

The Witness



Winter 2017/2018 Edition
WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
10 Bowdoin Street, Winthrop, ME 04364
Tel: (207) 377-2063



E-mail: wccucc@fairpoint.net

Web Page: www.wccucc.org

Minister: Pastor Chrissy Cataldo Music Director: Rosalea Kimball Office Administrator: Cyndi Hall
Witness Editor: Dana Hall

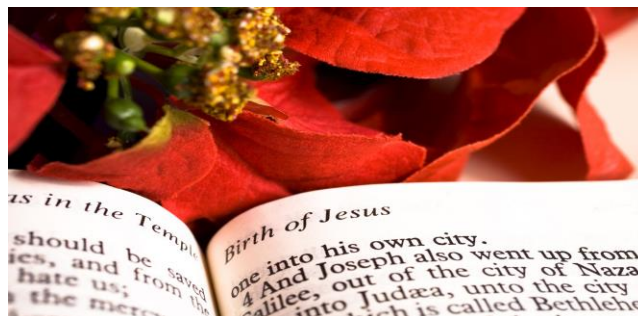
Pastor's Reflections

Beloveds in Christ,

Fall and the first months of winter are a busy season in our congregation. Every year that I have served here, I have been struck by how quickly we move from the beginning of the school year to Stewardship campaign time to donations for the food pantry time to the Christmas Fair to the pageant and cantata to trying to figure out our church budget.

In the midst of all of this work, I thank God that we have Advent and that the church developed a liturgical season to help us shift our souls into a posture of joyful waiting. As our days grow shorter and nights grow longer, our spirits can turn to deep questions. What are you waiting for? What is God waiting for? What is the world waiting for? What new life is being nurtured in the ground, under the snow that will soon fall, deep under the bark of the trees that surround us?

As the long, dark season approaches, how might we practice this waiting as though it were a sacred act? How might we remember our rootedness that is in God and not only the busy-ness that we surround ourselves with? I recently read an article by a very smart colleague, the Rev. Caela Simmons Woods. I'd like to share that with you. She suggested approaching this Advent in a way that cultivates a sense of balance in our waiting. She asks that we pay attention to the moments of easy breath and rest as we patiently remember the wait may be long. And, we pay attention to moments of excitement and action as we remember that waiting does not have to be passive. She also suggests listening to the ancient voices from our scriptures so that we can watch and wait with the prophets of old.



Listen in the coming days and week for Isaiah who called out to God who tears open the heavens and makes the mountains quake. Listen for Jesus, who reminds us that he was called to bring good news to those who are oppressed, to bind up broken-hearted, to free the captive, to release the imprisoned, and to comfort those who mourn. We are called to follow him in this jubilee work.

Listen for the freedom song of Mary and the celebration of the Magi and the shepherds. Listen for the solid support of our Josephs, who do what they can to care for those who labor intensely.

In this busy season, I pray we all can take some time to remember that we wait breathlessly under the starry sky, watching in wonder at the new life that is about to be born in our midst.

Pastor Chrissy

WINTER EVENTS

- † December 6th - **“Lighting the Way Through the Holidays”** Roberts Funeral Home on Bowdoin Street will host a service of hope and healing at **6 pm** for those whose holiday season is also a time of grief
- † Sunday, December 10th – **Christmas Pageant**
- † Sunday, December 17th - The choir will share its special **Christmas Cantata** with the congregation. Bring a personal care product or general household items (linens, towels, kitchen items, etc.) for victims of domestic violence.
- † Sunday, December 24th – Fourth Sunday of Advent.
- † Sunday, December 24th – **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at **7 pm**.
- † **Fish Chowder** – Friday, January 12, 2018 - 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- † **Epiphany Sunday** – Sunday January 14th
- † Monday, January 15th – Martin Luther King Day Breakfast
- † **Annual Meeting**, Sunday, January 28, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall after Worship along with a Pot Luck Luncheon
- † **Fish Chowder** – Friday, February 9th - 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- † Tuesday, February 13, 2018 – **Mardi Gras – Shrove Tuesday – “Fat” Tuesday**



Board of Church and Community Concerns

It has been a busy fall for the BCCC and all of you! We had a very successful Stewardship Drive, and the Winthrop Area Food Pantry really appreciated all our donations! It is that time of year when we need to think about the Family Violence Project, which is another one of our local missions. We will again sponsor their Shelter/Transitioning Family Holiday Program which provides mothers and children with the household items they need to transition from the shelter to an apartment. Many of these desperate families leave their homes with only their personal items. A list of the many items a family might need to help them start a new life, one without fear or humiliation, will be posted in Fellowship Hall.

