

First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Church

PO Box 350, 28 High Street, Wiscasset, Maine 04578

207-882-7544, www.uccwiscasset.org



We welcome you to the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset.

VISION: We are on a journey to reflect God's love, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of all.

MISSION: Together we strive to praise God, grow in faith, cultivate love, spread joy, care for all people and God's creation, promote peace, and do justice.



November 2, 2025

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

We welcome all to our worship service, whether present in the sanctuary, joining us
on streaming video, or watching our service in the future.

FOR YOUR CONTEMPLATION

“Hold the cross high so I may see it through the flames!!”

~St. Joan of Arc

PRELUDE

Toccata in D Minor, BWV 565

J. S. Bach

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

I Love You, Lord

Laurie Klein

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: We gather in awe,

P: standing in the presence of the One who crafted the stars, the mountains, the seas.

L: We gather in faith,

P: trusting that the One who has held little children holds our lives in the heart of God.

L: We gather in need,

P: seeking the One who longs for justice

*** OPENING HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory

No. 477

INVOCATION TO PRAYER

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

PRESENTATION OF CHECKS TO OUR MISSION PARTNERS

JOYS AND CONCERNS: After each Joy or Concern, Please respond:

Pastor: “God,” Congregation: **“Hear our prayer.”**

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

Global Mission Partner Prayer this week: **Eswatini**

‘*’ Please stand as you are able.

Bold print indicates responses spoken or sung by the congregation.

A LITANY AND PRAYERS OF REMEMBRANCE

L: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in Christ.

P: They will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.

L: We do not want you to be uninformed about those who have died,

P: So that you may not grieve as others who have no hope.

L: For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,

P: Even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

L: But someone will ask “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?”

P: When you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed.

L: But God gives a body as God has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

P: It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.

L: For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality.

P: For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

L: Jesus said “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. I am going to prepare a place for you.

P: I will not leave you orphaned. I am coming to you.

L: The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I said to you.

P: Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

L: “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

P: “And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

L: For God created us for incorruption, and made us in the image of God’s own eternity.

P: The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God and no torment will ever touch them.

L: “They are at peace and their hope is full of immortality”

P: “Because God tested them and found them worthy.” Amen

Remembering all who have died, and all the faithful saints. The beloved names will be read by Rev. John and *a chime will be rung after each name . Family and friends are invited to light a candle in remembrance of their loved one.*

MORNING PRAYER FOLLOWED BY SILENT PRAYER

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 19:1-10, NRSV Updated
Liturgist: This is the Word of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN

In Christ Alone

see insert

SERMON

‘Penguin in the Tree’

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

* PRESENTATION WITH THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.**

DEDICATION PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST

WELCOME

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: May the God of all hope be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift your hearts to the One who comes to feast with you.

P: We offer our hearts to God who is in our midst.

L: Children of God, sing praises to the One who feeds you with goodness and hope.

P: Our hearts and voices resound with joy.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION:

Rev. John

How patient is God! We run around trying to do everything our way, and God Just waits. We try to buy life and happiness, and God waits. We hurt others and walk away from those in need, and God waits. God waits, and upon hearing our heartfelt prayers and cries for help, God touches us with forgiveness and new life. Come, join me as we pray to the One who waits to hear - from us!

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Surrounded by so many seductions, Patient God, we find it difficult to see you in our lives. Justice has a hard time surviving when there is so much persecution and affliction towards the little ones of the world. Our neighborhoods, our families, even our churches, are filled with strife and contention.

We cry for help, Listening God; forgive us! As we wait for your grace to fill our lives, may we open our hearts to your hope and healing, always giving thanks for Jesus Christ.

SILENCE IS KEPT

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Rich, poor; young, old; sinner, saint. We are all God's children, and God transforms each of us into the people we are meant to be.

