



THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST, UCC

An Open and Affirming Congregation
Week of September 9– September 16, 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: *Pat Kaplan & Roger Haynes*

Church Council – meets next Sunday, Sept 16 at 11:30 in the library

TEAM EXPO TODAY – Many of us have questions about the new church structure we are working on and what these “Teams” are all about. After worship at Coffee Hour, the Ministry Area Coordinators and all of their Team Leaders will have tables set up with information about their Teams, and be available to answer any questions you may have. Teams will also be providing the Coffee Hour treats at their tables. So come, you may discover a Team you want to join, or maybe decide to start a new one!

Choir Returns! – Under the direction of our new Choir Director, Larry Philbrick, the choir is back! If you are interested in singing with us, please talk to Larry and join us next Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m., before church for practice. All are welcome!

Service for Laila Al-Matrouk – **Saturday, Sept. 15th, at 2:00 pm**, First Church will host a celebration of life for Laila Al-Matrouk, the 15 year-old who recently died in an accident here in Belfast, for her family and friends and the whole community. Laila's Grandmother Jean Isteero grew up in our church and Laila's Great Grandparents, Roger & Alice Woodbury were active members here. We would like to have greeters from our congregation to help hand out bulletins, and will need some helpers to make coffee and punch for the reception in the parlor. Also, anyone interested in making bars or cookies or any finger food for the reception, is welcome to do so. For more information, speak with Pastor Kate.

The Social Justice Team of The First Church in Belfast feels that voting is an important civic duty, especially in these times when we are witnessing serious issues in our country like racism, income inequality, and threats to basic civil liberties. Now more than ever, it is critical that we all use our vote to try to affect change. In the weeks to come, the Social Justice Team will be involved in efforts to get out the vote locally, and we'd like to invite you to join us. If you can offer a ride to the polls on November 6th, voting day, please let us know. If you know of people who will be 18 or older by November 6th and who have not yet registered to vote, please pick up a voter registration card, available in the parlor, and encourage them to register and to vote. If you or someone you know needs an absentee ballot, applications for absentee ballots are also available in the parlor. If you have any suggestions for other ways to help get out the vote, or if you have any questions about our efforts, please contact any member of the Social Justice Team: Natalie Charles, Pam Chase, Denise Goodman (chair), Joel Krueger, Martha Ortmann, Judy Williams, and Kate Winters. Anyone interested in joining the Social Justice Team, please speak to any team member. Thank you.

Nar-Anon, a support group for people affected by a loved one's addiction, will meet Tuesdays, at 6:00 pm beginning September 11, 2018. See Pam Chase for more information.

Custodial Work: Now that we no longer have a Church Custodian (Allen Eldridge stepped down on August 7th), we need volunteers to help keep our church clean and cared for until we can hire someone new. Please check out the sign up lists in the parlor, and consider volunteering for one or more jobs. Thank you.

WANTED: The First Church is presently advertising to fill the position of Custodian. If you know of any qualified candidates, please have them contact the church office. Thank you.

Readings for next Sunday – Prov 1:20-33; Psalm 19; Isa 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9 or Wis of Sol 7:26-8:1; James 3:1-12; Mk 8:27-38.

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

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	Sept	9	10:00 am	Worship/Spirit Sunday
			11:30 am	TEAM EXPO
Monday	Sept	10	6:30 pm	NA
Tuesday	Sept	11	10:00 am	Food Cupboard Board
			2:00 pm	CPPC
			3:30 pm	PPR
			4:30 pm	Diaconate
			5:30 pm	Trustees @ Todd's
			6:00 pm	Nar-Anon
Wednesday	Sept	12	4:30 pm	House Church
Thursday	Sept	13	3:00 pm	Music
Friday	Sept	14	10:00 am	Adult Education
			5:30 pm	OSG
Saturday	Sept	15	10:00 am	Circle of Presence – Parlor
			2:00 pm	Memorial Service/Laila Al-Matrouk
Sunday	Sept	16	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

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: Larry Philbrick

Custodial Staff: 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