It is only through your generosity and your caring that our church is able help others who are less fortunate than we are.

Have a blessed Christmas! Carol Whittier, Chair

We are an Open and Affirming Church

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CE Matters

The Board of Christian Education has been busy this fall. The younger children have been hearing about Adam & Eve, Noah, Sarah & Abraham, Isaac & Rebekah. We have been creating a “Covenant Family” album to go along with the lessons.

We are delighted to welcome newcomers as our Sunday School group grows. Currently the entire group is preparing for Christmas Pageant, titled “Just A Little Christmas”.

In January, we plan to hold monthly classes (2nd Sunday of the month) as part of a two-year Confirmation program with the older youth.

We thank Linda Rollins for providing childcare every other Sunday.

Blessings from the Board of Christian Education

Susan Mauro, Cyndi Hall, Martha Payne, Mike Davenport



with

Honduras Mission Trip

The Honduras Partnership Resource Team (HPRT) of the Maine Conference, UCC has a Mission Trip planned for January 30th to February 8th. A group of 13 or 14 people will be traveling to Subirana, Yoro, Honduras to provide medical clinics for people living in the hilly town of Subirana in the coffee-growing region of Yoro.

A number of years ago when Dr. Joyce Baker (in her 30 years of service with Global Ministries), in partnership with Evangelical and Reformed Church of Honduras, founded four clinics serving remote villages. A few churches from Connecticut and Maine helped to build the Subirana Clinic that was staffed by Dr. Baker and personnel she trained plus the visiting medical folk from the US. Her retirement in the early 2000's and the gradual lessening of funding from US and European churches meant the clinic was no longer staffed.

The Evangelical and Reformed Church of Honduras is committed to increase medical services to this underserved area. They have undertaken some repairs to the facility and have begun construction of a security fence to help keep the clinic and its furnishings and supplies safe. They have asked for support from medical teams to help treat the people from the surrounding 35 rural villages. In our covenant with the E & R Church of Honduras, the Honduras Partnership Resource Team is focusing on these needs over the next three-year period (2017-2019).

Steve Meyerhans, from the Waterville church, is the trip leader, and Lisa deWolfe is overseeing the medical piece. Peter deWolfe, Alice Anderman, & Cyndi Hall are also registered for this trip, and Wendy Dennis is another potential traveler. After Christmas, the group will be collecting over-the-counter supplies for the trip, such as acetaminophen/Tylenol, Ibuprofen (200 mg), Prenatal vitamins, Melatonin (3 mg tabs), Ranitidine (150 mg generic brand), Famotidine (20 mg generic), Lotramin antifungal cream, toothbrushes (adult & children's sizes), reading glasses (1.0 to 2.0 strength is most common), and small snack-sized baggies (for packing small doses of meds.) We welcome and appreciate any support and prayers for this trip.

Cyndi Hall on behalf of the 2018 Mission Team

We are an Open and Affirming Church

Women's Guild News

The Women's Guild is open to all women of the church. We are a social group who also provide church support and outside missions. We usually meet once a month, on the fourth Thursday of the month. The Guild does not meet in November or December. The January meeting will be at the home of Cyndi Hall.

In December and early January, we will be collecting hats & mittens for the Winthrop Grade School.

We sponsor a 13-year-old boy named Yorlin from Honduras through the Children International program.

Our newly elected officers for 2018 are: Cyndi Hall as President, Lee Gilman as VP, Marie Hatfield as Treasurer, and Carol Whittier as Secretary.



Hannaford Gift Card Sales



Hannaford Gift Cards are available after church on Sundays. The gift cards are very easy to use at the checkout. If you miss a Sunday, you can contact Carol Ellingwood at 377-6890 or let the office know and Carol can get a card to you.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting this year is on Sunday, January 28th after worship. All are encouraged to attend this informative meeting, where important decisions will be made. A pot luck meal will also be shared during this time.

Next Newsletter Deadline: February 20, 2018

Capital Funds Drive Update

The Church is in the middle of a capital funds drive to allow us to fix leaks in our steeple, replace the roof, repair the sanctuary and renovate our front entryway. In support of the funds drive, we sold Krispy Kreme donuts at the Summerfest Spectacular.

