

**March
2022**

CONTEMPLATION



MEETING HOUSE CHIMES

First Congregational Church, PO Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578
(207) 882-7544 www.uccwiscasset.org 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

The Christian season Lent is upon us, and we are invited into a time of self-examination, seeking to walk more closely in the ways of Jesus.

Traditionally, the three themes of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These can take many forms, and Christians today are finding new ways to honor Lent in their communities and families.

For example, “almsgiving” is about giving to others in need. During Lent, in addition to our usual financial charitable giving, we might take note of the abundance in our lives, and give away some of our possessions, beyond our “leftovers.” In our closets are attractive, comfortable clothes we like and have a lot of life left in them; we can make those available to those who could use them. We might go through our bookshelves, with the same thought in mind, and look in our basements for spare furniture gathering dust.

“Prayer” is about our connection to God. During the 40 days of Lent we might make a daily habit of finding 5 things for which to give thanks to God – different things every day. “Fasting” is about doing without. During Lent, we might educate ourselves on how our consumption (food, fuel, etc.) affects the environment, and take steps to consume less and change our habits for good.

For our time together in worship, Rev. Dr. Amy Lignitz Harken has prepared a Lenten sermon series about abiding together in Christian fellowship. Based on the work of Kay Pranis, this series explores the important Biblical value of *koinonia*. Koinonia is an ancient Greek word that means loving fellowship, sharing, community, and participation. Through the lens of some of the most poignant moments in Jesus' ministry, this series will explore themes such as recognizing God's gifts in ourselves and others, learning to trust in abundance, and valuing our connections to the world around us.

Invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or someone you haven't seen in church for awhile to Church! This is the perfect time to re-connect!

Please see calendar on page 3

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

Carol Donnell is now Carol Peck

Carol & George Peck 44 Orchard Hill Road

West Bath, ME 04530

Donnell_carol@comcast.net cell: 207-831-7923

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.

"Seven Facets of *Koinonia*."

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Facet of Koinonia</u>
March 6 (Communion)	Luke 8:26-39	Everyone has a true, good, wise inner self.
March 13	John 5:1-13	We are holistic, with mind, body, and spirit.
March 20	Luke 19:1-10	We all want healthy, positive connections with others.
March 27	1 Cor. 12:4-27	We all have much-needed gifts
April 3 (Communion)	Luke 12:22-34	Everything we need is right here.
April 10 (Palm Sunday)	Luke 19: 28-40	The world is profoundly interconnected
April 17 (Easter)	Luke 24:1-12	How to live among the living.





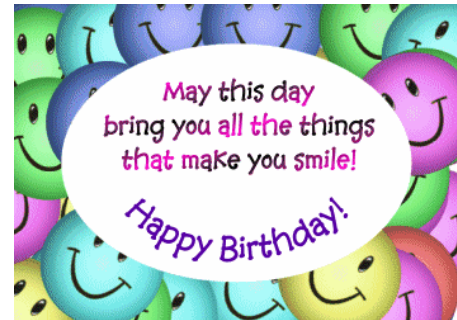
Love Makes a Way 2022 Stewardship Campaign

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 stability.

February Birthdays

Bradford Adler
Raymond Bellefleur
Majorie Burgess
Christine Grosser
Barbara Sylvester

Thomas Beane
Daniel Bigley
Laura Downing
Sally Howe



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!!!

Hospitality Committee

Just because we haven't had Coffee Hour in a while, don't think "The List" has gone away! Below is a list of the Coffee Hour Hosts of the Month. Hosting duties will resume as soon as Covid cases drop to a moderate transmission level in Lincoln County. Please be prepared!

January	Church in Society
February	Pastoral Relations
March	Diaconate
April	Stewardship
May	Nominating
June	Organ Society
July	Hospitality Committee
August	Choir
September	Christian Education
October	Men of the Church
November	Church World Service
December	Trustees

Volunteers Needed

The Church has a need for two more bell ringers on Sundays.

We currently have only two, Brad Adler and Tom Kovarik.

We have normally have had four. If you are interested please let me know by calling me at 882-9804 or by email at badler1965@gmail.com

Church in Society Reminder

The mission of the Church in Society Committee is “bringing before the congregation issues of peace, justice and other social concerns” and one of those concerns is homelessness. Katie Junkert joined in an Organ Society meeting last year to explain her work with Amistad, an organization ministering to the homeless in Portland. This is an opportunity for “hands on” ministry for all of us by bringing necessary items to fill the box under the coat rack by Fellowship Hall. They need warm clothing, socks, chocolate, and would benefit from those boots or shoes you no longer wear, and Men’s T-shirts, jackets, hats, gloves/mittens, and warm clothing. Please think about helping Katie in her important work.

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

Pastoral Search Committee News

Since November, the Pastoral Search Committee has met regularly, and we are now ready to move into the next phase. In late Spring, we will be writing our church's profile to send to potential candidates for our next settled pastor. As part of the profile, we will seek to describe who we are, who our neighbors are, and who God is calling us to be as a community of faith. Hoping that our work reflects the community's thoughts as a whole, we are asking you to respond to the two emails you will receive this week.

First will include a questionnaire to be completed and submitted online. Second, we invite you to participate in one of four group discussions. Three will be by zoom and one in-person after worship. These discussions will be held later in March. The dates are: March 21 at 10 am, March 29 at 7 pm, March 31 at 7 pm, all by zoom. There will be one discussion held in person. It will be on March 20 after worship, meeting in the sanctuary. Those who get the chimes by USPS will also get the survey and sign up form by mail.

We look forward to seeing you and learning of your hopes and dreams for the First Congregational Church.

St. Philip's Church

Chowder Supper Saturday, March 12 4PM

Calling all chowder lovers! St. Philip's Church's haddock chowder supper take-away is once again scheduled for Saturday, March 12, with pick-up time from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For a donation of \$12 per meal, patrons receive a pint of haddock chowder, corn-bread, cole slaw, and blueberry cake to go at St. Philip's, 12 Hodge St., Wiscasset. Proceeds benefit the Feed Our Scholars (FOS) weekend backpacks of food for Wiscasset Elementary School students experiencing food insecurity, as well as funding the fourth year of providing beginning school supplies for those attending Wiscasset Elementary (or for home schoolers who would have attended WES) through the Set for Success program.

Call St. Philip's, [882-7184](tel:882-7184), leaving a name, number of meals ordered, and a return phone number for verification. Or message your reservations through [Facebook@WiscassetFeedOurScholars](https://www.facebook.com/WiscassetFeedOurScholars). For planning purposes, FOS requests that reservations be made prior to Friday, March 11.

Help Needed to Make March 12 Chowder Supper

We partner with St. Philip's to support Feed Our Scholars and Set for Success. On-site help is needed on Friday afternoon for food prep and Saturday afternoon for packing food bags. We need to bake the corn bread and blueberry cake and hope to have five of each prepared by FCCW members and friends. Supplies for the chowder and cole slaw, such as potatoes and onions are needed. Please contact Beth Maxwell at emaxwell@myfairpoint.net or 882-6180 for further information and scheduling your time and help to make this a great fundraising success.

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

March 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.**

