

August 2023



The MEETING HOUSE CHIMES



First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC
28 High Street, Wiscasset, ME 04578
(207) 882-7544

Welcome to the August edition of the monthly Chimes

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,

plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." ...*Jeremiah 29:11*

Myers' Musings

"Sandcastles and the meaning of life"

". . . life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." . . .

from Luke 12:13 - 21

Rabbi Harold Kushner writes in his book, **When All You Ever Wanted Isn't Enough**, "I was sitting on a beach one summer day watching two children, a boy and a girl, playing in the sand. They were hard at work building an elaborate and large sandcastle by the ocean's edge, with gates and towers and moats and internal passages. Just when they had nearly finished the project a big wave came along and knocked it down, reducing it to a heap of wet sand. I expected the children to burst into tears, devastated by what had happened to all their hard work. But they surprised me. Instead, they ran up the shore away from the water laughing and holding hands and sat down to build another castle.

"I realized that they had taught me an important lesson. All the things in our lives, all the complicated structures we spend so much time and energy creating, are built on sand. Only our relationships to other people endure. Sooner or later, the wave will come along and knock down what we have worked too hard to build up. When that happens, only the person who has somebody's hand to hold will be able to laugh."

I hope that as you enjoy the remainder of your summer, you will reflect on the importance of our relationships, and the "sandcastles" that are our possessions.

May God's Grace and Peace be with you!

Dave Myers

PS. I am scheduled to have a heart ablation procedure at Mass General Hospital on August 15 that is addressing my A Fib. All indications are that I should not miss the Sunday August 20th worship. However, Sarah Whitfield will be on call that day should I need a substitute.

(See below for upcoming Sermons)



Above: The Youth group are celebrated on Youth Sunday.

Right: The Youth Group enjoyed a week together at Pilgrim Lodge in July.

On Children's Sunday, June 11th, we recognized our four dedicated youth and the excellent work they put in this year. We were blessed to have Reverend Oscar Wallace with us to bless the girls for a wonderful summer ahead.

We have plans on August 5th for an afternoon starting at 2pm at the Myers'-on-the-Lake House, with dinner included.

132 Castaway Cove Ln
Damariscotta ME 04543
(Rain date Aug 12th)

In the fall,
we are looking forward to starting season 2 of the Chosen, as well
as a book study led by Cindy Clements. Keep your eye out for
further info to come later this summer!



The Ladies Organ Society will present a new pulpit to the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset on August 6, 2023. The gift is in honor of the society's 200th anniversary, and to celebrate the church's 250th anniversary. The new pulpit will replace the current dais which was donated by the Organ Society 115 years ago. The new oak pulpit with classic raised panels was designed and built by Henry Miller, a furniture-maker of the Amish community in Jefferson, Maine. The Organ Society ladies worked with Mr. Miller on the design of the pulpit and the special features of the pulpit which include a shelf, a fold-out step to accommodate the shorter readers in the congregation and an additional panel for taller readers.

The Organ Society expresses its thanks to Mr. Miller for his craftsmanship in creating the pulpit and to the anonymous donor who made this gift possible.

**250th Anniversary of
First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
28 High Street Wiscasset, ME.**

**You are cordially invited to the following events
As you are all important to the life of this church.**

**September 9th, 2:00pm
Organ Concert by Joel Pierce
followed by a Tea.**

**September 10th, 10:00am
Commemorative Church Service
followed by a Reception.**

RSVP by August 18th to

250th Anniversary

We hope you enjoy hearing about our church's history each Sunday. We are getting closer to our grand finale, Homecoming Weekend, September 9th & 10th.

Please take time within the next few days to let the 250th Committee know if you will be attending the Organ Concert by our very talented Joel Pierce on Saturday the 9th of September and/or the Commemorative Church Service on Sunday the 10th.

We are in the midst of one of our final activities for our celebration. We have been opening the church during the Thursday night Music on the Common. If you would like to volunteer to be in the church or guide our visitors to and from the restrooms on Thursday, August 3rd, 10th, or 17th from 6-8 pm, please contact Nancy Roby.