P: Broken, we are mended; separated from others, we are made one; longing to serve, we are sent forth. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

EUCCHARIST PRAYER

Rev. John

which often seems a mystery:

**Christ died, faithful to the end;
Christ was raised, your righteousness come true;
Christ will return, our hope and peace.**

CONTINUED EUCCHARIST PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer, O God

George Whelpton

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
SHARING OF THE BREAD
SHARING OF THE JUICE
THANKSGIVING PRAYER
COMMISSIONING

* CLOSING HYMN

For All the Saints

No. 486

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTORY RESPONSE

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "For All the Saints"

David Cherwien

You are invited to sit for the postlude.

* * * * *

“Our worship ends, let our service begin”

Minister and Teacher: Rev. John Hogue

Music Director: Joel Pierce

Those serving you today:

Ushers: Lisa Hargreaves

Online Streaming: Tom Clement

Reader: Cindy Clement

Flowers: Ann Crispin

Please join us for fellowship, coffee or tea, and refreshments in Fellowship Hall following worship.

Please take note of the colored paper prayer slips in the pew rack. These are for you to write a word or phrase of prayer or concerns. Fold it and place it in the offering plate. It will only be shared with Rev. John.

** Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731481. All rights reserved.*

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus and Zacchaeus

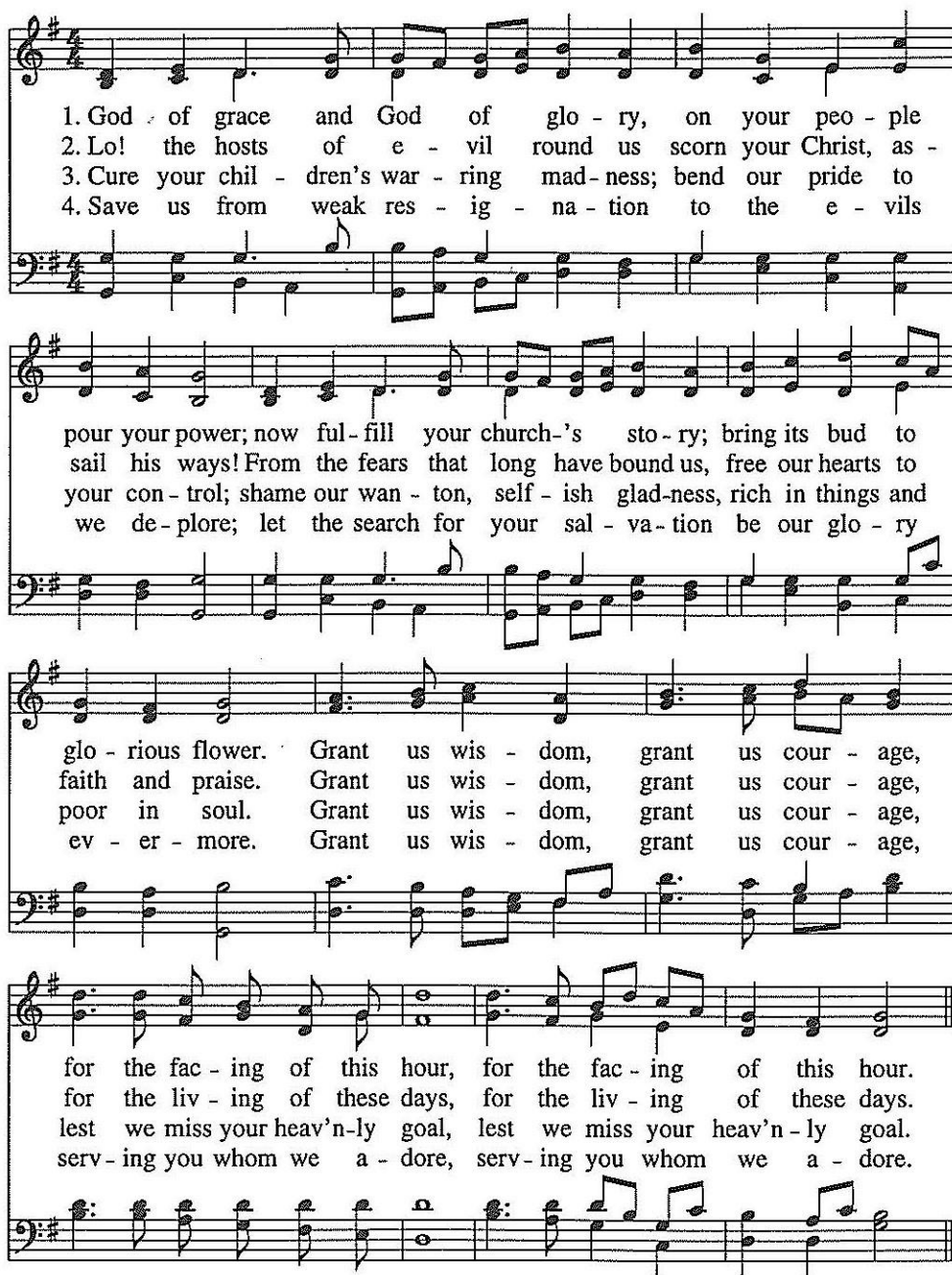
He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

