



THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST, UCC

*An Open
and Affirming Congregation*

Week of March 11 – March 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*

Church Council – meets next Sunday after worship in the library.

Walk Out Against Gun Violence - Belfast High School students have planned a school walkout on school grounds at 10:00 AM Wednesday, March 14th, for 17 minutes for the 17 children and adults massacred on Valentine's Day at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Anyone wishing to show support for these students will gather on the corner of Main and High streets in Belfast at 10:00 AM on that day. Members of the Social Justice Team of The First Church in Belfast will participate in this action with signs, the church banner, and a ringing of the church bells for 17 minutes to honor the victims. They invite all to join them as they stand in solidarity with students and others across this nation who call for strong gun measures to counter the epidemic of gun violence plaguing our nation.

In Love We Sing – Practice for the In Love We Sing choral flash mob to be held on April 7th at 11:00 a.m. at the United Farmer's Market, will be this Thursday, March 15th, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome to join us! For more information, please speak to Pat Kaplan

St. Patrick's Day Dinner – Come and taste Vicki's scrumptious Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner with all the traditional fixin's! Saturday, March 17th (St. Patrick's Day), 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Music by Celtic Harpist Nancy Schroeder as well as John Cameron and his Irish-for-a-day friends, who'll make you feel you're back in the highlands of ol' Ireland! Cost: \$10/person; \$25/family. Erin go bragh!

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.

A Message from Phil Damon – Hi Kate and Joel. Charlotte is now in a wonderful facility with a private room and an adjacent patio where people can rest if Charlotte is sleeping. Charlotte understands but her ability to speak is often very limited. We appreciate the thoughts and prayers of First Church in Belfast. Best wishes, Charlotte and Phillip Damon. Cards and messages can be sent to their California home: 2202 Vista Drive, Vista, CA 92084)

Readings for next Sunday – Jer 31:-34; Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16; Heb 5:5-10; Jn 12:20-33.

The Sunrise Association has invited us to pray each week for a sister church. This week we hold up in our prayers Monroe Community Church, UCC.

"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	Mar	11	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
			10:00 am	Worship/Biblical Jeopardy RE
Monday	Mar	12	6:30 pm	NA
Tuesday	Mar	13	10:00 am	Food Cupboard Board
			5:30 pm	Trustees
Wednesday	Mar	14	10:30 am	Harbor Hill Worship
			4:30 pm	House Church - parlor
Thursday	Mar	15	6:30 pm	Choral Flash Mob practice - sanctuary
Saturday	Mar	17	10:00 am	Circle of Presence
			5:00 pm	St. Patrick's Day Public Supper
Sunday	Mar	18	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
			10:00 am	Worship
			11:30 am	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](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 :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