

May

2022

# JOYFUL SPRING

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## MEETING HOUSE CHIMES

First Congregational Church, PO Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578  
(207) 882-7544 [www.uccwiscasset.org](http://www.uccwiscasset.org) [fccw@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fccw@myfairpoint.net)

Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-12pm

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Amy Lignitz Harken, Organist: Joel Pierce  
Sexton: Mary McKinney, Office Administrator/Editor: Angela Richards

### *Minister's Message*

Easter Sunday is behind us, but we continue to live as an Easter People, embracing the many forms of new life all around us. Robins are re-appearing on branches, from which pop buds of new leaves in red and green. Bright tulips adorn walkways while green grass replaces the brown in our yards. Piles of snow have melted and snowplows are tucked away for the time being, making way for seasonal dreams of summer excursions.

Besides these outward signs of renewed life, it's likely that each of us is experiencing a season of personal renewal, in our physical or emotional well-being or perhaps increased spiritual awareness. And, it's no small thing that the world continues to emerge from the isolation of the pandemic to find a "new normal," in some cases finding something better than the pre-pandemic norm.

Among the many gifts of being part of this church is being part of a bigger Church – the Church Universal, which includes followers of Jesus of all times and places. Among the many gifts of the Church Universal is her calendar. I'm not talking about the kind of calendar you have on your cell phone or hang on your kitchen wall to keep track of your daily appointments. I'm talking about the grand yearly calendar of special seasons throughout the year.

Eastertide carries us through the month of May. On Pentecost we celebrate the "birthday of the church," before the lengthy season of "ordinary time" that sees us through summer. Then, Advent, Christmastide, Lent, and back around to Easter. We can also include the season of harvest, gratitude, and stewardship as summer winds down and we look toward cooler times.

Throughout the year, these Church seasons encourage us to root ourselves in the providence, care, and call of our creator God, regardless of what's going on in our lives or in the world. Easter happened despite a brutal and senseless war in Ukraine, just as Christmas happened despite crushing disparity of wealth and privilege in our nation. Regardless of who is elected to run our country or our town, the season of Advent will cause us to pause and reflect. The church's seasonal cycles should not cause us to ignore the world's happenings; rather, they calls us to live out our lives of faith within spiritual and religious cycles of sacrifice, celebration, repentance, joy, stewardship, and self-examination, all practiced in a supportive community.

Throughout the month of May, Sunday's messages will be inspired by the lectionary readings from the Book of Acts. The Acts of the Apostles (to use the full name) provides an account of the beginnings of the Church Universal. We'll start with the shocking experience of a young man named Saul, who became the leading figure in spreading the good news of Jesus far and wide. Along the way, we'll encounter some familiar friends: Lydia, Peter, Silas and Tabitha.

During this congregation's interim season, may these Biblical accounts draw our hearts toward our church, and cause us to reflect on preparing for her future with a new settled pastor. May our prayers be with the leaders of this congregation and members of the Search Committee.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Amy Lignitz Harken

### Exodus Bible Study Continues

The Sunday afternoon Bible Study of the book of Exodus is continuing and YOU are invited to join in! We meet at 4 p.m. via Zoom for a casual time of study and reflection on this foundational part of the Bible – and we laugh along the way. Even if you haven't been to a previous class, you are welcome to join in! If you'd like a copy of the Zoom link, please e-mail Rev. Dr. Amy Lignitz Harken.

Here is the schedule for the remainder of the class. And, not to worry, there is no homework!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>
5/1	25 - 31	Instructions for Tabernacle, etc.
5/8	MOTHER'S DAY, NO CLASS	
5/15	32, 33,34	Golden Calf, Leaving Sinai
5/22	35-40	Making as Instructed
5/29	MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, NO CLASS	
6/5	PENTECOST, NO CLASS	
6/12	Final Class, Loose Ends, Final Thoughts	

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO ALL WITH MAY BIRTHDAYS



## Church World Service

Thank you so much for your generous response for the CWS Ukraine Relief Fund offering; over \$1000. was raised to help the people of Ukraine.

Thank you also for your support of the CWS Kit Program. Your kits, items for the clean-up buckets, and donations are deeply appreciated. Our church's donation this year is 9 school kits, 7 hygiene kits, 3 emergency clean-up buckets, and over \$150.00.