People enjoyed being able to see the church. One evening one of the performers came back and sang Amazing Grace because he was impressed with the great acoustics in the Sanctuary; another evening Lisa Hargreaves was given a donation for the church for her informative tour of our church.

Having the church open to the community has proven to be a very worthwhile activity.

Thank you!


Your 250th committee:

Martha Speed, Joan Shea, Deb Olson, Linda Winterberg, Susan Zimmerman, Jackie Lowell, Carol Peck & Nancy Roby

Wiscasset Set for Success 2023

*Thank you for your interest in supporting Wiscasset Schools' 2023 Set for Success school supply drive. Our shipping address is in care of St. Philip's Church, 12 Hadley Street, Wiscasset ME 04578 (just select St. Philip's gift address during checkout.) If you plan to pick up items at another retailer, please choose the "Buying this gift elsewhere?" option and let us know that's your plan. You can ship to or drop off items at the Church. Our deadline is July 31, 2023.

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Item added June 4, 2023

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Church World Service

Our Church, in partnership with St. Philip's Church, administers the Feed Our Scholars/Set for Success program.

The Set for Success event this year will be held on Sunday, August 13th at the Wiscasset Community Center. This year all teacher required school supplies will be provided for grades PreK through 8th grade. If you would like to volunteer some time for this event, please join the fun at the WCC Saturday, August 12th from 2:00pm – 6:00pm for set up and or 11:45am – 3:00pm on Sunday for the event.

Contact Nancy Roby 207-882-6441 with any questions.

A little suggestion... as you know the Church World Service committee holds the CWS Kit Program every Spring. One of the opportunities is to assemble School Kits for children.

This is a great time to purchase many of the items needed during the Back to School sales. A reminder of the items needed in school kits: 1 pair of blunt scissors, 3 of 70 count bound notebooks, 1 12" ruler, 1 handheld pencil sharpener, 1 large eraser, 6 new unsharpened pencils with erasers, 1 24 pack of crayons.

Donations can be sent to St. Philip's with Set for Success on the memo line or if you would like to donate school supplies check out our Amazon Wish List at:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3E4GD2HO4MFOX?tag=namespacebran131-20>

Thank you for all you do to help others!

For Her – A small start

For Her is a new program in Wiscasset which provides pads and tampons free of charge in the public bathrooms of the Wiscasset Community Center and First Congregational Church as well as providing them to the Wiscasset Food Pantry at St. Philip's.

In initiating ***For Her***, The Ladies Organ Society of First Congo

joined organizations in Maine and throughout the country which provide free menstrual products in schools and other public places, a need which has been widely recognized and even legislated in some states.

Funded initially by the Ladies Organ Society, ***For Her*** will need contributions to continue and expand its program.

Contributions may be sent to the Organ Society c/o First Congregational Church, Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578. Please indicate ***For Her*** in the memo line.

Work on Vision and Mission Statements

As you might recall, 2 workshops were held in June to discuss the vision and the mission of FCCW. What does God want from us going forward into the future? How can we act like Christ in the here and now? Good ideas were shared, but we know not everyone was able to make the first two workshops. We want to continue gathering input from as many people as possible. If you attended an earlier workshop, you would be most welcome to continue working with us.

Please let one of us know if you will attend, and we will have lunch ready for you.

Isaiah 43:18, 19a

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

Jeremiah 29:11

For I knew the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

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News from the Hospitality Committee



Hospitality Committee –

Thanks to those who assisted the Hospitality Committee in hosting Coffee Hour in July.

The Choir will be our hosts for August.

Please let Jan Whitfield know if you would like to be reimbursed for the cream.

Summerfest –

A Big Thank You note goes to everyone for their participation in Summerfest:
Many thanks to everyone for their hard work that resulted in a very successful Summerfest this year. We raised over \$6,000.00 !

