

November

2020



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

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

Sexton: Mary McKinney Office Administrator/Editor: Janet Leonard

Four Years Ago

"In the beginning was the Word..." - John 1:1

It was four years ago, before I was called to be your pastor here in Wiscasset, when I met members of this church's Search Committee for what is called a "neutral pulpit". We had met at a church down in Kittery, ME on the eve of Election Day so that I could lead a small service for them and they could experience my preaching and leadership style in-person as opposed to on recordings. In those days, the tension in our nation was palpable, as it still is now. With our small group gathering for a time of worship, I began with these words of welcome:

"It has certainly been a crazy couples of weeks and months leading up to this point. And so, on the eve of the Election, we gather tonight living in the uncertainty of what tomorrow will bring, but our focus tonight does not lie in that uncertainty. Rather, we focus tonight on the certainty that God's love and God's grace are eternal truths that do not fail. We focus on the certainty that God has sustained generations before us, sustains us now, and will sustain us far beyond Election Day. Tonight, we focus on the certainty that God's love embraces all and that no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey, that we are welcome in this place - that we are welcome into this time of worship. So come, let us worship our God together."

These words are once again on my heart as we enter November four years later and I offer them to you now. These words hold my prayers for this time in our shared history. These words hold my laments and my joys. These words hold my belief that God's love and grace are stronger than any forces of this world and that what unites us is stronger than what could ever divide us.

With these gifts, may we journey on, no matter what the future holds. With these gifts may we stand united in the certainty of God's love and grace.

Standing with You,

Josh

Rev. Josh Fitterling

Sunday Worship in November Virtual & In-Person Options Continue



As we enter November, we will continue to offer virtual worship and limited, in-person worship opportunities on Sunday morning! The service at 10am is livestreamed on Zoom and Facebook Live! A limited number of in-person worship attenders are able to be accommodated at this time. *Those attending in-person MUST sign up each week by Thursday at 12noon.* This can be done by contacting the church office or through the online form emailed out each week. A list of protocols and a copy of our letter regarding reopening the sanctuary is available on the homepage of our website.

Thank you to everyone who is making our services, both the virtual and in-person aspects of worship, possible! A true team effort!

Please know that your Pastor and Church Leaders are continually monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic, and will make adjustments as needed. Any changes will be communicated as swiftly as possible.

Church World Service

The CWS committee is very grateful to have received funds from the Summerfest committee. Our committee had another reply all email “meeting” this month to decide where to donate our funds. We will be making the following donations this year:

CWS “2020 Hurricane Response” Fund	\$300
CWS Coronavirus Response Fund	\$300
Town of Wiscasset Thanksgiving Dinners	\$100

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Summerfest Fund for making it possible for us to continue our mission giving this year.

Thank you also for everyone continuing to bring your redeemable cans and bottles for Feed Our Scholars. If anyone lost a fob (for starting your car), one was found in the most recent batch of cans & bottles. Call Nancy Roby 882-6441

Deep Blue Bible Study Church School – Fall 2020 First Congregational Church of Wiscasset United Church of Christ

SEPTEMBER	OCT 18 11:15 - 12NOON	NOV 29 - NO CLASS HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
SEPT 13 - FIRST DAY 11:15 - 12NOON	OCT 25 11:15 - 12NOON	DECEMBER
SEPT 20 11:15 - 12NOON	NOVEMBER	DEC 6 11:15 - 12NOON
SEPT 27 11:15 - 12NOON	NOV 1 11:15 - 12NOON	DEC 13 11:15 - 12NOON
OCTOBER	NOV 8 11:15 - 12NOON	DEC 22 - LAST DAY 11:15 - 12NOON
OCT 4 11:15 - 12NOON	NOV 15 11:15 - 12NOON	SEE YOU IN 2021!
OCT 11 - NO CLASS HOLIDAY WEEKEND	NOV 22 11:15 - 12NOON	

Dive into God's Word! Church School Continues in November

If you have any questions, reach out to

Rev. Josh at

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

Weekly Offering – Your Support Makes Our Ministry Possible!

