

First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP IN WISCASSET First Congregational Church & St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Our two congregations join together to invite the community to gather to re-enact the 'mighty works of God' through the final week of Jesus' life. From triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to his Last Supper with his disciples, his trial and crucifixion all culminated on Easter morn, with the shouts of 'He is Risen' Join us no matter if you are well acquainted with His story, or if you have doubts, questions or are simply curious. There's a place for you!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 10am PALM SUNDAY at First Congregational Church



Amid the shouts of 'Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord' Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Sermon: The Palm Sunday Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem and The Passion of Christ as recorded by Luke.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 7PM MAUNDY THURSDAY AND TENEBRAE.

Communion and Tenebrae is a Service of Increasing darkness as we read the accounts of Jesus after his arrest at the Garden of Gethsemane and up to His crucifixion.

*Members and friends of St. Philips will be joining us.



FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 6PM GOOD FRIDAY at St. Philip's Parish Hall.

"Prayer and Meditation Around the Cross" is the theme of our Good Friday service. The service will be in the Taizé tradition, in which prayers are sung rather than spoken.

*6:00pm, St. Philip's Episcopal Church. We gather in the Parish Hall for this worship around the Cross.

Sunday, April 20, 2025 EASTER SUNDAY 6 & 10am

6:00AM EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE ON THE TOWN PIER (with St. Philip's Episcopal Church). Sermon: "And So Are You!" based on Luke 24:1 - 10; 28 - 35.

The resurrection celebrated! But the real resurrection is only revealed when we, too, experience the newness, the possibilities of new life in our own experiences. Christ is risen! And so are you!

Sermon by Rev. Myers



10:00AM EASTER SERVICE IN OUR SANCTUARY.

Sermon: "Please No Explanations Inside the Church" based on Luke 24:1 - 12. Archie Bunker was arguing with his son-in-law, who he called Meathead, about the fact the Meathead claimed he was an atheist. Archie, never known for his religious knowledge, was getting very upset that he couldn't change Meathead's mind. He finally yells out, "Edith! Would youse get in here, I'm trying to defend God all by myself." That's the problem without faith - it's faith! It is not math. We see what seems to be impossible, and we live our lives in the face of such impossibility with faith that God makes all things new - even us!!

The
MEETING HOUSE CHIMES
April 2025

*First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC
28 High Street, Wiscasset, ME 04578
(207) 882-7544*

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.


Welcome to the April edition of the Chimes!

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." ...*Jeremiah 29:11*

Myers' Musings

Easter brings new beginnings!
April, 2025

Most of you know that I have made 27 trips to Nicaragua from 1991 - 2017. While there I (and over 160 people that went on those trips with me at various times) we worked with three principle organizations and one indigenous Protestant Church of about 120 churches. The church "denomination" was La Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua (which included supporting a mother daughter dentist team that worked in 6 of the poorest of the poor communities each year). The organizations were Accion Medica (a protestant indigenous medical organization working in remote eastern Nicaragua); and the first Protestant University in Nicaragua and had a student body of 6,000 in 4 different Latin American countries. Every time we visited, we experienced life in a developing country - the second poorest country in this hemisphere. And despite their lack of wealth, we experienced an incredible richness of spirit and willingness to work together. Truly they showed us how to live with less, how to appreciate God's good gifts, and how to be an Easter people. Our experience also helps us join you in the seasons of Lent and Easter.



Lent is the season of the church year where we prepare, when we are penitential, and when we assess who we are as Christians. It leads us to Holy Week, when Jesus, as a good Jew, returned to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Feast. That would turn out to be his “Last Supper”, the meal that we celebrate as Holy Communion. It would also lead Jesus to the cross where, as the Son of God, He would die a very humiliating and excruciating death by crucifixion – so that our sins would be forgiven. It’s a complex story about how society can do incredibly evil things, even while intending to be true to the faith.

But the Good News is that despite the travails of the “Good Friday” world, Easter comes! Jesus rises triumphantly! But let’s not get to hasty – the very first Easter was a frightening and terrifying event for those who went to the tomb. The tomb was empty, and they reasoned, someone has stolen the body!