We had three great musical programs:
Dr. Jeff Grosser and his Ragtime Razcals,
Joel our incredible organist, and the Salty Dogs. They kept us in an upbeat mood, and kept the people flocking in !

We appreciate everyone's commitment of time, talent, and treasure this year. If you look at our earnings, each area showed significant contributions to the total.

The food was delicious, and our cooks provided an excellent lunch on the Common, as we tapped our feet to the music and relaxed in the sunshine!

The Dog Show was quite an attraction and very popular this year. We had 17 talented dogs participating!

We would like to thank all of our church family and other volunteers who made set-up and clean up go so smoothly.



Finally, there will be an evaluation meeting to share our thoughts and critique the fair on **Sunday, August 6th, after church in the Parlor**. If you will not be able to join us, please share your thoughts ahead of time with Jan or Steve, in person or by email, so everyone's ideas will be considered.

Worship in August 2023

A note about forthcoming worship.

The Diaconate decided that Communion in July and August will be served by intinction. People come forward and receive the elements from members of the diaconate.

Worship Themes and Sermons for August

August 6: (Communion): **Sermon: "What Is Love For?"** based on John 6:24 –35. Perhaps the best answer I can give is that love is for nothing! Better come and find out what I mean (and the sermon has in it one of your favorite stories)!

August 13: **Sermon: "Watch Your Language!"** based on Proverbs 12:18 – 19; James 1:17 – 22; Galatians 3:28 – 28; Matthew 36 – 37. We can all remember from our childhood the saying, "sticks and stone may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." How untrue! I have been more deeply hurt by words intentionally or carelessly said, than any physical pain, and I suspect most of you have as well. Let's see what scripture teaches us.

August 20: **Sermon: "A Stance for Forgiveness"** based on John 7:53 – 8:1. Perhaps one of the toughest lessons that we have to learn and re-learn is this forgiveness and grace business. I have found that in our society it is so easy to take a stance of being right instead of a stance of love. When we need to be right and that makes it awfully difficult to forgive and be gracious.

August 27: **Sermon: "A Time to Laugh"** based on Proverbs 17:22; I Corinthians 1:18 – 25 and Matthew 7: 1–5 and 23: 25–26. In today's Scripture we read from Paul ". . . it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to those who save those who believe." Today I reveal my folly.

September 3: **The Sacrament of Communion**

September 10: **The 250th Anniversary Service** featuring former ministers and special guests.

CLYNK bags, in which you put your returnable bottles and cans, are available in the church office. The tags that must be put on these bags are in Fellowship Hall tacked on the CIS bulletin board near the kitchen; there are also pre-tagged bags there.



Take the tagged filled bags (no more than 20 pounds) to any local Hannaford CLYNK station, or bring it to church and notify Beth Maxwell who will take the bag to Hannaford. There is a bag in the kitchen if you want to bring in bottles and cans and deposit them there instead of collecting them at home. The money collected by using these bags is used to support the Feed Our Scholars program.

Many thanks for participating in this effort.

Pastoral Care

In case of a pastoral emergency please use Rev. Dave's cell phone 202-302-6903. Office hours are T, W, Th 9:00am – 12:00pm. Please continue to use the church number (297-882-7544) for all other church business.

Becky Lenz
Church Council President

New Directories!

The 2023 directory is available. Please pick one up in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex. If you are away, Ted is happy to put one in the mail to you, or Email to it to you.

Please keep the office posted when phone numbers or addresses change. It is easy to update the database so the next time the directory is printed, your change will be included.



***Thank you for reading the August issue of The Chimes!
If you have news you'd like to share for the August issue, please
send in your article by August 20th to fccw@myfairpoint.com.***

*First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC
Mailing address: P.O. Box 350
www.uccwiscasset.org ~ fccw@myfairpoint.net*

*Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9am–12pm
Worship: Sunday 10 a.m.*

*Office Administrator: Ted Gilbert
Organist: Joel Pierce
Sexton: Mary McKinney*



First Congregational Church, Wiscasset | 28 High Street, P.O. Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578

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