Offerings can be placed in the plate by the front doors on Sunday morning or 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!*

Toys for Tots!!

We will be collecting unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots again this year. The box will be placed in the Narthex. Please donate if you can, or if you prefer, you can donate money directly to Toys for Tots on their website (toysfortots.org/donate). Because of the pandemic, the boxes may not collect as much as in a usual year, but every little bit helps. Thanks so much!

Virtual Organ Society Meetings – Wednesday at 10am

Virtual Organ Society has resumed! Grab your phone or computer, and join us for this virtual gatherings 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.

2021 Stewardship Campaign Begins!

We all have dreams for our church! Dreams for our worship life, for our outreach to children, for our community engagement, for our service to our neighbors in need and more! Even in this unique year of 2020, we have kept these dreams alive and as we look toward 2021, we dare to dream on!

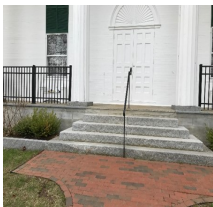
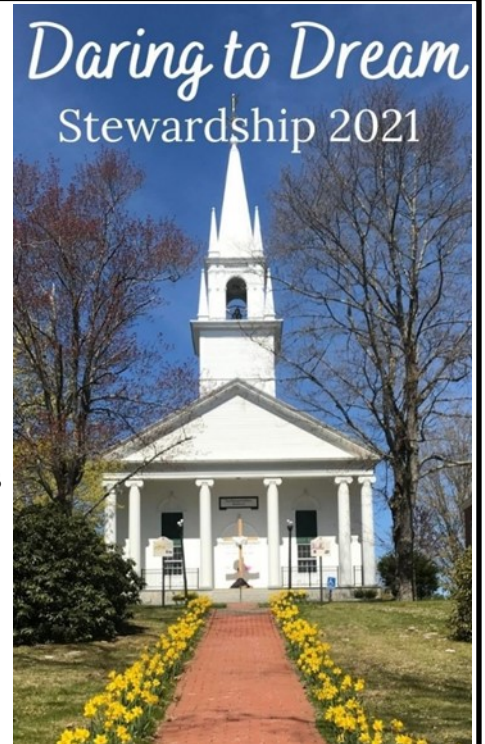
This Stewardship season, in addition to asking you to consider a pledge to help nurture our dreams into fruition, we will be asking you to share your dreams for our church!

In the first week of November, Stewardship pledge brochures will be sent out to the congregation! If you do not receive one and would like to, please contact the church office.

Pledges can be mailed to the church or dropped off at our **drive-thru pledge collection on Sunday, November 22nd from 11am to 1pm.**

Together, we are daring to dream of the ministry God is calling us to do here in this place! Thank you for helping in many ways to make it happen!

Did You Know? that, in certain circumstances, there can be tax advantages for pledging to the church directly from a retirement account? If you are interested in this approach of supporting our ministry, contact your Financial Advisor to learn more and see what is available for you!



Rev. Josh's Outdoor Office Hours Come to an End in November

With the weather turning colder, Rev. Josh will be discontinuing these special office hours on the front steps of the church.

Please remember that Rev. Josh is always available by phone and email and is more than happy to set up a time to meet safely! Just ask.

Scarecrowfest – Thank you Paula & Chuck!

While much of the community-wide event, Scarecrowfest, looked different or was canceled this year, our church still got involved! Thank you to Paula & Chuck Billings for building our church's scarecrow!

The scarecrow is a classic gardener cultivating the fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May we all help to raise such a garden!



Summerfest Update 2020



Thanks to an outpouring of support, Summerfest has awarded \$5,300 to 11 local outreach organizations and causes! As you know, with more limited funds this year and our desire to have the greatest impact, organizations who received a gift last year were asked to “apply” by the end of September if they wished to receive Summerfest funding this year. We are happy to say that we

were able to grant a gift to every organization which applied!