Easter still remains something very hard for us to comprehend; and for those who can comprehend, it is still hard to be faithful to the story. Disbelief is all around us. We still suffer losses and defeats in our personal world. But Easter, while it doesn’t take away the pain of the world, does help us live with the pain and to overcome it! Arise and be Easter people!

May God’s Grace and Peace be with you!

Dave Myers

(See the "Sermons and Scriptures"
section below for the upcoming Sermons)

Lenten Potluck and Bible Study on people of the Bible Sunday Evenings (March 9 – April 13) 5:30 – 7:00pm

Overview: This Lenten Series, led by Rev. Myers and all who participate, is designed for us to be able to better understand some of the important figures in the Bible. This in turn will help us have a new and better understanding of what human faithfulness means even though we are all people with flaws.

Please bring your favorite foods to share and be ready to eat at 5:30 pm.

Preliminary Discussion on what the Bible and its stories and teachings can do for us.

(Last 2 Sessions)

April 6:

Mary Magdelene.

Suggested Readings: Luke 8:1 – 3; Matthew 27:55– 61; Matthew 28:1 – 10.

April 13: Palm Sunday (Last Reading Session)

Paul (Saul).

Suggested Readings: Acts 9:1 – 30; Acts 17 – 18:1: Acts 25

Talent and Services Auction

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.” . . . “For to everyone who has will more be given,” . . .Matthew 25:21, 29

WHAT: A Fund Raiser for our Mission Partners

WHEN: Friday or Saturday, early May 6:00pm
Light Supper and Dessert Auctioning begins at 7:00pm

WHERE: Fellowship Hall, First Congregational Church of Wiscasset

What’s the concept? Do you have talent? Of course you do! It may be cooking for Aa group, or it could be driving to the airport, artistry, photography, giving lessons, knitting quilting, crocheting, being a tour guide at some historical place, gardening – the list is endless. Or, you may have services you could provide a service – like a week or weekend stay at your cottage or summer home, have a picture or painting, babysitting, landscaping, clean-ups.

Whatever it is, you can help the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset to fund our Mission Partners, by putting it up for Auction. On (still to be determined) we will begin with a light dinner of finger foods and desserts at 6:00 pm with Auctioning beginning at 7:00pm with the world’s not so famous auctioneer, Dave Myers.

As the date draws near, we will put the list of available items in the weekly bulletin, so you may begin making plans

Please donate and plan to get some great and perhaps much needed items – and remember this also has the advantage of getting to know our members and friends much better.

* * * * *

I, _____ will donate to the FCCW Auction

Description of item(s): _____

Specifics: Minimum bid \$ _____ If a meal, please how many to serve: _____

If something you are making, how many? _____ Time period this has to be done. _____

If a place to stay, what are available dates: _____

If it is a service like babysitting or a trip to the airport, is it one way or round trip and how many would you offer: _____

Setting a minimum bid is also helpful. _____

Please give specific limitations or just “To Be Arranged with purchaser.”

*Interested in joining the
First Congregational Church of Wiscasset??
Or, perhaps learning more about what it means to become a member?*

*You are invited to meet with Rev. David Myers after Coffee hour
on Sunday, April 6 (about 11:20am)*

Membership in a local church is an expression of your desire to covenant with that church to participate in the ministries and programs of that church. It means that you will fulfill the vows of your baptism (belief in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and sharing God's love and acceptance among all people) with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service.

The most obvious benefits of membership are joining a faith community, meeting new friends, and exercising and growing in your faith. There are many ways you can be a part of our church: sing, play an instrument, teach a study or interest class, help with our mission and outreach ministries. You will meet new friends as you work together to both grow your own faith and share it with others and reach out to all people with love and acceptance.

There are three basic ways you can become a member:

- 1.) Complete a confirmation class and confirm the vows made at your baptism and then join the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset as a full member.*
- 2.) If you are or have been a member (laity or clergy) of another church or denomination and have been baptized, you may request a transfer of your membership from the church you currently hold membership.*
- 3.) If you are clergy (serving in a special ministry, or in retired status, and cannot give up your membership in that denomination) or perhaps as a lay person you have a limited stay in the Wiscasset area you may become an affiliate member.*

SUMMERFEST + MORE

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, July 26

We will be having a "new version" of Summerfest this year. We will be adding rental tables for Crafters and Seller. We plan to eliminate our Yard Sale and Books areas.

