

**January
2022**



MEETING HOUSE CHIMES

**First Congregational Church, PO Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578
(207) 882-7544 www.uccwiscasset.org fcw@myfairpoint.net
Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-12pm
Interim Minister: Rev. Oscar Wallace, Interim Organist: Ray Cornils
Sexton: Mary McKinney, Office Administrator/Editor: Janet Leonard**

Be Bold

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world.

You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.

– Neil Gaiman

This is my New Year's wish for First Congregational Church. I started with: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:19 (NIV) However, the quote of Neil Gaiman above says it better. Not just to be doing a new thing, an idea that has gotten rather tired, but being daring, being courageous, pushing the boundaries in every direction. My Presbyterian roots, those thoroughly ingrained ideas of doing everything "decently and in order," are begging me to take that back. "You can't possibly mean that - that's anarchy," they are saying to me. Well, I've come to believe a little anarchy may be just what the Church needs. And I am confident that old solutions will not reveal new approaches to our life as a community of faith. So take a chance, listen to the voice within, within yourself, and within the congregation, and step out into the New Year boldly. Do not be afraid, for you are not alone. Our Still-Speaking God is in harness with you.

Oscar

Sunday Worship - In-Person and Online



Our Sunday Worship continues to be offered in-person and online! Since Lincoln County is classified as having “high” transmission, everyone is asked to mask indoors per U.S. CDC guidance. Masks are available if you did not bring one. The service will continue to be livestreamed on Zoom and Facebook, with a recording of the service available later in the day each Sunday on YouTube.

You can find more details on the homepage of our website: www.uccwiscasset.org.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make our services possible!

Sign-Up Online to Support our Worship Experience Provide Flowers, Read Scripture, or Usher!

Many hands and hearts make our worship services possible and we need you!
Would you like to:

- 1) Usher? - Support the worship experience and those attending in-person by fulfilling the usher duties.
- 2) Read Scripture? - Offer our morning scripture lesson from the pulpit!
- 3) Provide Flowers? - While ushering and scripture reading require in-person attendance, flowers do not! Flowers can be placed in the sanctuary Saturday or dropped off early Sunday morning.

If yes, please consider signing up for services now through the end of November. You can sign-up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48aea82aa3f8ce9-church>, or call the church office.

Thanks for your help!

Directory Updates

Dewey and Sue Harris:

Delete home phone. Cell numbers remain the same.

Steve and Kim Hatt:

5485 S. Harlan Way

Littleton, CO 80123

Cell numbers the same

CWS Committee Report

The CWS committee has chosen the following organizations for our annual donations:

- Brilliant Kids Kenya: \$200.
- Catholic Charities Maine, Afghan Resettlement Program: \$300.
- CWS 2021 Tornado Response: \$300.
- New Hope Midcoast: \$100.

The CWS committee is very grateful to Summerfest for our donation enabling us to contribute to these causes. Thank you!!

From the Diaconate....

On behalf of the congregation, the Diaconate would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Ray Cornils for serving as our interim organist for most of the past year. December 26th was Ray's last Sunday with us. What a wonderful gift Ray's music has been to all of us through such a difficult time. We're so thankful for his incredible music both on the organ and with our Chimes choir. We wish him the best as he travels to South America and hope our paths will cross again!



For at least the month of January, we welcome Joel Pierce as our substitute organist. Joel played for us for most of December and we look forward to having him back this month!

Weekly Offering - You're Support Makes our Ministry Possible! Thank you!!

Offerings to support and sustain the ministries of our church can be placed in the offering plate by the front doors of the sanctuary on Sunday or they can be mailed to the church office at:

First Congregational Church
P.O. Box 350
Wiscasset, ME 04578.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sunday School Helper Needed

Now that Rev. Josh is gone, Rev. Oscar Wallace needs a new partner to help with our Youth Sunday School. The work is light – mostly helping rather than directing – but it's best practice to have more than one person in the gatherings.

Anyone interested? Contact Oscar at 508-207-3537 or oscar.wallace@gmail.com

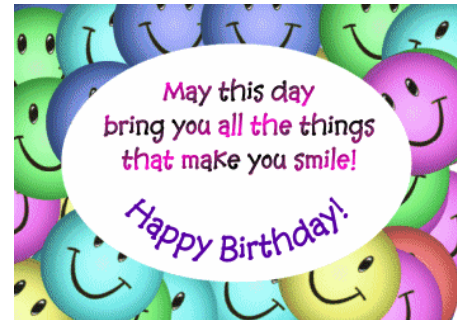


Love Makes a Way 2022 Stewardship Campaign

Thanks to everyone who has pledged at this time! If you have not yet confirmed your pledge, please send it to the office so we can finalize our budget before the annual congregational meeting on January 30.

