



## THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST, UCC

*An Open  
and Affirming Congregation*

Week of December 3 – December 10, 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:** *Pam Burrows & Richard Fiske*

**Advent Vespers & Love Light Tree** – Today! Advent Vespers Concert at 3:30 p.m., followed by a Community Carol Sing, and at 5:00 p.m., reading of the names of loved ones remembered and lighting of the Love Light Tree. A reception for all will follow.

**House Church** – Meets this week on Wed. Dec 6, 4:30 pm at Cathie Jorgensen's home.

**Mount View Singers** – “Carols in the Round” performance here Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7:00 pm.

**2018 First Church Calendars** – We are taking orders for the 200th Anniversary Calendars. They are \$15 each. Filled with all kinds of interesting historical information and pictures of First Church. You need to have one of these *and* they will make a great Christmas gift! Please sign up to order one in the parlor.

**Tree of Warmth** - The First Church in Belfast is again hosting its annual **Tree of Warmth project** this winter. Local knitters are welcome to join us at Bell the Cat each Monday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:00 PM to knit socks, hats, mittens and scarves for the project. We hang these items on Belfast's Christmas tree with a note inviting community members to take what they need. We also accept new or gently used purchased items and they, along with donations of yarn, can be dropped off in the parlor from now until Christmas. Help us keep our community warm this winter! Donate to **The Tree of Warmth**. For further information, please see Judy Williams or Vicki Keller.

**Christmas Pot Luck Dinner** - Where are you having Christmas dinner this year? If you participated in last year's potluck, or if you didn't attend but heard what a great time we had and would like to join us this year, just let me know! We will eat about noon/early afternoon; the ham will be provided! The more the merrier, but please express your interest to me. Thank you, Pam Burrows, 338.6771.

**Boar's Head Feast:** It looks like this event will happen! We have most of our lead actor parts filled and now we need people who will be willing to be part of our vignettes and servers and singers. Come and join us. Sign up for these in the parlor and attend the meeting after church next Sunday, Dec. 10.

**Children's Pageant:** The children's Christmas pageant will be on Dec. 24 during the worship. All our children will be taking part plus we may need some adults to help out.

**Readings for next Sunday** – Isa 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Pet 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

**The Sunrise Association** has invited us to pray each week for a sister church. This week we hold up in our prayers Cranberry Isles 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	Dec	3	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
			10:00 am	Worship/Communion
			3:30 pm	Advent Vespers Concert
			5:00 pm	Love Lights Tree Lighting
Monday	Dec	4	6:30 pm	NA
Tuesday	Dec	5	2:30 pm	CPPC in music office
Wednesday	Dec	6	4:30 pm	House Church
Thursday	Dec	7	7:00 pm	Mount View Singers
Sunday	Dec	10	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
			10:00 am	Worship
				RE

#### 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)

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

#### 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."