Please, plan to join in the fun. It is very important to continue our

fundraising efforts especially now; some of our local outreach partners are losing some of their funding this year.

Please contact Angie Eddy, Samantha Main, or Nancy Roby with any questions.

Chair Yoga with Samantha Main

Class Details

- Day: Wednesdays
- Time: 12:00 PM

Overview

Chair Yoga with Samantha is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting on a chair or standing using a chair for support. This class is perfect for those who want to enjoy the benefits of yoga but have limitations with traditional mat-based poses.

Benefits of Chair Yoga

- Improved Flexibility: Increases range of motion in joints.
- Enhanced Balance: Helps in maintaining balance and preventing falls.
- Stress Reduction: Promotes relaxation and mental clarity.
- Accessibility: Suitable for all ages and fitness levels, including those with mobility issues.

What to Expect

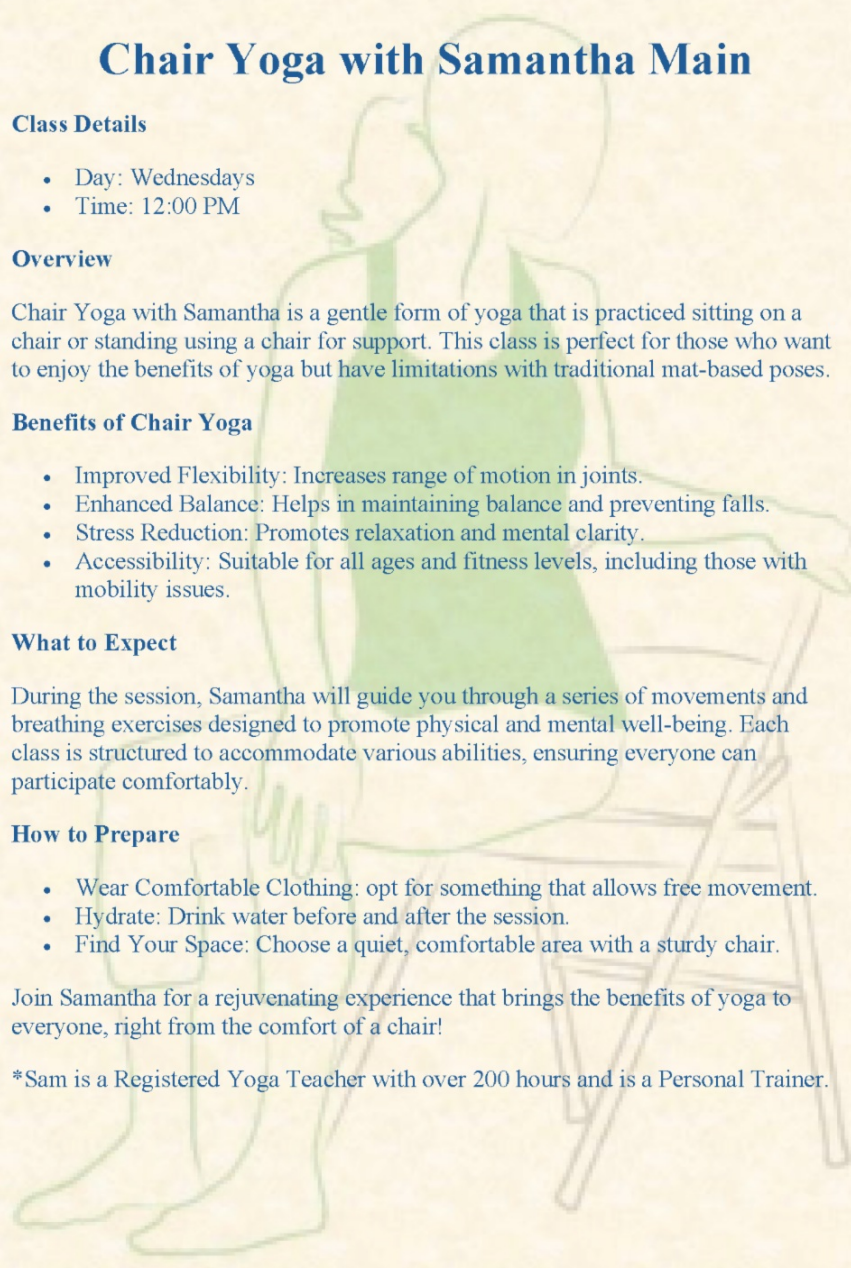
During the session, Samantha will guide you through a series of movements and breathing exercises designed to promote physical and mental well-being. Each class is structured to accommodate various abilities, ensuring everyone can participate comfortably.

