

# October

## 2021



### 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

Minister: Rev. Josh Fitterling, Interim Organist: Ray Cornils

Sexton: Mary McKinney, Office Administrator/Editor: Janet Leonard

## Change Begins

*"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

As the green on the trees dulls and spots of red, orange, and yellow begin to emerge, change is beginning around us. With summer transitioning to fall, the appearance of mums everywhere, and the availability of pumpkin spice everything, the world around us is embracing the changing seasons. This season of change is one which is welcomed by those who love long sleeves, chilly nights, and the seasonal delights of fresh apples. It is also a season which is hard for those who grieve the last days of summer, who can't stand pumpkin spice, and who find the shortening days to be an emotional drain. Change is experienced differently by everyone and we make space for it all.

As a congregation, we too are beginning our own season of change. As I prepare to leave and step away so another can step forward, I am keenly aware that this season too is filled with different emotions and experiences. For me, I have seen the strength of this congregation and the leadership of this church rally as together you will journey forward. I delight in seeing this strength! I have already shared many a smile as memories of the last 4 ½ years have been reflected upon, and I have also shed many a tear as goodbyes and best wishes begin to take place. I have so many hopes for this congregation as you enter this new season and I will miss you all. Yet, holding all these many emotions and experiences, I journey on with God's help.

Until November 21<sup>st</sup> which is my last Sunday, please know that I am available to you as you look at this season of change and hold up all the wonders and worries. Don't hesitate to be in touch. I am always open to a chat, even over coffee (pumpkin spice or not, your choice!). I am always open to creating space for your experience of the change upon us.

Yes, change is beginning. And yet, we trust that God is with us. We trust that God will make our pathways known and our futures filled with hope. And while we may be experiencing a season of change, the unchanging love and grace of our Guiding God remain. Lean on that as we journey forward into the change before us.

Peace,

*Josh*

Josh

## 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](http://www.uccwiscasset.org).

*Thank you to everyone who continues to make our services possible!*

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### 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 October. You can sign-up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48aea82aa3f8ce9-church>, or call the church office.

Thanks for your help!

Bring your animal companions and join us on the Town Common for a blessing of our beloved. There will also be a place to remember beloved companions which have passed on as we hold their memories dear! Whether furry, feathered, scaly, or otherwise clad, all of God's critters are welcome! If your animal companions cannot be with us, feel free to bring a picture. Water and treats will also be provided for our honored guests! and the blessings they shared in their living.



***Sunday, October 17th***

***@ 2pm***



***Wiscasset Town Common***



***Hosted by St. Philip's Episcopal Church and First Congregational UCC***

Donations will also be collected to support local organizations who make it their mission to care for these beloved companions! This short time of blessing is held in honor of St. Francis, and is a joint offering of St. Philip's Episcopal Church and First Congregational Church UCC.

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## **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!**

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## **Council Update**

As you all know, Josh's last Sunday with us will be November 21st. We are all sad to see him go but wish him the best with whatever the future holds for him and his family. Here is an update on the transition: Oscar Wallace has kindly agreed to lead us in worship through Advent and until the end of the year. The Diaconate has begun the process of finding an interim minister to start in January and Council will be approving a Pastoral Search Committee most probably at our meeting in October. We will keep you all posted throughout this time. — Anne Harris, Council President.



## Christian Education Happenings



Our Sunday Youth Group has started to meet outdoors in the month of September. As weather allows, we will continue to meet outdoors. When we do gather inside, the Youth Group now has a newly decorated space to call their own! This redesign was made possible by



donations of items and the financial support of our church's annual budget. The space will provide a place of rest and renewal for our youth as we continue to grow in faith together!

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## October Birthdays

Susan Bedard   Joan Bickford   Zoe Bigley  
Chuck Billings   Tom Cramer   Ann Crispin  
Don Doughty   Tammy Doughty  
Charlotte Henry   Jane Junkert  
Christiane Kovarik  
Tom Kovarik   David Lenz



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## Blood Drive



The Alna Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on the afternoon of Thursday, October 7th, at the Alna Fire Station, which is on Route 218 about 6 miles from Route 1. There are still appointment times available! If you would like to register to donate blood you can go to [red-crossblood.org](http://red-crossblood.org) to sign up or you can contact Beth Whitney at [bwhitney2287@gmail.com](mailto:bwhitney2287@gmail.com) or phone 207-586-5803 and she will take care of that for you.

## Sunday Night Bible Study - 7pm on ZOOM

For the time being, Sunday Night Bible Study will be completely on ZOOM. When Lincoln County levels return to "low" or "moderate" transmission, a hybrid meeting will be offered once more.



