



THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST, UCC

*An Open
and Affirming Congregation*

Week of December 9 – December 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*

Greeters: *Nancy Rice & Manley Rogers* **Deacons of the Month:** *Linda & Richard Smith*

Bible Study – We will continue our Bible Study group on Wednesday Dec. 12th at 4:00 pm at the **parsonage** (22 Crocker Rd.). We will not meet the rest of December. All are welcome.

Carols in the Round – The **Mt. View Chamber Singers** will once again present their *Carols in the Round* concert here at First Church, on Wednesday, Dec. 12th at 7:00 pm. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent season. A great concert for all ages, young and old alike. Free admission but donations are welcome and CDs will be available. All are welcome.

Church Council meets next Sunday, December 16 at 11:30 am in the library.

Christmas Pageant: This year our pageant, “Bethlehem Road”, will be on December 16th during the worship service. It tells the story of the first Christmas through the eyes of the animals that were there interspersed with narration from the Bible. It will have opportunities for audience participation and the singing of some favorite carols. We have many children taking part this year either with reading parts and those who enjoy acting. We also will be including singing by all the children and possibly a solo by one of our younger “stars”. There will be a full rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 15th at 9:30 in the sanctuary for all involved. See Deb Woodbury if you want to be included in this event.

Christmas Poinsettia & Window Wreath Order Forms are available on the table between the sanctuary and the parlor. Please return forms to the office by December 18. Also the December/January Messenger is ready for pick up on this same table.

Boar's Head Festival: Yes, we will be celebrating this Epiphany event again this year on January 12, 2019. Please speak to Pastor Joel, Vicki Keller or Beth Haynes if you are interested in taking part in either serving, cooking, singing, or acting. We will soon have a sign-up sheet in the parlor for those interested in taking part in some way. If not up to helping out, then come and enjoy the feast and entertainment.

CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER! Family and friends of First Church are cordially invited to celebrate and share a Christmas potluck dinner on Dec. 25. We will be gathering in the downstairs parlor around noon. A ham and table settings will be provided; guests are asked to bring a dish to share. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. All are welcome!

Interested in becoming a member of First Church? – If you have been thinking about joining First Church, please talk to one of our pastors.

A Note from our Music Director - We would love to increase the number of choir members during Advent and on Christmas Eve. If you'd like to sing with us, simply show up for choir rehearsals on Sundays at 8:30. If you have questions, please call me at 207-322-1070 or email me at LarryPhilbrick@gmail.com. In peace, Larry Philbrick

Readings for next Sunday – Zeph 3:14-20; Isa 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.

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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Today	Dec	9	8:30am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Choir Rehearsal Worship RE
Monday	Dec	10	2-3 pm 6:30 pm	Mandated Reporter Training - parlor NA
Tuesday	Dec	11	10:00 am 4:00 pm 6:00 pm	Food Cupboard Board – library Diaconate Nar-Anon
Wednesday	Dec	12	4:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study @ parsonage Mount View Singers
Thursday	Dec	13	8:30 pm	Good Morning Belfast – Interview
Friday	Dec	14	3:30 pm 8:15 am	Eight O'clock Pot Luck & Service Club Food Cupboard distribution
Saturday	Dec	15	10:00 am	Circle of Presence
Sunday	Dec	16	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Choir Rehearsal Worship/Children's Pageant 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](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: Mandy Everett

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