How to Prepare

- Wear Comfortable Clothing: opt for something that allows free movement.
- Hydrate: Drink water before and after the session.
- Find Your Space: Choose a quiet, comfortable area with a sturdy chair.

Join Samantha for a rejuvenating experience that brings the benefits of yoga to everyone, right from the comfort of a chair!

*Sam is a Registered Yoga Teacher with over 200 hours and is a Personal Trainer.





THE
ORGAN
SOCIETY 2023

THE ORGAN SOCIETY PRESENTS:

GREETING CARD — MAKING —

— WORKSHOP —

- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23RD -



The Organ Society is pleased to host our own Jan Whitfield on
Wednesday, April 23, at 9:30.

Jan will lead a workshop on making greeting cards. Everyone who
attends will have the opportunity to make 3 cards to take home.

This is an Organ Society fundraiser. The cost for the workshop is
\$20. Sign up early as we must limit this to 12 participants.

Please join us in the church fellowship hall.



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The UCC asks pastoral search committees and their congregations to make **FIVE COMMITMENTS**.

A Faith Commitment . . .we suspect you know what this means!

A Time Commitment . . . we remember Dave's sermon on "God's Time".

A Commitment to Openness . . . we pledge a genuine consideration of all candidates.

A Commitment to Consensus . . .we discuss concerns and listen intentionally to what each member says. When we decide on a candidate to present to the church, we do not simply vote with a majority making the decision. We all have to agree as one body that this candidate will or will not be presented to the church. That said, no one committee member has veto power; instead, we agree to work through concerns as best as we can.

A Commitment to Confidentiality . . . we know you want to know where we are in the process, especially if we are getting close to finding a settled minister. Please remember what candidates expect from us and recognize that we could lose someone if we breach their trust in us. Many who currently serve congregations have not

said that they are looking for a new position. Here's what the conference guidelines say about this last commitment.

“Committee members must not talk about the content of their work. That is to say, the sharing of names of individuals under consideration is a serious breach of process. Even to speak in generalities about location or experience or gender can risk folk guessing who the committee is considering.

The congregation must be kept informed at every step of the process. Sharing where the Search Committee is in the process is critical. However, until a final candidate is presented, all conversation about any candidate is closely guarded.”

So, where are we now? We are updating the church profile and working with the conference's associate conference minister, John Fiscus, to improve the interview questions we will pose to any new candidates that come our way. We have faith that God will send the right person to us at the right time. **Meanwhile**, we are grateful to Rev. Dave Myers for all that he does!

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The next Council meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on April 9 in Fellowship Hall.

Anyone who wants to attend via Zoom should email Cindy Clement at cindytabaclement@gmail.com.

A copy of the latest Church Council meeting minutes and a copy of the latest Treasurer's Report will now be available monthly on a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We are hoping this will help the lines of open communications .

Thank you,
Becky

Outreach Team

The Outreach Team held their first meeting after worship on


Sunday, February 2. We first discussed the name of our Team and agreed to call it simply "Outreach".