Reminder that we collect redeemable cans & bottles for the Feed Our Scholars Program. You can bring them to church and place in the box under the mailboxes or leave them at the Robys at 163 Federal Street...or redeem them yourselves and place in offering plate marked for Feed Our Scholars. A big thank you to all the volunteers that are helping the Feed Our Scholars program by meeting the Good Shepherd truck, filling the food bags for the children, and delivering the bags to the school every week.

Thank you for the many ways you are helping others with your time, talent & treasure!

APRIL  
showers  
BRING MAY  
flowers  
FOOD DRIVE

April 28th through June 1st



We understand food and household items have become increasingly more expensive. We invite you to donate in support of our partners in the Wiscasset area, if you're able.

### What's needed:

**Snacks:** whole grain granola bars and crackers, fruit snacks, pretzels, popcorn, pudding, applesauce and other fruit/vegetable pouches, raisins, trail mix, dried fruit.

**Pantry Staples:** rice, pasta, canned soup, baby food, pet food, coffee, kids cereals

**Cleaning & Hygiene:** personal care items, laundry detergent, cleaning products

**Condiments:** jelly, ketchup, mustard, relish, mayo

### Three ways to donate:

1) Drop off at: Lincoln County Regional Planning: 297 Bath Road, Wiscasset

2) Drop off at: Healthy Lincoln County: 281 Main Street, Damariscotta

3) Or contact Jess Breithaupt: [jbreithaupt@healthylincolncounty.org](mailto:jbreithaupt@healthylincolncounty.org); 207-975-6201



## Mask Protocol Update

The Council of the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC, voted Wednesday to update the church's safety policy regarding mask-wearing during worship services.

Masks are now optional during worship services, including during singing. This reflects the improvement in Covid infection statistics in Lincoln County.

At its regular meeting on April 20, the council also agreed:

- To continue to monitor Covid infection rates in Lincoln County.
- That ushers may freely pass the offering plates.

That the Diaconate may pass Communion plates on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of the month.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding as the Council has striven to balance concerns for our congregation's safety with our deep desire to "get back to normal" as soon as feasible. The Council truly appreciates everybody's collaboration during these very difficult last few years.

Rev. Dr. Amy Lignitz Harken

Interim Minister, First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC



**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

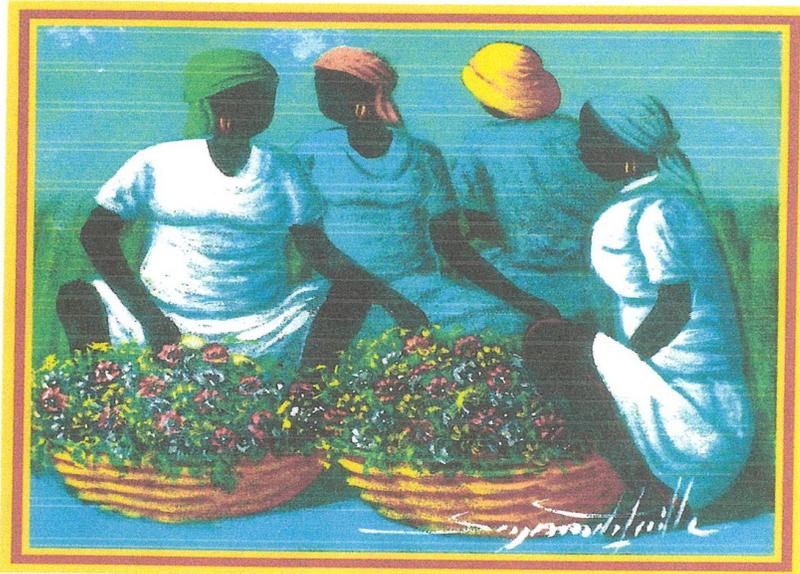
Wiscasset, ME 04578.

**Thank you for your continued support!**

## MAINE HEARTS AND HANDS FOR HAITI

Due to COVID the 2021 and 2022  
Haiti Benefit Dinners have been cancelled . . .

. . . but needs in Haiti are URGENT



The Lincoln County Ecumenical Committee for Haiti (LCECFH)  
has launched a

### 2022 Lenten **gofundme** Campaign

ALL PROCEEDS go directly to support the people of Gros  
Morne, Haiti to help with scholarships, school lunches and  
supplies, agricultural projects, eldercare and more.