New Revised Standard Version Updated Version

God of Grace and God of Glory



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -
 3. Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; now ful - fill your church - 's sto - ry; bring its bud to
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion be our glo - ry

glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your heav'n - ly goal, lest we miss your heav'n - ly goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.877

In Christ Alone

...there is no other name under heaven... by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps). It consists of eight staves, each with a vocal line and corresponding lyrics. The lyrics are arranged in four-line stanzas. The first stanza is a four-part setting of the opening line. The second and third stanzas are four-part settings of the same line, with the lyrics split across the four parts. The fourth stanza is a four-part setting of the same line, with the lyrics split across the four parts. The fifth and sixth stanzas are four-part settings of the same line, with the lyrics split across the four parts. The seventh and eighth stanzas are four-part settings of the same line, with the lyrics split across the four parts.

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my
2. In Christ a - lone who took on flesh, full-ness of God in help - less
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death: this is the pow'r of Christ in

song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground, firm through the
babe; this gift of love and right-eous - ness, scorned by the
slain. Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day— up from the
me. From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com-

fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of
ones He came to save. Till on that cross as Je - sus
grave He rose a - gain! And as He stands in vic - to -
-mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of

peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings cease! My com - for - ter,
died, the wrath of God was sat - is - fied. For eve - ry sin
-ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me. For I am His
man can ev - er pluck me from His hand. Till He re - turns

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

© 2002 Thankyou Music (PRS) (adm. worldwide at CapitolCMGPublishing.com excluding Europe
which is adm. by Integritymusic.com) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

my all in all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
and He is mine, bought with the pre-cious blood of Christ.
or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

For All the Saints

1. For all the saints who from their la - bors rest,
 2. Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:
 3. O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,
 4. O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 5. And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,

who thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and
 We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and

name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: William W. How, 1864, alt.
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Ralph Vaughan Williams' stirring tune, written for All Saints Day, appeared first in *The English Hymnal* of 1906, for which he was music editor.

SINE NOMINE
 10 10 10 w. alleluias

Nov. 2 , 2025 Luke 19:1-10 "Penguin in the Tree"

I wish to thank everyone who attended the historical potluck last Sunday. The insights were invaluable and I do wish we had more time to focus on the vision of this church. I finished a book by Patricia Adams Farmer, entitled "Fat Soul: A Philosophy of S-I-Z-E.") Patricia said- "We need big visions, big spirits, and fat souls". I believe she is right on target. The same is true for the church in these changing times. We are starting our budget process and gearing up for the stewardship season of our church. Some people plant their feet in concrete realities of budgets and bemoan the challenges. I look for the wisdom embedded in why we have fears and struggles to grow our churches . We need to have big souls and big visions, like Zacchaeus who widens his circle to bring healing to the people around him. Being Open and Affirming means we widen our circle and expand the circle for others into the vision. Let's take a look at how this happens to Zaccchaeus.

The story of Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus portrays the quest for spiritual stature. Jesus is passing by but Zacchaeus can't see him because he is "short in stature." The gospel writer, I believe, is not just pointing to Zacchaeus' height; he is also describing his spirit. Before he heard of Jesus' visit, Zacchaeus had a small soul; in fact, he may have intentionally cultivated a cramped spirit, focusing primarily on prosperity and property to the exclusion of healthy relationships with his community. His small spirit allowed him to deny the pain he inflicted on others through an oppressive tax structure.