We then began to identify activities which we felt were Outreach subgroups and volunteers willing to work on these subgroups as follows:

1. CWS Kit Program: Sally Howe, Joan Shea, Anne Harris, & Nancy Roby
2. "Conversation" (& seasonal appropriate beverage): Linda Wallace & Deb Myers
3. For Her: Organ Society
4. Art Walks: Martha Speed, Angie Eddy, & Youth Group
5. Fundraising: this task is listed under all the Teams in the Governance model. We scheduled a joint meeting of all Teams & open to all the Congregation on Sunday, February 16 following worship. ***This was cancelled due to bad weather and rescheduled for Sunday, March 2.
6. Feed Our Scholars: Beth Maxwell, Deb Myers, Anne Harris, & Nancy Roby
7. U.C.C. Special Offerings: Beth Maxwell, Deb Myers, & Linda Wallace
8. Food Pantry: Beth Maxwell
 - Discussed asking for food items to be brought in the same Sunday as the Noisy Offering
 - Volunteers are needed at the Food Pantry at St. Philip's Tuesday, Wednesday, &/or Thursdays
9. Peace & Justice Issues: Deb Myers, Linda Wallace, Laurie LeBar
 - Bulletin Board
 - Letter writing
 - Speakers
 - Ecumenical Meetings

We agreed it would be beneficial to meet as an entire group quarterly to report back and check in with each other.

The former CWS bulletin board, now marked Outreach, has listings of all these subgroups. If you are interested in being a part of any of these areas, please add your name or contact the people listed. REMEMBER, there is an all church meeting to begin brainstorming fundraising ideas will be held after worship on Sunday, March 2. **Everyone is welcome and needed.** Please plan to attend.



The April sign up calendar is up and ready for you to help with our weekly fellowship coffee hour. We are always in need of a person to arrive early each Sunday and plate food so that it is ready when the church service ends. If you have not done this before, a volunteer is happy to help with kitchen procedures. Each week, our dedicated CC Team member, Ron Sanchez, sets up the coffee and prepares the center refreshment table. We thank Ron for his thoughtfulness and attention to detail. We also thank all who generously bake, purchase treats and assist with set up/clean up. We encourage everyone to take time to enjoy this special time together.

Lisa Hargreaves serves as the CC Team's coordinator of transportation for members and friends who would like a ride to church. If you need a ride or know of someone who might appreciate a ride to church or appointments or if you would like to help with driving, please call Lisa at 315-0802.

Anne Harris is the CC Team's contact with Rev. Dave Myers and supports the minister by keeping him informed of prayer requests, pastoral visits and any additional needs of our Congregation.

If you know of someone who would like a call or visit, please connect with any member of the CC Team. We send cards, make calls and visit members to let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers.

The white board next to Rev. Myers office is there for you to share your thoughts, prayers and concerns. Please date comments and remove them when appropriate.

Remember, your Congregational Care Team members are a phone call away and welcome your help.

Anne Harris, Jane Junkert, Lisa Hargreaves, 315-0802, Ron Sanchez and co-chairs Judith Sutter 882-7230 and Susan Zimmerman. 504-6507.

Drivers Anyone?

If you would like to provide an occasional ride to and from church

on Sunday mornings for those unable to drive themselves, please call Lisa Hargreaves at 207-315-0802. Thank you!

Would you like to bring in flowers to grace our sanctuary?

Bringing in your favorite houseplant to share would be wonderful! Would you be willing to leave your beautiful offering for more than one week?



HELP WANTED

Food Pantry Cart: The Outreach Team has relocated the food pantry cart from the Narthex to Fellowship Hall, so it is more available. Food items will go to the Help Yourself Shelf at the Food Pantry at St. Philip's. A monthly "wish list" will be posted on the box and in the monthly Chimes.

Help Wanted for Property and Finance, someone to learn to program the almost a dozen thermostats as a backup resource. Contact Beth Maxwell at emaxwell@myfairpoint.net or 882-6180.

Worship for April, 2025

April 6:

Communion. Sermon:

"Managing God" based on John 11:1 - 45. This is the story of Lazarus: his illness, death and Jesus raising him from the dead. Lazarus was a good friend of Jesus; and his sisters were very upset when they asked Jesus' to heal Lazarus, and Jesus didn't show up for 3 days, during which time Lazarus died. They aren't the only ones who have tried to manage God and God's healings.

Holy Week Worship

April 13: Palm Sunday:

Sermon: The Palm Sunday Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem and The Passion of Christ as recorded by Luke.

April 17: 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae.