Please visit <https://gofund.me/d8ea93cf>

To donate by credit/debit card

Send checks (payable to LCECFH) to:  
PO Box 1003 Damariscotta, ME 04543



### Love Makes a Way 2022 Stewardship Campaign

Thanks to everyone who has pledged at this time! It's never too late to pledge. If you have not yet confirmed your pledge, please send it to the office at the earliest convenience. Your financial pledge is a tremendous help to our financial stability.

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## Chime In

“God is able to provide you with every blessing, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” II Corinthians 9:8

Many of you have participated in one of the discussion groups and completed the survey. Both activities are vital work as we move forward as a congregation seeking new leadership. But in equal share the work we must do in discerning who God is calling us to be. What is this light we shine in Wiscasset? As the Search Committee begins to engage with potential candidates in the Fall of this year, one of the central points of the conversations will be a detailed description of who we are as a community of faith. What are our values, attitudes and beliefs? There is much work to be done to be able to answer these questions faithfully, I encourage you to take Paul's assurances to the fledgling church in Corinth as a message to the First Congregational church of Wiscasset. As you dream of the future here in Maine, do so with these assurances in mind. And share your thoughts, hopes, and highest aspirations with each other and the search committee. Yes, some things are beyond our grasp, but how do we know what we can achieve if we never reach for our dreams?

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## Summerfest is just around the corner!

It doesn't feel like it but we will soon be gathering our donations and planning out the details of our 2022 **SUMMERFEST**. Last year was a great success and we hope for even better this year. However, the **Jewelry** table was so successful last year (over \$600!) that we have very little left to display and sell this year. This is a plea for everyone to sit down, pull out your jewelry boxes and bags of odds and ends (interesting hats, scarves, purses) and begin to go through them. Surely, you'll find things that you no longer wear and that you're not sentimentally attached to. When you do, put them aside for our table at **SUMMERFEST** in July. Last year we sold several nice silver pieces for a very good price. We have raised prices on everything because, to be honest, we had been practically giving things away and that was not getting us to our goal of helping more local non-profits. So take a

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## *Summerfest Yard Sale*

Yard sale items can be brought starting on April 12 during office hours (Tuesday - Thursday 9 to noon). Last year several of us spent hours in the basement unpacking boxes, sorting things, and repacking boxes. So that doesn't happen this year please bring items boxed together by category - kitchen, decor (knick-knacks, lamps, vases), seasonal, games and puzzles, toys, outdoor, gardening, pets, or other category that you have to bring. Or, if you bring a box of mixed items, sort out the items by category and place them on the appropriately marked table. Please do not bring items that are broken, chipped, stained, or otherwise not fit for selling; throw them away. If you have items that you think are particularly valuable, place them on the Treasures table. Better yet, if you can sell them on your own they will probably bring in more money which you can simply donate to Summerfest. If you have questions please contact Beth Maxwell at 882-6180, or Ann Light at [lighthouse6japan@yahoo.com](mailto:lighthouse6japan@yahoo.com).

## Current Volunteer Needs

1. Rev. Oscar Wallace needs a partner to help with our Youth Sunday School.

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

2. The church needs Bell Ringers. If you are interested please contact Brad Adler at 882-9804 or by email at badler1965@gmail.com

3. On line services have been a God-send to many people. The technology that makes this possible is fairly simple. If you can help on Sunday mornings, please contact the church.

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### **FCCW is the starting point for this year's Habitat for Humanity Spring Walk to Build!**

As in previous years, the 7 Rivers Habitat chapter will hold a community walk to raise funds for their home building and repair projects. Since the next build site is in Wiscasset, this year the walk will take place in town, and the Trustees have agreed that the church will be the starting and ending point.

Walk Day: Sunday, May 15, 2022

Check-In: 1p-2p

Walk Begins: 2p

Route Length: 2 Miles

Once again, First Congregational will form a team of walkers, and we invite everyone to donate in support of our team's efforts to raise a total of \$3500 for this important cause. You can sign up to be a walker at <https://go.rallyup.com/sw2b/t/fccw2022> and then share that link with friends and family who want to help reach the team's goal. If you prefer to donate rather than walk, you can do so at the same link, or you can make out a check to HFH/7RM with "Team FCCW" in the memo line and put it in the church offering plate or mail it to the office. May 15<sup>th</sup> will be here soon, so don't delay!



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

April 2022



**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.**

