



## THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST, UCC

*An Open  
and Affirming Congregation*

**Week of February 11 – February 18, 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:** *Roger Haynes*  
**Deacons of the Month:** *Linda & Dick Smith*

**Prayer Partners:** Lent begins on February 14th with Ash Wednesday so we are looking for Prayer Partners for our youth. They will be serving the congregation pancakes with a variety of toppings today, Chubby Sunday, There is a sign-up sheet in the parlor if you have not already signed up. (We need 4/5 more to sign up). The children really look forward to getting these notes telling about how things were for you when you were young and to getting to know you in person. The first question will be posted today in the parlor for you to think about but the notes will not start until February 18th. Please think about taking part during this reflective time of our Christian calendar.

**CIRCLE OF PRESENCE** we will begin Lent this Saturday with a Lenten themed two hour retreat. We will begin in the parlor at 10 am on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Coffee and tea will be served, bring a snack if you so desire! Or shall we fast?! All are welcome!

**Social Justice Team** - Sunday, Feb. 25, the newly formed Social Justice Team will be having a panel discussion on its Mission, goals, and role immediately after the service. Please attend because your input is a vital part of our founding principles.

**Maine Interfaith Advocacy Days** – On March 19 & 20, people of all faiths will gather together in our state capital to worship, learn, and advocate effectively with Maine's legislators on the issues of immigration, poverty, health care, and climate justice. Please join us as we lift our voices on these important issues. Sponsored by the Maine Council of Churches and others. For more information, please talk to Judy or Dana Williams. Scholarships for both registration fees and travel expenses are available on a first-come, first-served basis and registration is required.

**March Messenger** – Items for the March Messenger are due to the church office no later than Feb. 20.

**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.

**Readings for next Sunday** – Gen 9:8-17; Ps 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mk 1:9-15.

**The Sunrise Association** has invited us to pray each week for a sister church. This week we hold up in our prayers Union Congregational Church of Isle Au Haut.

**"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	Feb	11	8:30 am 10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal Worship Chubby Sunday Pancake Brunch RE
Monday	Feb	12	6:30 pm	NA
Tuesday	Feb	13	10:00 pm 1:00 pm 4:30 pm 5:30 pm	Food Cupboard Board – parlor Restorative Justice – parlor Diaconate Midcoast Ukes practice - Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	Feb	14	11:00 am 5:00 pm	Welcome Team @ Bell the Cat Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday	Feb	15	5:00 pm	MAC – parlor
Saturday	Feb	17	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Circle of Presence Valentine Public Supper
Sunday	Feb	18	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Choir Rehearsal Worship Council

#### The First Church in Belfast, United Church of Christ

8 Court Street, Belfast, Maine 04915 Ph: 207-338-2282

[office@firstchurchinbelfast.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinbelfast.org)    [joelfirstchurchinbelfast@gmail.com](mailto:joelfirstchurchinbelfast@gmail.com)    [katewinters@live.com](mailto:katewinters@live.com)

First Church website: [www.firstchurchinbelfast.org](http://www.firstchurchinbelfast.org)    Contact: [webmaster@firstchurchinbelfast.org](mailto:webmaster@firstchurchinbelfast.org)

Facebook: [firstchurchinbelfastUCC](https://www.facebook.com/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 before 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 with our God."