

June  
2020



## MEETING HOUSE CHIMES

First Congregational Church, PO Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578  
(207) 882-7544 [www.uccwiscasset.org](http://www.uccwiscasset.org) [fcw@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fcw@myfairpoint.net)

Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-12pm

Minister: Rev. Josh Fitterling Minister of Music: Linda Adams

Church School Teacher & Coordinator: Colleen Crowley

Sexton: Mary McKinney Office Administrator/Editor: Janet Leonard

## What Words? A Poem by Rev. Josh Fitterling

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I try to find the right words to share,  
In these moments that seem truly surreal.  
With death counts climbing and protests mounting,  
What are the words to help us heal?

What words will heal the grief of stories unfinished -  
Of lives cut short by diseases of different kinds?  
What words will honor George Floyd and 100,000 others,  
Whose lives, with yours and mine, are divinely intertwined?

What words will help us know the pain and worry,  
That others carry with them in this life?  
What words will unite us as God's humanity,  
United against all forms of struggle and strife?

What words will bring hope in these moments,  
To all who simply want to live?  
What words will heal minds, bodies, and souls?  
A healing balm - which words will give?

What words will remind us to look to our faith,  
With Jesus as our rock and cornerstone?  
What words will call us to live as Jesus did,  
In deeds of love to make our faith known?

What are these words of hope, love, and healing,  
which our world so desperately seeks?  
Look to your heart and in your faith may you find,  
the words that only you can speak.

Let your living be the words of hope and healing,  
that the world truly needs to hear.  
Let your living be the words of love,  
that will wipe away each fallen tear.

And through it all, may we find words to pray,  
that God will powerfully move in our world once more.  
May God heal the wounds of humanity,  
and restore love to our very core.

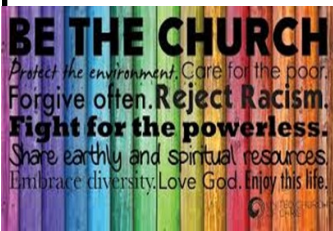
Peace,  
*Josh*

Rev. Josh Fitterling

## Worship in June – An Update

Our pre-recorded, virtual worship in June will continue with two special events:

### Virtual Church School Sunday – Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>



As another Church School year draws to a close, we celebrate the gifts and wisdom of our children! Join us for worship as our young people help us explore what it means to “Be the Church”!

Communion will also be celebrated so don’t forget your bread and juice when you join!

### Virtual Choir Sunday – Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

While we may not be able to celebrate with our dedicated and gifted choir in person, we still rejoice in all the ways they have raised their voices in praise throughout the past year!

Join us for virtual worship on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> as we relive some past choir offerings which bless us still today! May music and the songs of our faith give us strength, courage, and hope as we journey forward together!



*Links to join are emailed Sunday morning. If you do not receive the link for whatever reason, you can also find the service at <https://www.uccwiscasset.org/sermons>.*

**Beginning on June 21<sup>st</sup>**, we will be experimenting with livestream worship from the sanctuary with a few worship leaders present. More details about how to “tune in” for this live worship experience will come.

As we strive to care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of our congregation and community, plans continue to be prayerfully discussed with the Diaconate and other leadership of the church around in-person worship options and how to do so as safely as possible. If/when such plans are implemented, we will promptly let the congregation know.

## Zoom Coffee Hours Sundays at 11am

We AILL be able to host Zoom Coffee Hour, *beginning Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>*. After worship at 11am, grab a cup of coffee, and join us for a Zoom Coffee Hour! The link to join will be shared each week by email.



## Zoom Fellowship & Learning Opportunities Continue in June!



### **Virtual Organ Society Meetings - Wednesday at 10am**

Grab your phone or computer, and join us for these virtual gathering through Zoom! You can join with video or just voice! If you did not receive the link/phone information by email to join the meeting and would like to, please contact Martha Speed at [martha.speed@hotmail.com](mailto:martha.speed@hotmail.com).

### **NEW Virtual Men's Group - Thursdays at 9am**

All men of the congregation are invited to check in and enjoy a time of virtual fellowship with Rev. Josh. If you would like to join, please contact Rev. Josh for the Zoom meeting information.

### **NEW Virtual Choir Fellowship - Thursdays at 4pm**

While we may not be able to sing together on Zoom, we can still check in and enjoy the virtual company of one another! Didn't get the Zoom meeting info? Contact Linda Adams at [ladams52650@gmail.com](mailto:ladams52650@gmail.com).

### **Virtual Church School - Sunday Mornings**

Until further notice, Church School will not be meeting in person. During this time, Ms. Colleen will be leading a virtual church school gathering through Zoom for our children (information about joining will be sent to our families). If you need more information or have children in your life who would like to join, please contact Colleen at [cpcrowley77@hotmail.com](mailto:cpcrowley77@hotmail.com).

(207-882-7544 or [joshfitterling@myfairpoint.net](mailto:joshfitterling@myfairpoint.net)).

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## **Sunday Night Bible Study - 7pm**

Sunday Night Bible Study continues our study of Genesis in June! If we would like to join us, know that you are welcome! Meetings will be on:

June 7th  
June 23st  
June 28th



Reach out to Rev. Josh if you have any questions or to get the Zoom login information

## Rev. Josh's Outdoor Office Hours Wednesdays from 12noon to 2pm



Beginning in June, Rev. Josh will be holding special office hours on the front steps of the church! On Wednesdays from 12noon to 2pm, feel free to stop by, whether for a chat, for a prayer, or just to say "hello"! We will maintain proper social distancing and visit together.