Small in stature, Zacchaeus climbs a tree: he realizes that he needs a larger vision, he needs to see Jesus more clearly, (Expandable Globe) and gain a larger perspective. (Illustrate with Globe and Reference to Joel) He is being called from individualism to community care. He is called from self-interest to compassion. He is called from oppression to reconciliation. Vision is both spiritual and visual for this Jericho tax collector. Like the hero of Jesus' parable taking place on the way to

Jericho, he needs to expand his world view and his empathy toward his neighbors. This is our challenge. To be truly open and affirming we need to truly bring LGBTQI folk, physically challenged folk and those of different skin color into our circle, widen our views of those who are different from us but are human beings.

When Jesus notices Zacchaeus, he invites himself to this tax collector's home. The community is scandalized, and Zacchaeus' self-righteous neighbors are grumbling at Jesus' welcome of a sinner. Despite his affluence, Zacchaeus is a social outcast due to his occupation as a Roman agent. Jesus can't possibly want to dine with him. Yet, Jesus' spiritual stature allowed him to embrace the clean and the unclean, the righteous and sinful, the socially acceptable and the social pariahs. Jesus thinks big. He looks beyond appearances and social mores to discern God's depths in Zacchaeus and expand the circle of God's love.

Stature is contagious and Zacchaeus experiences a larger vision of himself and his calling. Wealth is no longer his highest value; he makes a commitment to spiritual transformation, revealed in financial honesty, reparation if needed, and generosity. The encounter concludes with Jesus proclaiming that salvation, wholeness and healing, has come to those who were presumed to be lost. Salvation is about a larger perspective, a new vision of reality, values, and vocation.

Discovered this true story by Scott Higgins. It takes place on Philip Island, in Victoria Australia, plays host to one of the greatest nature experiences possible. On the shores of Philip Island are the burrows of thousands upon thousands of fairy penguins, extraordinarily cute little birds that stand only 30cm or so tall. Every morning the adult penguins head out to sea to catch fish. At the end of the day they return to land to bring back food for their chicks. Watching them get from the water to their burrows is both funny and exhilarating. The penguins surf in the waves, then gather in groups at the water's edge. Their burrows are 100 meters or so away, with the open space of the sandy beach between

them. All of a sudden a group of penguins will take off, waddling as fast as their little legs will carry them across the beach. But then, having got 10 or 20 meters they'll suddenly turn around and waddle back to the water. They wait, then try again. One group makes it, but another performs this strange ritual of turning back. And on it goes, through the dying light of day, until finally the penguins have all crossed the beach and met their chicks in their burrows.

What's going on? Why the strange stop-start-return ritual? The answer's quite simple. At sea the birds are fast swimmers, able to dive deep. At sea they're safe from predators such as eagles, hawks, dogs and cats. In their burrows they are safe below ground. But on the open beach they're vulnerable and exposed. On the beach they can only waddle slowly and are easy pickings for predators. And so, as they cross the beach, the moment they see a shadow or something out of the corner of their eye, they turn back and race for the safety of the water.

We humans are a lot like those fairy penguins. When confronted with challenging situations we find ourselves like the penguins standing at the water's edge. We know where we've got to go, we know we've got to get across that beach to get back to the burrow, but it can be so terrifying. When we step out of the water and start waddling across the beach we leave our safety zone behind, we're in no-man's land where it's dangerous, uncertain and where we're vulnerable. Yet to get to the burrow we must leave the safety zone behind and strike out into the danger zone.

Present limitations can constrict our visions. We can be imprisoned by our desire for security, safety, and affluence. We will be presenting a budget but behind those numbers is a narrative. What lives are being transformed and yet to be transformed into the future? We cannot put a price on that transformation. God wants us to have large visions and large spirits to match the challenges of our time. Let us like Jesus grow in wisdom and stature and favor with God and humanity. We can

discover that within limitations, there are unexpected possibilities. Yet so many people have cramped spirits. This illustrates the point of a cramped spirit:

There was this criminal who had committed a crime (Because, hey, that's what criminals do. That's their job!) Anyway, he was sent to the king for his punishment. The king told him he had a choice of two punishments. He could be hung by a rope. Or take what's behind the big, dark, scary, mysterious iron door. The criminal quickly decided on the rope.

