



# THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST, UCC

*An Open  
and Affirming Congregation*

**Week of January 14 – January 21, 2018**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A warm and loving welcome is extended to all who worship among us this morning. If you are a **visitor**, please sign the guest book in the narthex, fill out a pew card if you'd like and put it in the offering box. Then join us for coffee and light refreshments in the parlor after the service. We are happy to have you with us!

**A Prayer List is available as you enter the Sanctuary. Please feel free to place on that list any joy or concern you may have. These will be read (as they are written) before the prayer time.**

**If you are hospitalized or you know of a member of our congregation who is hospitalized, please let Pastor Joel or Pastor Kate know.**

**Head Usher:** *Gary Grant*  
**Deacons of the Month:** *Roger Haynes & Richard Fiske*

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF AND CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING**  
*Sunday, January 28, 2018—11:30 a.m. First Church Fellowship Hall*

*The Annual Meeting and pot luck will be held on Sunday, January 28 following morning worship in the upstairs Fellowship Hall. We will begin right after worship with a Potluck luncheon followed by the business meeting. Please bring a dish to share.*

*The Nominating Committee will present the 2018 slate of officers and board and committee members for approval. The 2018 Budget will also be presented for approval. The following will be presented for a vote: (1) Motion to suspend Article 8, Section 1 of the by-laws dealing with the composition of the Church Council. (Explanation: Our provisional new organization makes that change.)*

*(2) To see if the congregation wants to limit Church Council membership to covenant members of First Church.*

*Nancy Brown & Linda Smith, Co-Clerks*

Groups, please volunteer for coffee hour. Trustees ask other groups to please sign up and host a Sunday coffee hour. Trustees have hosted the first coffee hour of the year for some time, and we have fun with it. Some of us baked, and some bought small things to contribute. As a group, we enjoyed ourselves setting up and cleaning up, and we caught up on everyone's news. Coffee hour after church is an important part of our community outreach and fellowship. Please, won't you volunteer to take one Sunday this winter? Thank you.

Annual Reports - 2017 – are due to the church office by Tuesday, January 16.

**Martin Luther King Candlelight Walk** – All are invited to gather at the Belfast Post Office Square on Monday, Jan. 15, at 4:30 pm and then march to First Church, where we will gather to sing, listen to the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., and hear guest speaker Joseph Jackson, Coordinator of Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition. For more information, talk to Pastor Joel.

**Special Food Cupboard Distribution** – On Saturday, Jan. 20, there will be a special distribution day at the GBAM Food Cupboard. Since this is not part of the regular food cupboard schedule, we are looking for volunteers to come and help. We will meet at 9:00 am (located at the Belfast United Methodist Church, 23 Mill Lane) to set up and begin distribution at 10:00 am. For more information, see our Food Cupboard reps Patty Sheehan or Sarah Garbe. Thank you!

**Maine Women's March 2.0** – A group of folks from First Church are planning to attend the Women's March in Augusta on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 11:00 a.m. Those who would like to carpool will meet at First Church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. You can talk to Pat Kaplan if interested. Here is the official invitation: **"Greetings Maine! Are you ready to march again? Bundle up, bring your American flags, signs and your friends and family! We are gathering at the Maine State House on Saturday, January 20 at 11 am. We will begin with a rally, march from the State House around Capitol Park and end with the rest of the rally at the State House. Amazing speakers will inspire you. Native drummers will move you. And we hope the day will kickstart 2018 with momentum to bring POWER TO THE POLLS.** Parking is available at the Capitol parking lots, but also across State street and off Union in the state government parking lots."

Also, the Maine Conference UCC office extended this invitation: **"YOU ARE INVITED to gather at the Conference Office, One Weston Court, Suite 104, Augusta! We'll open at 9:30am and have coffee/tea/cocoa - and if you would like to bring potluck for lunch, we can share a bite before we head back home. We'll have some sign making materials as well. Let's march together for a better world!!!"** All are welcome!

**Readings for next Sunday** – 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); 1 Cor 6:12-20; John 1:43-51.

**The Sunrise Association** has invited us to pray each week for a sister church. This week we hold up in our prayers the First Congregational Church of Ellsworth.

**"What's that kid doing?"** - Our children need our support, acceptance and encouragement as they grow in their ability to fully participate in worship according to their own unique abilities and experiences. Some may have a shorter attention span, may need activities to help them quietly attend to the service, may need to physically move their bodies, some may only attend for part of our opening. As a welcoming congregation, we honor the path each child takes, at their own pace, to becoming a full participant in worship.

If you would like a visit or more information about the church, please call the church office at 338-2282.

**Children** are always welcome at First Church during the church service. There is **nursery care**, with an attendant, available for infants to preschoolers (through the door to the right of the pulpit area) during the service. There are rocking chairs available in the narthex for those with very little ones and a diaper changing station in the ADA rest room in the Parish House. Also, children and youth in grades K-12 are welcome to attend Sunday School class after the Young People's message.

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH**

Today	Jan	14	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
			10:00 am	Worship
Monday	Jan	15	4:30 pm	MLK Candlelight Walk to First Church
			6:30 pm	NA
Wednesday	Jan	17	4:30 pm	House Church
Saturday	Jan	20	9:00 am	Carpooling for Women's March
Sunday	Jan	21	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
			10:00 am	Worship
				Council

The First Church in Belfast, United Church of Christ

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First Church website: www.firstchurchinbelfast.org    Contact: webmaster@firstchurchinbelfast.org

Facebook: firstchurchinbelfastUCC

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Office Administrator: Nancy Brown

Religious Education Director: Beth Haynes    Nursery Attendant: Brenda Warman

Organist/Choir Director: John Cameron

Custodial Staff: Allen Eldridge    Sexton: Rowena Lisa

Treasurer: Chair Trustees, Todd Hall    Financial Secretary: Nancy Rice

Moderator: Jane Grant    Co-Clerks: Linda Smith & Nancy Brown

Webmaster: Jim Kuffert    Videographer: Kathleen Kearns

Pastors: Rev. Joel Krueger and Rev. Dr. Kate Winters

Ministers: All the people

BCTV Broadcast on Time-Warner Cable Channel 2

*Belfast: Sun 9:30 am & 6:00 pm, Mon 10:00 am, Thurs 2:00 pm; Fri 6:00 am, Sat 5:30 pm*

*Searsport: Saturdays at 6:00pm, Sundays 9:00am & 6:00pm and Mondays 9:00am.*

*Church services can also be viewed through our website.*

*"Like" us on Facebook!*

### **The First Church Welcoming Statement**

We, the people of the First Church in Belfast, United Church of Christ, declare ourselves to be a gathered body of Christians, ever open to the voice of the Still Speaking God. In the spirit of those who worshipped here :30before us for over 200 years, we strive to witness God's love and Jesus' example in the wider community. To that end, we engage and support all people, whoever they may be and wherever they are on their spiritual journey, in worship, fellowship and service. We intentionally and joyfully welcome people of every race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, physical and mental ability, socio-economic situation and faith background into the full life, ministry, sacraments and leadership of this church. We celebrate and support family in all its diverse forms and recognize and bless all loving and committed relationships. Together, we will strive, in the words of the prophet Micah, "to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly