

# THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST, UCC

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

**Week of May 21 – May 28, 2017**

## 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.**

**Head Usher:** *Gary Grant*

**Deacons of the Month:** *Pam Burrows & Sarah Vail*

**Council** – meets today at 11:30 in the library.

**Pastors on Vacation!** – Kate and Joel will be gone on vacation from May 15-30 and will return to work May 31. If you have an emergency while they are gone, please call our Church Office Administrator, Nancy Brown, at 323-2554. Please keep them in your prayers while they travel. Thank you.

**Friendship Walk.** Our new brick walkway to Church Street has a wonderful feature: the chance to place memorial bricks. The first memorial brick has been installed. It's in loving memory of the late Betty Breslin who gave so much of herself to First Church. Other bricks have been engraved and will be installed as soon as the weather holds. Bricks can be engraved with different messages: in memory of a dear departed loved one; in recognition of a birth or anniversary; in honor of a cherished family, tradition or cause. To order a brick, get a brochure at the usher's station or office, or go to [www.thatsmybrick.com](http://www.thatsmybrick.com).

**Attention Garden Enthusiasts:** Soon the children will be planting the Gratitude Garden with help on June 11th right after worship. After planting there will be a picnic for all. This year we are asking for some help during the summer. Many of our children are very young so had difficulty weeding their section of the garden last year. Beth Haynes and Brenda Warman tried to keep up with the weeds but the weeds won out! At the end of the hall by the Spring Street entrance you will see a bulletin board that the children have made to show what they want to plant this year. If you are willing to help out with some weeding, please feel free to sign up for a couple of rows. Beth will mark each row with a Bible verse and then assign them to our Heavenly Helpers. We will greatly appreciate this!!!

**Summer Fair (July 8)** – the plant table is asking for perennials, annuals, herbs, houseplants and old garden tools for our sale. At this time, we are in need of medium to large (6" to 10") pots to pot a large donation of plants. Questions – call Yvonne Davis (567-3675).

**Mission Partners** – On Sunday, May 28th, we will have Maryjane & Don Westra here at First Church to tell us about their experiences as Global Ministries Mission Personnel. They have served in Honduras and in Zimbabwe and will be at our church to preach and tell us about the work they do and the people they have served. This should be an exciting day of worship, so don't miss it! The Westras will be coming to Maine for the first time, traveling in a camper and will be staying with some friends who live in Belfast. However, we still need one or two people who will serve as their hosts here at First Church. If you can act as our contact person with them and be willing to take them out to lunch after church on May 28th, please talk to Jane Grant. Thank you.

**Memorial Celebration for Georgia Randall** – There will be a celebration remembering Georgia Randall, who died earlier this year, but who would have been 104 today! The gathering will be held at the Deborah Lincoln House, where she lived (60 Cedar St., Belfast) at 2:00 p.m. today. All are welcome to go and share in remembering this wonderful lady who was a part of our church for many years.

**Maine Syria Relief** - For a second year, First Church, along with other GBAM churches, will be gathering donations for shipment to the people of Syria through Maine Syria Relief. In the coming weeks, please bring used clothing, blankets, shoes, as well as duct tape, tarps, infant formula and diapers to the church parlor. Also, please participate in the pack up of relief items on June 17th here at First Church for delivery to Maine Syria Relief in Rockland.

**New Members** who did not get their Welcome bags can pick them up in the parlor.

**Sign up opportunities!** If you are new to First Church and have decided you would like to start participating, the sign-up sheet in the parlor, by the windows, is a great place to start! You may sign up to be a greeter (self explanatory), provide flowers for the altar (see Patti Sheehan for details) or help with coffee hour (see Vicki Keller for details)! Volunteers are the backbone of our church family and you would be most welcome to join us!

**June Messenger** – News items and updates for June are due to the church office no later than May 23.

**Readings for next Sunday** – Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Pet 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11.

**The Sunrise Association** has invited us to pray each week for a sister church. This week we hold up in our prayers Dedham Congregational 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	May	21	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
			10:00 am	Worship
			11:30 am	Council
Monday	May	22	6:30 pm	NA
Wednesday	May	24	5:00 pm	House Church
Thursday	May	25	5-90 pm	Restorative Justice - Parlor
Sunday	May	28	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
			10:00 am	Worship

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

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

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: Pamela Chase   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

#### AZTV 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."