Communion and Tenebrae is a Service of Increasing darkness as we read the accounts of Jesus after his arrest at the Garden of Gethsemane and up to His crucifixion. Members and friends of St. Philips will be joining us.

April 18: 6:00 pm Good Friday (at St. Philip's Episcopal Church) A very moving service featuring the music from the Taizé Community in France.

April 20: 6:00 am Easter. Sunrise Service on the Town Pier (with St. Philip's Episcopal Church). Sermon: "And So Are You!" based on Luke 24:1 – 10; 28 – 35. The resurrection celebrated! But the real resurrection is only revealed when we, too, experience the newness, the possibilities of new life in our own experiences. Christ is risen! And so are you!

10:00 am Easter in our Sanctuary.

Sermon: "Please No Explanations Inside the Church" based on Luke 24:1 – 12. Archie Bunker was arguing with his son-in-law, who he called Meathead about the fact the Meathead claimed he was an atheist. Archie, never known for his religious knowledge, was getting very upset that he couldn't change Meathead's mind. He finally yells out, "Edith! Would youse get in here, I'm trying to defend God all by myself." That's the problem without faith – it's faith! It is not math. We see what seems to be impossible, and we live our lives in the face of such impossibility with faith that God makes all things new – even us!!

April 27: Communion (celebrated by our confirmands)

A Sunday of New Beginnings!!! The Sacrament of Baptism, Reception of New Members.

As we welcome new members from the Confirmation Class which has been led over the years by the Rev. Oscar Wallace, we celebrate the power of the resurrection in our midst.

Sermon: "Blessed Are Those Who Believe"

based on John 20:1 - 18

May 4: Sermon: "Chief Seattle's Speech" based on Genesis 1: 26 - 31. A most eloquent speech given by Chief Sleath (spelled Seattle by the early settlers of the Northwest. This speech, delivered in 1854, was on the year before a great treaty making council was held between fourteen Indian tribes and the United States government. It has themes of ecology, gentleness, and great hope about peace for different peoples.

Faith Development (Christian Ed)

Monthly meeting will be April 7, 2025 @ 6:30pm.

KINDNESS BAGS

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP THE HOMELESS

**WE WILL BE COLLECTING ITEMS TO
MAKE HOMELESS BAG KITS. ITEMS
CAN BE PLACED IN THE BASKET IN
FELLOWSHIP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

**OUR YOUTH GROUP WILL SORT AND
PACK BAGS FOR PEOPLE TO GRAB**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO TAKE A BAG
TO DISTRIBUTE TO ANYONE IN NEED**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO ANGELA EDDY
@ 207-607-2035.**

SUGGESTED ITEMS

SOCKS
UNDERWEAR
DEODORANT
DISPOSABLE RAZORS
TOOTHBRUSH
TOOTHPASTE
COMBS/BRUSH
GALLON SIZE BAGS
WET WIPES
HAND WARMERS
GLOVES
TISSUES
FEMININE PRODUCTS
HAND WARMERS
WASH CLOTHS

TRAVEL SIZE

SOAP/BODY WASH
LOTION
SHAMPOO
HAND SANITIZER

FOOD ITEMS

WATER BOTTLES
GRANOLA BARS
TRAIL MIX
SNACK ITEMS

A Message from the Trustees:

Please practice of closing **all** doors when we're not in the building. Closed doors make a huge difference in the event of a fire.

