December

2021

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. Oscar Wallace, Interim Organist: Ray Cornils
Sexton: Mary McKinney, Office Administrator/Editor: Janet Leonard

Finding Hope

"For I know 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.
~Jeremiah 29:11

This past Sunday, we celebrated the first Sunday in Advent. We lit the candle calling us to hope. Later in the afternoon, a number of us from First Congregational Church joined the folks at St. Philip's to celebrate the ministry of Tom Junkert as he was installed as their new Priest in Charge. The room was filled to overflowing with hope. Still, later, we settled down to unwind from a busy holiday weekend with a movie on Netflix. We chose "A Boy Named Christmas," (I highly recommend it especially for families), and once again, the theme was the search for hope. As we approach the end of the second year living with the global pandemic, we are all asking ourselves the question Raegan asked us as her mother lit the first candle in the Advent wreath. "Where in the world can we find hope today?"

Each year we enter Advent, anticipating the arrival of the Christ child, singing carols inviting Jesus, God with us, into our lives. We are reminded that we are a people of hope. This December, many among us find hope in short supply as we face a new year with reports in the media of new varients of Covid-19. Our nation remains in political turmoil, and our congregation begins the process of seeking and calling a new settled minister. Our faith speaks to us in the darkest times and on sunny days, telling us that being people of faith means we are also hopeful. Let us enter the New Year with profound hope for what the future holds for us.

Have a blessed Advent season and a Merry Christmas,

Oscar

Sunday Worship – In-Person and Online

Our Sunday Worship continues to be offered in-person and online! When Lincoln County is classified as having "substantial" or "high" transmission, everyone is asked to mask indoors per U.S. CDC guidance. When Lincoln County is classified as having "low" or "moderate" transmission, masks will be recommended for the entirety of the service for those who are not fully vaccinated. Masks are also encouraged for those who prefer or feel more comfortable with a mask. **Masks are required whenever we sing in the sanctuary at this time.** Please bring a mask with you to put on whenever we sing. Masks will also be available as you arrive. Outdoor seating continues to be available as well (simply bring a chair and enjoy the service on the front lawn)! 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!

Christmas Fund Offering

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to the UCC's lower-income retirees. Over the past 18 months, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church increased dramatically. Many of our clergy continue to bear the consequences of lost or decreased income. These difficult times make the need for the Christmas Fund more urgent than ever.

We will be taking up this special UCC offering on Sunday, December 19. You can give by writing a check to FCC with a note "Christmas Fund," or by giving directly at www.christmasfund.org. Thank you!

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 deirecting — 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

Thank you to those who have passed in their pledge cards for 2022. If you have not yet sent in yours, you can still do it by sending the card to First Congregational Church, P.O. Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578, or by leaving it in the mail box outside the church office.

Thank you for supporting FCC!

December Birthdays

Emily Adler Art Ballard Abby Bedard

Carol Bradford John Crispin Jeffrey Grosser

Sue Lewis Jon McKinney Michelle Peele

Chris Sieracki David Sieracki Cindy Wright

Part Time Church Office Administrator/Bookkeeper

Two congregations in Wiscasset are hiring a part time shared Office Administrator/ Bookkeeper to support their work and ministries in Wiscasset, ME. This is a position shared by First Congregational Church and St. Philip's Episcopal Church. Our next Office Administrator will be hired by both churches to fulfill the specific duties needed in our separate and shared ministries. The position of Office Administrator, which will begin January 2022, will require 15-20 hours per week. The successful candidate will be literate and comfortable using Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher and QuickBooks. For more information, please contact Rev. Tom Junkert, Priest in Charge, St. Philip's Episcopal Churh at 218-205-0420 or by email at tejunkert@yahoo.com

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Church World Service — Toys For Tots

Sunday, December 5 will be last day to drop off unwrapped toys in the Toys for Tots box in Fellowship Hall. Please join us in helping low-income families in our area provide a happy Christmas for their kids.

Update from Kim and Steve Hatt!

Kim and I left Maine on September 18th, and headed west to Denver, CO. We shipped our car and furniture and drove our truck and camper 2400 miles. We spent ten days on the road with our camper in tow. We stopped at our nephew Matt Andrew's home in Wilton, CT the first night, and then headed for Williamsport, PA and visited our daughter-in-law's parents, Phil and Gail Landers the second day. We stopped at a couple spots that we wanted to see like the 911 Memorial of Flight 93, Shanksville, PA and the Gateway Arch on the Mississippi River in St Louis Missouri. We spent several nights at State Park campgrounds on our way to Denver, and by Sunday afternoon, Sept 28th, we were backing our camper into our son Andrew's RV pad at his home in Denver.