As the noose was being slipped on him, he turned to the king and asked: "By the way, out of curiosity, what's behind that door?"

The king laughed and said: "You know, it's funny, I offer everyone the same choice, and nearly everyone picks the rope." "So," said the criminal, "Tell me. What's behind the door? I mean, obviously, I won't tell anyone," he said, pointing to the noose around his neck. The king paused then answered: "Freedom, but it seems most people are so afraid of the unknown that they immediately take the rope."

Beloved, let's try bravely opening up those doors which lead to the unfamiliar. Move into the tree or recognize: When nothing changes, then nothing changes. In other words, If you keep doing what you're always doing, you'll keep getting what you're always getting.

Happy November Birthday to Harry Green, Rev. John Hogue, Mary McKinney, Deborah Olson, Karl Olson, Margot Stiassni, and Jan Whitfield.

Help Yourself Shelf Wish List

Cereal * Coffee * Soup * Taco Kits * Pasta * Ramen * Canned Pumpkin *
Jams & Jellies * Salad Dressing * Cake Mixes * Canned Meats * Pet Food

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday November 9, Mission and Outreach meeting after Coffee Hour

Just as Summerfest has for decades been an “All hands on deck” effort, fundraising for local and worldwide mission giving continues to be the responsibility of the whole congregation. This meeting is a brainstorming session where the main goal is to come up with as many ideas as possible for fundraising events in 2026. If you are unable to attend, please contact Nancy Roby or Martha Speed with your ideas.

Sunday November 9 we will honor, remember and uplift all branches of the Veterans and sing the Medley. They are:

- Army: "The Army Goes Rolling Along"
- Navy: "Anchors Aweigh"
- Marine Corps: "The Marines' Hymn"
- Air Force: "The U.S. Air Force"
- Coast Guard: "Semper Paratus"

We will ask you to stand in honor of each family member and ones who belong to the ages who have been in US armed services since the American Revolutionary War. Rev. John will portray one of the Four Chaplains from WWII as a first person sermon and allow their testimony come to life.

Organ Society Christmas Wreath Sale

Wreaths will be available for pick-up on Tuesday November 25th or Sunday November 30th. Please pre-order by Thursday November 20th. Order forms are available from the ushers, on the table in the Narthex, in Fellowship Hall and in the church office. A link for a form to fill out and bring in or mail to the church will be provided in the Chimes.

Sunday, November 2	Choir Practice 8:10am Sunday Worship 10:00am All Saints Sunday Mission Sunday Coffee Hour following worship in Fellowship Hall. The Chosen 5:30, including potluck supper
Monday, November 3	Rev. John's Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Garden Club of Wiscasset Board Meeting 9am Mah Jongg 6:00 – 8:30pm
Tuesday, November 4	Rev. John's Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Sheepscot Valley Chorus 7:00pm
Wednesday, November 5	Rev. John's Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Organ Society Business Meeting 9:30am Feed Our Scholars packing 11:00am in the activity room Book Study 4pm – 5:30pm in the parlor
Thursday, November 6	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Garden Club of Wiscasset Meeting 11am – 2:30pm
Sunday, November 9	Choir Practice 8:10am Sunday Worship 10:00am Outreach Team brainstorming meeting after Coffee Hour The Chosen 5:30, including potluck supper



First Congregational Church UCC
PO Box 350, 28 High Street, Wiscasset, ME 04578

Minister and Teacher: Rev. John Hogue
revjohnwiscassetucc@gmail.com
Pastoral Care – 207 955-0055

Music Director: Joel Pierce
Sexton: Mary McKinney
Office Administrator: Beth Maxwell

Church Office Email – fccw@myfairpoint.net
Church Office Phone – 207 882-7544
Church Website – www.uccwiscasset.org