Thank you,
Your Trustees

CLYNK Reminder

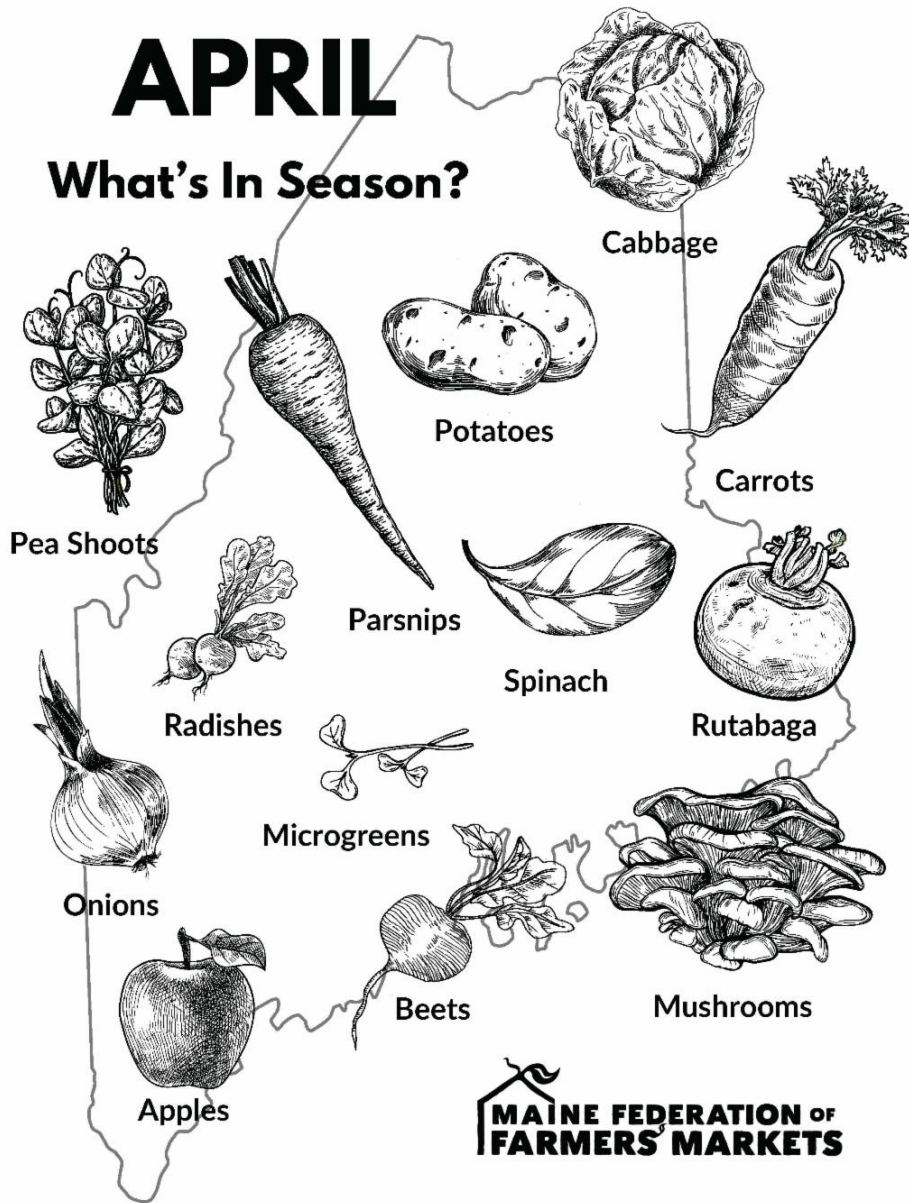
CLYNK bags are available for you to RECYCLE and help raise funds.



Try not to color outside the lines!

APRIL

What's In Season?



To Print at Home click this Link

<https://mainefarmersmarkets.org/in-season-coloring-pages/>

In case of a pastoral emergency please use Rev. Dave's cell phone 202-302-6903. Office hours are T, W, Th 9:00am – 12:00pm. Please continue to use the church number (297-882-7544) for all other church business.

Cindy Clemet
Church Council President

Directories!

If you have moved, new phone number, new email address, please let the office know so we can update the directory with any changes.

The 2025 directory are now available. Please pick one up in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex. If you are away, Ted is happy to put one in the mail to you, or Email to it to you.

Please keep the office posted when phone numbers or addresses change. It is easy to update the database so the next time the directory is printed, your change will be included.



Thank you for reading the March issue of The Chimes!

If you have news, you'd like to share for the **May issue**, please send in your article by **April 20th** to fccw@myfairpoint.com.

[>> Click here for the March Chimes](#)

*First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC
Mailing address: P.O. Box 350
www.uccwiscasset.org ~ fccw@myfairpoint.net
Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-12pm*

*Worship: Sunday 10 a.m.
Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. David C. Myers
Music Director: Joel Pierce
Office Administrator: Ted Gilbert
Sexton: Mary McKinney*



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US

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