

Maine Conference United Church of Christ

Annual Meeting

The Maine Conference UCC Annual Meeting is coming up! Friday & Saturday, October 26 & 27 at the First Parish Congregational Church, Saco, Maine. The theme of the meeting will be **"Spirit - Stories - Love"**

It begins on Friday, Oct. 26 with the Pre-Annual Meeting Retreat - Story Telling as Spiritual Practice with Storyteller Val Tutson. This will be a fun and entertaining workshop. Then on Saturday, Oct. 27, we will have the Business Meeting and Workshops. Participants can choose 2 of the following: *Storytelling as Spiritual Practice; Did They Get It Right Already?; Altarscapes - I Love to Tell the Story; Love in Action - The Evolution of a Street Ministry; Preserving Church Records; The Art of Story Gathering; Make a Joyful Noise; Honduras Partnership Resource Team; Irresistible Retreats for You.*

Our First Church Conference Delegates are Martha Ortmann and Denise Goodman who will attend with our pastors and vote on our behalf. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting as a Visitor. Individual Visitors must register for the Annual Meeting. You can do that by copying and pasting the following link into your search bar and filling out the forms:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07efdsthdv6500f6a8&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Cost for Saturday Meeting: \$95 until Oct. 10; \$100 Oct. 11-22; \$120 after Oct. 22 (Saturday meals are additional). Cost for Friday Pre-Annual Meeting Retreat with Lunch: \$80 until Oct. 10; \$85 Oct. 11-22; \$100 after Oct. 22 (only Annual Meeting attendees can register for the Retreat).



Ghost Stories around the

Campfire!

Saturday, October 27th, at 7:00 p.m., we will gather around the cozy fire pit in the front yard of First Church, to hear some spooky stories. Mr. Ted Guerry will be our guest and will weave his stories about old Belfast and the spirits that some say, still haunt this town. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, and s'mores makings, and we'll brave the weather and the tales he has to tell, together! (In case of inclement weather, the event will be held indoors) All are welcome!

reformation sunday

October 28th, 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

We will continue our 200th Anniversary of our sanctuary with a some of our First Church forebears. Come and hear from the

first pastor, Rev. Ebenezer Price, or Rev. William Frothingham, the first pastor to serve in this sanctuary. Hear how we obtained the land that the church sets upon or about the courageous acts of some of our church's brave and sturdy women. We can only have a true appreciation of our beautiful beloved church, if we know some of the stories of those who have gone before us and what they endured, the hardships they encountered and the things they found joy and wonder in. Let's celebrate our history as we move forward, making our own history!



visit from church's

Church History Sleuths Wanted

Now that the parlor has been painted (thanks to all who helped do the painting!), the pictures had to be put back up and so thanks to Gary Grant and Pastor Joel for doing that. We discovered that we still have some pictures of former pastors who are not named and also need to find pictures of the many pastors we do not have. So, if you are interested in learning more about our church history and would enjoy searching online, contacting the Congregational Library and Archives in Boston, our own Maine Conference UCC archives, or any other source of historical information, and just doing some detective work, trying to solve the mysteries about our former clergy, please talk to Gary Grant or Pastor Joel. It's a lot of fun and a great thing to do during this year of our sanctuary bicentennial!

Community Partnerships for Protecting Children

Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC) is sponsoring a series entitled **"Parents in the Know."** This is a 4 week parent education program to be held at First Church on the evenings of September 18th, 25th, and October 2nd and 9th, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The curriculum teaches parents about boundaries and how best to protect their children from sexual abuse. For more information, please contact Janna Swift, Associate Director of Prevention Services, CPPC ~ Parent Partner Regional Coordinator, Broadreach Family & Community Services. Email: jswift@brmaine.org and phone: 338-6679.