If there is rain, Rev. Josh will be under the portico and still happy to visit! Questions? Reach out to Rev. Josh at: [joshfitterling@myfairpoint.net](mailto:joshfitterling@myfairpoint.net) or 610-750-2688.

## Pilgrim Lodge Update 2020 Camp Season Canceled



Guided by the Holy Spirit and the call to keep one another safe in scary times, the Pilgrim Lodge Leadership Team and the Maine Conference Board of Directors have made the difficult decision to cancel their 2020 Summer Camp season. You can read more about the decision on their website: [www.pilgrimlodge.org](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org).

Canceling this camp season will be a difficult financial hurdle, one which we can help overcome! If you are able to make a donation to Pilgrim Lodge and help them reach their \$50,000 goal (**they are already 67% of the way there!**) to sustain the site and year-round staff, you can donate online at <https://www.pilgrimlodge.org/giving/> or send a gift to Pilgrim Lodge, 103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane, West Gardiner, ME 04345.

In support of PL, our church Trustees voted to send our \$1,000 of budgeted scholarship money to help meet this goal! May we help sustain them through this time!

## Weekly Offering - Supporting the Ministry of our Church

Thank you to all who have continued to send in their pledges and offerings to keep our ministries strong during these difficult times. Offerings can be mailed to the church office at:

First Congregational Church  
P.O. Box 350  
Wiscasset, ME 04578

Even when we are apart, our call to be the church continues. Thank you for your support!

Thank  
You!



## SummerNoFest

What is summer without Summerfest? We'll find out this year as Council has voted to cancel Summerfest in its usual form. We do hope to raise funds for our outreach in different ways. I have \$30 in hand for seedlings, with more to come. I have container sized tomatoes, cucumbers and zucchini seedlings if anyone wants to do some container gardening this summer. Any creative ideas are welcome as we go forward with this. At a minimum, think about what you would have spent on lunch at the Cafeteria and brownies at the bake sale, or flour to make the brownies, and write a check to the church with "Summerfest" in the memo line. As we get closer to July we will put articles in the paper and invite the community to support us as well with donations. If you are an eBay seller you could perhaps help by putting some items up that we already have in the basement "Treasures" or books boxes, or an item someone wishes to donate but doesn't know how to sell online. Let me know if you think of ways we can fundraise in our current circumstances. Thanks. Beth Maxwell [emaxwell@myfairpoint.net](mailto:emaxwell@myfairpoint.net) or 882-6180.



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## Church Office Open with Restrictions in June

The church office will be open with restrictions in June during regular office hours (Tuesday through Thursday from 9am to 12noon). The office can be reached during these hours at 207-882-7544 or [fccw@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fccw@myfairpoint.net).

Visitors to the office are asked to wear a mask and maintain 6 feet of distance between them and others for the safety of our staff and community.

During office hours, we will be limiting the number of individuals in at a time. To that end, the office entrance door will be locked. To gain access, simply ring the wireless doorbell to the left of the door. You will be able to talk to someone in the office and they will come and let you in.

Thank you for your support and care!



## Trustees Update

Responding to a request by the Diaconate, the Trustees have purchased and installed a door intercom system. When the Church Office re-opens the side door to Fellowship Hall will remain locked. Persons wishing entry will need to push the call button and the Office Administrator will answer from her desk. If entry is approved the Administrator will come and open the door.

The Trustees voted to increase the communication budget in order to upgrade the speed of the church's internet. This will allow for "live" streaming of church services and other programs. We are looking at running new communication cables through the basement from the balcony to the modem in the office. The cables will be a shielded type to prevent electrical and RF interference.

Pilgrim Lodge will not be opening this year due to virus concerns. In order to support the fine work of Pilgrim Lodge the Trustees voted to transfer our campers fund to them. This will help during the current pandemic shut down.



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## June Birthdays

Deane Attwood   Sandi Ballard

Carol Blake   Flora Hewitt

Bob Hutchinson   Nancy Roby

Vivian Joy McKinney

Meaghan Olson   Rachel Olson

Jan Shaw   Cheryl Wusterbarth



## Habitat for Humanity VIRTUAL Spring Walk to Build

As a covenant church, one of the ways we support Habitat for Humanity/ 7 Rivers Maine, raising funds for their largest annual fundraiser! Due to COVID-19, Habitat needs to make some changes in this unprecedented time as the walk goes virtual.

As of May 28, we have already raised \$3,975 toward our \$5,000 goal! We are getting close! Will you help us exceed our church's goal?

*To donate or to join our team, go to:*

*<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/fccwiscasset>*

*Donations can also be mailed to the church at:*

*First Congregational Church*

*P.O. Box 350*

*Wiscasset, ME 04578*

*Please make checks out to "Habitat for Humanity/ 7 Rivers Maine"*



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## Church World Service

Because the states' depots (where each individual church brings their kits and emergency clean-up buckets to be delivered to the CWS national warehouse) are still closed, our "Spring" kit program continues to be on hold.

But through this pandemic, the need continues. During this time nearly 10,000 hygiene and school kits and CWS blankets have been delivered to AR, FL, MI, NJ, NY, OH, OR, PA, and TX. Difficult situations around the world are getting worse due to Covid-19.

Since we are unable to assemble and deliver kits at this time, if you are so inclined, please visit CWS.org; you can see updates about the work of CWS and there is opportunity to donate directly toward kits and/or to the Coronavirus Response Fund.

Thank you very much.....stay safe!!!!



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



**June**  
**2020**

**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.**