We parked our camper at Andrew's house and moved into his nicely finished basement for a few weeks while we looked around for a suitable home to rent. The rental market is extremely competitive in Denver, and we weren't used to the process of going through property managers that couldn't answer simple questions about a house, so we settled for renting from a private homeowner who was managing a home for his elderly Mom. It was a much better option for us, although it was a much larger home than we had expected. But it is only for a year, while we look around the area. Plus, we are near Ben and Andrew's homes, and we are very near our granddaughter Eleanor's preschool and her daycare home, so we are in a perfect location for now to help everyone.

We also were fortunate to be around for the birth of our new grandchild, Leonard Willis Hatt, who was born on November 7th. He weighed in at 7lb 14oz, and 19.3 inches long. A very healthy and hungry young man. He hasn't missed a meal yet. Like Steve, he enjoys his food, especially lunch.

So, we have begun our busy grandparent duties, when called on by the family. We have taken our granddaughter to preschool, and day care, and on hikes, and to playgrounds, and we are looking forward to helping with our new grandson.

We also hosted Thanksgiving for our Denver family members, Ben and Andrew, and their friends and family. We were able to try out our new rental, which worked out great for 8 adults and a 2.5-year-old and a newborn. We had a nice dinner, games, and visit time with everyone. Unfortunately, our daughter Joanna and her husband Mason, did not make it to our Thanksgiving dinner, but we did see them the week before Thanksgiving. They live near Santa Fe, NM, which is a six hour drive from Denver. They will be able to join us for Christmas, so we are delighted about that.

So, as you can see, we have been busy for the past two months, and are looking forward to our experiences with our family this year.

Several of you have asked us about our new location and address, so here are our new address, emails, and phone numbers. Please feel free to contact us. We have a large home to share with visitors, so start planning a trip out West. The Rockies are a beautiful back drop to the Denver Area, and outdoor adventures abound here.

Steve and Kim Hatt, 5485 S Harlan Way, Littleton, CO 80123
Emails, stevehatt55@gmail.com, and khatt79@gmail.com
Phones 207-751-4057 (Steve) and Kim 207-751-2755

The Hatts of Littleton
Steve and Kim

Volunteers Wanted!

The Bargain Basement at St. Philip's is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays to provide affordable shopping and quality used clothing for our community. Volunteers are needed to sort newly donated items, display new clothes and housewares, and/or greet customers, accept cash donations and assist shoppers. Knowledge of clothing, previous retail work, and great teamwork skills would be a huge help. Training provided. Flexible hours possible. Covid masks required. Please call St. Philip's (207-882-7164) and leave a message for volunteer coordinator, Beth Soule, or leave a message on the Bargain Basement Facebook Page.

Knitters Still Wanted!

Feed Our Scholars is sending out a request for hats and mittens for the children in Wiscasset Elementary School and Wiscasset Middle High school. As the temperatures drop, our children need your hats and mittens to keep them warm. They can be dropped off at the church office or call Nancy Roby 882-6441 to make pick-up arrangements. We appreciate your help in caring for our children.

Christmas Special Events

December 5, Second Sunday of Advent

December 12th, Third Sunday of Advent

December 19th, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Blue Christmas Service December 19th at 4:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24 at 7:00pm

December 26, First Sunday of Christmas

Poinsettia Order Form
Deadline: Tuesday, Dec. 7

With Christmas on the way, it's time to think about decorating our sanctuary with red, white, and pink poinsettias! This year's price for a 6" foiled pot is $12.00 each, and they will be displayed in the sanctuary on Dec. 12, 19, 24, and 26. You are welcome to pick them up after the Lessons and Carols service on Dec. 26. Any remaining flowers will be delivered to individuals who serve our community, homebound members of the congregation or anyone else in need of some Christmas cheer.

Orders may be placed in the offering plate, emailed to the office (fccw@myfairpoint.net), or phoned in to 207-882-7544. Checks should be made payable to "First Congregational Church" with memo "poinsettias."

Name_____

Total $ _____

Color: # Red _____ # White _____ # Pink _____

In Memory of_____

So Long and Farewell with Good Wishes and Blessings!

We had a very special service on November 21st to say Good-Bye to Rev. Josh and send good wishes along for the future. We will all miss him but move forward with HOPE as Rev. Oscar wrote in his opening to this issue of CHIMES.

The audio on the recording of the service was not captured, unfortunately. However, lucky for us Carol Peck taped the choir pieces and Josh's last sermon and her son put them all on YouTube. If you would like to listen, go to

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlncfaNb-KU-_Et6Kb5mOgk3FJ8c4IVYx

Meeting House Chimes

First Congregational Church, U.C.C.

P.O. Box 350, 28 High Street

Wiscasset, ME 04578

December

2021

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.