January Birthdays

Betty Applin Susan Attwood Aleene Barnes
Dewey Harris Sally Jacobs Bud Lewis
Mark Light Ahni Salloway James Sullivan
Allan Sylvester Michelle Wentwprtj



Office Staff Change

As you probably know, our current Office Administrator, Janet Leonard, is reluctantly leaving us at the end of January. We are delighted to announce that a new office administrator has been hired – Angie Richards. She will be serving both First Congregational and St. Philip’s Episcopal Church as Janet has been doing for the last two years. We look forward to welcoming her to First Congregational!

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee has been very busy...well, not really. But we have been keeping track of Covid cases and positivity rates in hopes that someday soon we will be able to have Coffee Hour.

Since the cases have surged over the holidays, we changed our tactics from communicating with the Coffee Hour hosts each week to tell them we weren't having Coffee Hour that week to saying we would let the hosts know when it looked like we could have Coffee Hour again. With this particular strategy, no news is not good news.

We will get there! In the meantime, check out the floor in Fellowship Hall. It looks fabulous! Thank you to the Trustees for funding the professional stripping and waxing by ServPro!!!

Thank You from Katie Junkert

Dear First Congregational Church of Wiscasset,

With a warmth in my heart, I send you all a very big Thank You for your kindness, generosity and support you have shown to our unhoused neighbors in Portland. My name is Katie Junkert, I work with the non-profit agency called Amistad in Portland.

Over the last year your gifts of warmth, socks, clothes, jackets, handmade hats/ mittens have touched such a vulnerable community in such need. The darkest of days for folks continue to be brightened by your generosity of warm clothing, socks when everything else tends to fall around them, folks are lifted up by your giving spirit.

There are folks that go days without changing their socks, being on their beaten feet all day, the freshness of a clean pair of socks makes such a difference. As one of our community members said to me the other day, "I really am grateful to have you and these warm socks to change into today. I've been in these socks for a week and my feet are so sore." Those moments are frequent, real and prove the huge difference you all have made and continue to make with your kind donations.

You all are making a difference with your generosity, loving support, and prayers. I am the fortunate one that is able to witness it, for that I and 'us' are so very grateful.

Blessings of gratitude,

Katie Junkert

You can donate to Amistad in the box outside Fellowship Hall in the coat closet. Besides the socks mentioned above, items such as chocolate, men's t-shirts, jackets, hats, gloves/ mittens, and warm clothing are deeply appreciated!



**First Congregational Church UCC
Wiscasset, Maine**

Notice of Annual Meeting
To be held on

January 30, 2022
11:00 am

Call: In accordance with its by-laws, members of the First Congregational Church, UCC of Wiscasset, Maine, are hereby notified that the annual meeting will be held in person and on Zoom on Sunday, January 30, 2022 after the service Members without internet capability or with limited access will be able to call in to participate. More information regarding how to access the meeting will be shared as the meeting date draws closer.

December 31, 2021

Beth Maxwell
Church Clerk

Organ Society Meet-and-Greet

The Organ Society is planning a meet-and-greet Zoom meeting on Wednesday, January 26, starting at 10am. We will be meeting and welcoming Angie Richards, as well as others who are new to our staff.

If you would like Zoom details, contact Martha Speed (cell 687-6842 or home 882-6842) or email martha.speed@hotmail.com.



Annual Meeting

Reports from the following are due on Jan. 18!

Trustees

Church Clerk

Diaconate

Church in Society

Christian Education

Pastoral Relations

Ladies Organ Society + Treasurer's Report (submitted)

Church World Service

Stewardship

Summerfest

Nominating – List of Officers

News on Former Pastor Lev Reynolds

Carol Donnell reports that Rev. Lev Reynolds III, who pastored First Congregational Church from 1969 to 1978, passed away peacefully on January 2, 2022 at the age of 81 at his home in St. Charles, Missouri. Gifts in his memory may be made to: Emmaus Homes, <https://emmaushomes.org/>, 3731 Mueller Rd., St. Charles, MO 63301.

Please call the office if you would like the address to send cards.

Meeting House Chimes
First Congregational Church, U.C.C.
P.O. Box 350, 28 High Street
Wiscasset, ME 04578



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**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
28 High Street, PO Box 350
Wiscasset, Maine 04578**



**We welcome you to the First
Congregational Church of Wiscasset.
We are an open and affirming
congregation and are open
theologically, growing spiritually, and
concerned socially.**