



THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST, UCC

*An Open
and Affirming Congregation*

Week of September 16– September 23, 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 today at 11:30 in the library.

Vacation – Pastors Kate and Joel will be away starting September 19 and returning September 28.

2018 Belfast Choral Festival – Our 2nd annual Choral Festival will take place here at First Church the weekend of Oct. 12-14. Everyone is invited to take part. Adults and Youth (grades 7-12) will sing together in the Festival Choir, and the Children's Choir will include those in K-6th grades. Registration forms are in the parlor or available from the office or on our website: www.firstchurchinbelfast.org. There is no cost to participate in the festival, except to purchase music. Music must be purchased from J.W. Pepper (the link is on the registration form) and Youth and Children do not need to purchase music. Posters are also available in the parlor, to take and post up around town or give to a friend. Please spread the word about this exciting event and let's pack the house for the concert on Sunday, Oct. 14, at 3:00 p.m.!

Parents in the Know – Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC) is sponsoring a four week parent education program to educate, empower, and build skills to better protect children from sexual abuse. This FREE Parent Education opportunity will include a light meal and childcare. The sessions will take place in our parlor on Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, & 9, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Parents attending can also take a tour of the CPPC Family Resource HUB and receive a days-worth of diapers! Please share this information with any families you know. All are welcome.

The Social Justice Team - The Social Justice Team 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. 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. Applications for absentee ballots are also available in the parlor. If you have any questions about our efforts or would like to join the team, please contact any member of the Social Justice Team.

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

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.

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 to everyone who have been helping out.

DON'T FORGET: Please keep bags in your car and in your pockets so that you can gather acorns, chestnuts, and pine cones for the wreath project when you spot them. Check out the poster in the parlor to see the types of pine cones we need. Pine cones, nuts, and peach pits (yes, peaches are still in season) can be left in the downstairs kitchen or in the work room upstairs. Please leave acorns, chestnuts, and peach pits in open bags or containers so that they do not mold. Your help is very much appreciated!

Readings for next Sunday – Prov 31:10-31; Psalm 1 or Wis of Sol 1:16-21, 12-22 or Jer 11:18-20; Ps 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mk 9:3-37.

The Sunrise Association has invited us to pray each week for a sister church. This week we hold up in our prayers Somesville Union Meeting House.

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 | Sept | 16 | 8:30 am | Choir Rehearsal |
| | | | 10:00 am | Worship |
| | | | 11:30 am | Council |
| Monday | Sept | 17 | 6:30 pm | NA |
| Tuesday | Sept | 18 | 5:30 pm | Parents in the Know (CPPC) |
| | | | 6:00 pm | Nar-Anon |
| Wednesday | Sept | 19 | No House | Church |
| Sunday | Sept | 23 | 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 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: 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