The organizations are:

Mobius, Inc.
Lincoln County Dental
Church World Service
New Hope for Women
Feed Our Scholars/Set for Success
Healthy Kids

Midcoast Humane
Habitat for Humanity/7Rivers Maine
Wiscasset Green – Edler Care Network
of Lincoln County
Camp Pride – Pilgrim Lodge
Special Needs Fund of FCC Wiscasset

While we won't be celebrating with our traditional Mission Sunday this year, a special Summerfest video has been released and is available on our website and Facebook page.

Again, thank you everyone! The mission of Summerfest has continued even in a difficult year!

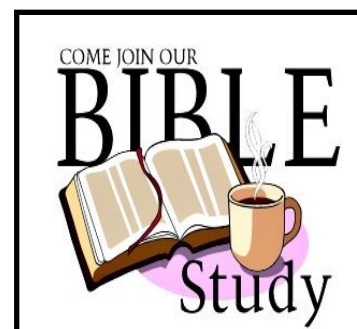
Sunday Night Bible Study

TIME CHANGE IN NOVEMBER (6pm)

Sunday Night Bible Study continues our study of Genesis in November at the earlier time of 6pm! You can join us in-person or online! If you would like to join us, know that you are welcome! Meetings will be on:

November 8th
November 15th
November 22nd

Reach out to Rev. Josh if you have any questions, to get the in-person protocol and expectations, or to get the Zoom login information (207-882-7544 or joshfitterling@myfairpoint.net).



Trustees

The Trustees voted to install UV-C Lighting in the Sanctuary heating system. The UV-C Lighting has been installed in the plenum above the oil burner. All the air within the ductwork passes through the plenum and now passes through the UV-C Light. The UV-C light acts as a disinfectant fighting mold, bacteria and viruses.

The Treasurer and Trustees are now working on the 2021 budget. Not knowing what 2021 will bring, we are trying to hold the line in most areas.

We voted to allow "Feed Our Scholars" to utilize part of our facility to store food and fill backpacks. We agreed with Pastor Josh that it would be a good fit for FCCW and our community outreach.

November Birthdays

Gary Lewis Mary McKinney Glenn Milley

Bob Mooney Deb Olson Karl Olson

Ed Peele Joan Shea

Margot Stiassni-Sieracki Jan Whitfield



Next Chance for the Noisy Offering Sunday, November 22nd

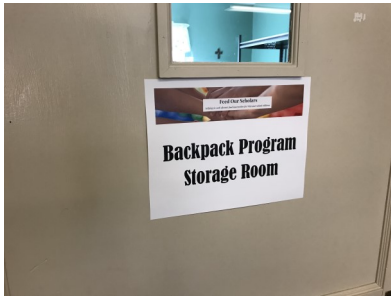
Is your coin jar filling up and sitting quietly on your dresser? Is your car console filled up with lonely coins? They can be united with other coins to help feed our neighbors.

On November 22nd, from 11am to 1pm, there will be buckets at the front of the church just waiting for your coins to make a joyful noise once more. Whether you are with us in-person for worship, dropping off your pledge at the drive-thru pledge collection or picking up goodies from the Organ Society wreath, pie, and quick bread sale, there will be a bucket just waiting for you to drop in all the coins!

The collected coins will supply money for St. Philip's Food Pantry. Your neighbors who need help getting through this troubled time will be thankful.

This offering benefits the St. Philip's Food Pantry. Your neighbors who need help getting through the troubled time will be thankful. Thank you for joining the joyful noise!

New Home for Feed Our Scholars Backpack Program!

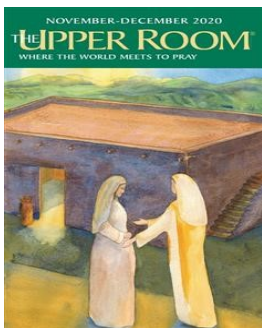


Earlier this fall, it became known that the Feed Our Scholars Backpack Program, which has been housed at Two Bridges Jail, would need a new home. This program, which provides supplemental food for school-age children in Wiscasset, is one that our church has supported for many years. Since the need for space became known, the Trustees and Church Council approved the use of one of our upstairs classrooms as a temporary, and potentially permanent, home for this vital program to our community. If you would like to know about volunteer opportunities, please contact Gretchen Burleigh-Johnson at gburleighj@gmail.com or Rev. Josh at josh-fitterling@myfairpoint.net.

