea, lemonade),

\$10 per person
\$25 per family (2 adults, 2 children)

Great food ~ Great company ~ Great fun

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/01 Michelle Sargent
5/01 Jon Foss
5/02 Mary Morrow
5/06 Sarah Langley
5/06 Linda Barnes
5/06 Danielle Carter
5/12 Anna Jordan
5/13 Don Knowles
5/17 Lee Johnston
5/18 Michael Turner
5/21 Robert Schrader
5/22 Pauline Scott
5/23 Lynn Hall
5/23 Susan Van Pelt
5/24 Becky Leamon
5/24 Sheila Knowles
5/24 Brenda Jordan
5/27 Jenn Allen
5/28 Barry Jordan

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/01 Peter & Cathi Goebel
5/24 Jon & Cookie Foss
5/25 Albert & Pauline Scott



***Please notify the church office if your name
is missing from the monthly birthday and
anniversary lists.***

Please help us conserve paper and ink. If you received this newsletter by snail mail and have an email address, please contact the church at 667-8321 or **office@ellsworthucc.org**. You may also leave a note on the secretary's desk. Thank you!

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
Sue Fuller, Moderator 745-1348
Tom MacDonald, Vice Moderator
Myrna Vallette, Clerk 610-1626
Troy Tainter, Building Maintenance Director
Ken Farkas, 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

PO Box 12, 2 Church Street

Ellsworth, Maine 04605

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