

THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST, UCC

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Week of August 13 – August 20, 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.

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: *Richard Fiske & Roger Haynes*

Prayer Stone – Please select a Prayer Stone from the basket in the parlor to keep in your pocket or purse. The children have created these for you. Some will have some “bumps in the road” – the little beads. Each color is for a different prayer: red for strength; orange for happiness; yellow for wisdom; green for healing; blue for peace; purple for forgiveness; white for new beginnings; brown for being grounded in the moment; or black for unknown possibilities. If you cannot find the color you want, let Beth Haynes know. All prayer stones have pink for God's unconditional love.

House Church will meet at our regular 5 pm time on Wednesday at the parsonage, 22 Crocker Street. After our service, we will have a **sing-along while roasting hot dogs** over a fire (weather permitting!). BYOCC (bring your own camp chair, if you have one) and also you are welcome to bring a dessert or salad to share. All are welcome. Talk to Cathie Jorgensen or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

The Circle of Presence will meet this Saturday the 19th at 10 a.m. in the parlor at First Church. This will allow us to bring snacks and have coffee! For those who are interested, the circle is comprised of both men and women, most from First Church, though not all, who meet for silent prayer, conversation, discussion of short readings, and deepening friendship. It is a welcoming group, and if you are at all interested in connecting with people at the heart level, try it out! All are welcome. If you have questions, talk to Pastor Kate.

Organ Concert – Sun. Aug. 27 at 4:00 pm. Kevin Birch, Director of Music at St. John's Church in Bangor and a member of the music faculty at the UM School of the Performing Arts in Orono, will present a concert on our Stevens Tracker Organ. This event is free and all are invited. Donations will be accepted for the organ maintenance fund.

TANSY CAPER COMPLETED - The Tansy Caper was completed on Monday, August 7th, and 74 bundles of tansy containing approximately 1,800 tansy stalks are drying in Doris Allred and Katie Winship's garage attic. Thank you, Doris and Katie, for drying the tansy again for the wreath project. Thank you to Roger Powers, Connie Leslie, Martha Ortmann, Alma Homola, and Sarah Garbe for cutting the tansy. Thank you to Linda and Truman Bitely, Barbara and Roger Powers, Sarah Garbe, Nancy Rice and Denise Goodman for preparing the tansy for drying. Thank you to John Daly for assisting with cleanup and hanging the tansy bundles in Katie and Doris's garage attic. Clusters of tansy flowers will be tucked in between pine cones on the decorated wreaths in late November and early December to add color and another texture to the wreaths. We had beautiful weather and a lot of fun. Thank you very much!
Gretchen Daly

September Messenger – Items for the September Messenger are due to the church office no later than Tues. Aug. 22!

Phone Tree - First Church is preparing to implement a telephone tree for the sole purpose of ensuring all members are informed in a timely manner of any urgent or critical information as it pertains to the church. This is on a strictly volunteer basis, so if you do not wish to be called in these instances, you should notify the church office to opt out. If you have had any recent changes to your contact information, please update also through the office. Any questions or concerns, please contact Carryl Krohne, Joan Mills, or Pam Burrows. Thank you!

Habitat for Humanity of Waldo County seeks individuals and groups to sign up for a day bringing lunch to 6-10 volunteer builders working each day on the construction site of our newest house build taking place in Searsport in collaboration with our new partner homeowner and her two daughters ages 3 & 6. We have dates open in August. Join us to break bread and share stories, or we will gladly pick up the lunch from you and serve it to the volunteers. For more information call 338-2344 or email meg.waldo.habitat@gmail.com Thank you for your continuing support of Habitat for Humanity of Waldo County.

Readings for next Sunday – Gen 45:1-15; Psalm 133 or Isa 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt 16:13-20

The Sunrise Association has invited us to pray each week for a sister church. This week we hold up in our prayers Centre Street Congregational Church, UCC of Machias.

"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

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| Today | Aug | 13 | 10:00 am | Worship |
| Monday | Aug | 14 | 6:30 pm | NA |
| Wednesday | Aug | 16 | 10:30 am 5:00 pm | Harbor Hill Worship House Church @ parsonage |
| Saturday | Aug | 19 | 10:00 am | Circle of Presence - parlor Betty Collins Interment |
| Sunday | Aug | 20 | 10:00 am | Worship |

The First Church in Belfast, United Church of Christ

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First Church website: www.firstchurchinbelfast.org Contact: 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: 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."