The study of Exodus continues on:

October 3<sup>rd</sup>

October 10<sup>th</sup>

October 24<sup>th</sup>

October 31<sup>st</sup>

Reach out to Rev. Josh if you have any questions or to get the Zoom login information (207-882-7544 or [joshfitterling@myfairpoint.net](mailto:joshfitterling@myfairpoint.net)).

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## Scarecrowfest Is Coming!

This year's town of Wiscasset celebration of Fall cosponsored by the Chamber of Commerce & the Parks & Recreation Dept. will be held October 9<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>. There are fun activities for all ages throughout the week. You can get a full schedule on either of the sponsors websites.

Here are a few activity suggestions for our church:

1. **Build a Scarecrow**: would a group or an individual like to create a scarecrow for our church? or for your family? Entry forms can be picked up in the church office (or online at the sponsor's websites) and are due by Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. Check in to build & have scarecrow placed on the Common is 10am to noon Sat. Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. **Pie Sale**: Could you make a pie to be sold downtown Wiscasset Tuesday Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm? The proceeds from the Pie Sale go to the town Beautification Committee. This group plants the flowers around town, the beautiful daffodils on the Common, decorates the downtown at Christmas....and more!
3. Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup>: **the Salty Dogs** will be playing on the Common from 6-8pm. You don't have to do anything...just come & enjoy!
4. The main event....lots of fun on the Common all day. One of the events is the **Chili/Chowder/Pumpkin Dessert challenge**. If you make a really delicious one of those things, please enter the contest. Again, entry forms are in the office or on the websites. All the proceeds from this will go to our church's Special Needs Fund and to St. Philip's food pantry. So your participation will help many people, please join the fun.

Any questions, please contact Nancy Roby or again go to the Wiscasset Chamber of Commerce or Wiscasset Rec Dept websites/face book pages for more details. All activities will be held outside in a safe manner. FYI, the Organ Society and Jane Junkert will be there selling their crafts on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Come support our church, support the Food Pantry, support our town and enjoy Scarecrowfest!!

## 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 and leave a message for volunteer coordinator, Beth Soule, or leave a message on the Bargain Basement Facebook Page.



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## Feed Our Scholars – Help Wanted

The program providing weekend food to elementary school students has started up as the school year is underway. There are four ways you can help with this program which is supporting over forty elementary school students. First, weekly bagging of food takes a little more than an hour a week and can be scheduled to fit your own schedule. Second, delivery of the bags happens on Thursday mornings around ten o'clock, which means loading totes of the food bags into cars/trucks, then driving them to the school. Third, monthly delivery of food happens at 7:15 AM every third Tuesday, when we unload a pallet of boxed food from Good Shepherd Food Bank and store it in our FOS closet. Fourth, bring your returnable bottles and cans and drop them in the box under the mailboxes in the hallway; the money from these helps us buy the food we need from Good Shepherd. For more information and to sign up to help with any of these activities, please contact Beth Maxwell at [emaxwell@myfairpoint.net](mailto:emaxwell@myfairpoint.net) or 882-6180.



## Church in Society's Fall Book Discussion

There is still time to put Church in Society's book discussion on The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by the 14th Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Carlton Abrams on your calendar! The Book of Joy is the result of a 7-day meeting between the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, two of the world's most influential spiritual leaders, during which they discussed one of life's important questions: "How do we find joy despite suffering?"

"Envisioned as a gift to the world to celebrate the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday, The Book of Joy is structured as a three-layer cake that aims to provide a practical foundation for cultivating and sustaining joy." Church in Society will break the book into three sections and have three sessions on the following dates: You can still join us on Oct. 17, and Nov. 21 from 7:00-8:00pm. We are using Zoom at the present time for these meetings, and Rev. Oscar Wallace is leading the discussion.

This book can be found at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other sources online. It also can be ordered from our local Sherman's Maine Coast Book Shop. We look forward to sharing time together discussing this inspirational book.

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## From the Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee is closely monitoring the community transmission status of Lincoln County and will work with the committee in charge of Coffee Hour for any given month to determine our status each week. We will let the committees know no later than Saturday afternoon if they will be making coffee the next morning. The Hospitality Committee will be covering the month of October but Church World Service and Trustees should be ready for November and December, respectively. Many thanks to Christian Ed for being on-call for September..

As soon as we dip back into the moderate transmission category, we will be back in business with coffee and tea. When we are firmly back to moderate, we plan to reintroduce snacks.

The decision will be announced from the pulpit each Sunday morning. As long as the weather holds, a bit of social time out on the front lawn after the service isn't a bad alternative to conversation over coffee.





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



**October  
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.**