Rev. Josh on Vacation - November 26th through December 2nd

Rev. Josh will be on his last vacation week for 2020 from **Thursday, November 26th through Wednesday, December 2nd**. On Sunday, November 29th, our livestream and limited, in-person worship service will be led by the Diaconate as we have a Hanging of the Greens service.

While Rev. Josh is away, church related inquiries can be made to Janet Leonard, our Office Administrator, at 207-882-7544 or fccw@myfairpoint.net. For urgent pastoral care needs, please contact Rev. Kate Pinkham at 207-877-1681 or katepinkham@gmail.com.



Nov/Dec *Upper Room* is here!

Copies are on the table in the Narthex and the table in the office hallway. If you would like one mailed to you, please let Janet in the office know (phone 207-882-7544, or fccw@myfairpoint.net).

Sunday Morning Volunteers Needed and Welcomed!

There are currently several opportunities to serve as part of our in-person/virtual worship services. Please consider how you may be able to help out!

Virtual Ushering – greet those joining us online, monitor the virtual service, and answer any questions that may arise. Contact Rev. Josh for more information.

In-Person Ushers – prepare the sanctuary for worship and greet those who are arriving. A complete list of duties is available. Contact Jim Nelon, Diaconate Chair, with questions or to express your interest.

Audio/Visual Tech Support – learn our livestreaming system and be a part of the team which runs our virtual service on Sunday morning. Contact Jim Nelon or Rev. Josh for details.

Altar Flowers – bring flowers on Sunday morning or drop them off earlier in the week to help adorn our space. Linda Winterberg is coordinating, so contact her for more information.

Scripture Readers – read the scripture on Sunday morning! Contact Rev. Josh if interested!

Many hands and hearts make our service possible. Thank you!

Habitat for Humanity/ 7 Rivers Maine Volunteer Opportunities

Habitat for Humanity is a volunteer-driven organization and they are searching for volunteers! The greatest current need is for volunteers in the Restore, located in Topsham. Sales at the Restore directly support the mission of Habitat. Volunteers could run the register, assist on the floor, or help out in the back room getting items ready to sell.

Interested? See <http://habitat7rivers.org/volunteer> for more details or contact Habitat for Humanity at 207-504-9442 with your questions and to find out their protection protocols.

Our Church is a Covenant Church of Habitat for Humanity/ 7 Rivers Maine.



CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

It's time for the Annual Organ Society Wreath Sale. Wreaths will be available for pick-up on Sunday, November 22 between 11am and 1pm.

Orders due by Friday, November 13th.

Prepayment is appreciated! Forms and payments can go to the church office, P.O. Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578. Please make checks payable to Organ Society.

Name_____

Phone or Email_____

Small Wreath (8") - \$8 Quantity_____ Paid_____

Medium Wreath (12") - \$12 Quantity_____ Paid_____

Large Wreath (18") - \$16 Quantity_____ Paid_____

X-Large Wreath (24") - \$35 Quantity_____ Paid_____

If you would prefer your wreath to be undecorated, please check here:

No Decorations_____ Bow Only_____

APPLE PIE & QUICK BREAD ORDER FORM

Orders due by Friday, November 13th

Time for some sweet treats this Thanksgiving and holiday season! The Organ Society will be making apple pies (20 available, frozen and ready for you to bake!), cranberry bread with nuts, and pumpkin bread. Pies and breads will be available for pick-up on Sunday, Nov. 22nd, 11am-1pm.

Name_____

Phone or Email_____

Apple pies, 9inch - \$15 Quantity_____ Paid_____

Cranberry Bread with Nuts - \$8 Quantity_____ Paid_____

Cranberry Bread w/out Nuts — \$8 Quantity_____ Paid_____

Pumpkin Bread - \$6 Quantitiy_____ Paid_____

Prepayment is recommended. Checks can be made payable to "Organ Society" and mailed to the church office: First Congregational Church, P.O. Box 350, Wiscasset, ME. 04578.

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



**November
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.**