Donations can now be made to the capital funds drive through a Pay Pal link on the church's web site. This fall, we distributed a news release announcing the capital funds drive to the community and encouraging donations. The church and the capital funds drive received very favorable publicity because of this news release.

To date, the capital funds drive has raised \$13, 590. We have pledges totaling \$9,896 for the year 2018 and \$9,890 for the year 2019. We have also been promised a donation of a sailboat which we plan to sell this spring with the proceeds going to the capital drive. In total the capital funds drive is at approximately 76% of its goal.

If you would like to pledge or donate in support of the capital funds drive, please send your pledge or donation to the Winthrop Congregational Church UCC, 10 Bowdoin Street, Winthrop, ME 04364, or use the Pay Pal link on the church's website.

Doug Whittier

United Church of Christ
New England Women's

Celebration 

A SEAT AT THE TABLE
Come for all things are now ready.
- Luke 14:17b

www.uccwomenscelebration.org

APRIL 6 - 8, 2018
Portland, Maine



Full Registration *Registrations are non-refundable.*

\$125 before February 15, 2018

\$150 February 16 – March 26, 2018

Saturday-Only Registration *Registrations are non-refundable.*

\$100 before February 15, 2018

\$125 February 16 – March 26, 2018

SPECIAL MEAL PACKAGE: \$125 (includes all 5 meals / not box lunch)

Keynote Speakers Rev. Traci Blackmon, UCC Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries; Rev. Deborah J. Blood, Maine Conference Minister; Rev. Sarah Buteux, Associate Pastor Minister of Christian Education and Outreach; Founding Pastor of Common Ground; Leslie Adelson Lewin, Director of *Seeds of Peace*; Rev. Renee Rouse, Warner, NH

Workshops 35 workshops over two sessions on Saturday.

Holy Mall (vendors, displays, refreshments, and some surprises)

Saturday Entertainment *Women of Harmony*- a cappella choir of local talent



Schedule – subject to change

Friday, April 6, 2018

Noon – 9:00 PM	Registration
1:00 – 4:00 PM	Afternoon Activities
1:00 – 10:00 PM	Holy Mall Open (Marketplace)
5:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM	Opening Ceremonies / Worship
	Keynote: Leslie A. Lewin, <i>Seeds of Peace</i>

Saturday, April 7, 2018

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Registration
7:00 AM – 8:00 PM	Holy Mall Open
7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:45 AM	Gathering Music
9:00 AM	Keynote: Rev. Renee Rouse
10:00 – 11:30 AM	AM Workshops
12:00 PM	Lunch & Keynote: Rev. Traci Blackmon
2:30 – 4:00 PM	PM Workshops
4:00 – 6:00 PM	Free Time
6:00 PM	Dinner & Keynote: Rev. Sarah Buteux
8:00 PM	Entertainment – <i>Women in Harmony</i>


Followed by Vespers w/ Rev. Leslie Anne Chatfield
Reception for *Women in Harmony*

Sunday, April 8, 2018

8:30 AM	Breakfast & Keynote: Rev. Deborah Blood
9:45 AM	Gathering Music
10:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
11:30 AM	P/U Box Lunches

Safe Travels All!

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December Birthdays		December Anniversaries	
9	Patrice Putman	12/6/1975	Rick McNaughton & Marianne Martin
13	Emily Dooling		
15	Marja Hatfield Grillo		
19	Nathaniel Smith		
24	Ann Mitchell		
28	Kay Webster		
29	Daniel Whittier		
January Birthdays		January Anniversaries	
2	Kelly deWolfe	1/16/2000	Mike & Debbie Burns
3	Helena Müller	1/31/1976	Alan & Carol Ellingwood
7	Brint Darlington		
10	Chrissy Cataldo		
17	Derek Hall		
18	Tom Dressler		
24	Gerry Edgar		
28	Martha Hewett		
29	Sarah Dressler Benson		
February Birthdays		February Anniversaries	
3	Tom Irwin	2/19/1977	Ron & Nancy Dyer
5	Kristin Morgner		
6	Brett Hiendlmayr		
8	Nora Conrad		
10	Dina Blodgett		
12	Anna Brown		
14	Pat Culp		
20	Debbie Burns		
15	Jonathan Whittier		
22	Milton Hadley		
25	Tasha Dunn		
27	Cindy McDonnell		

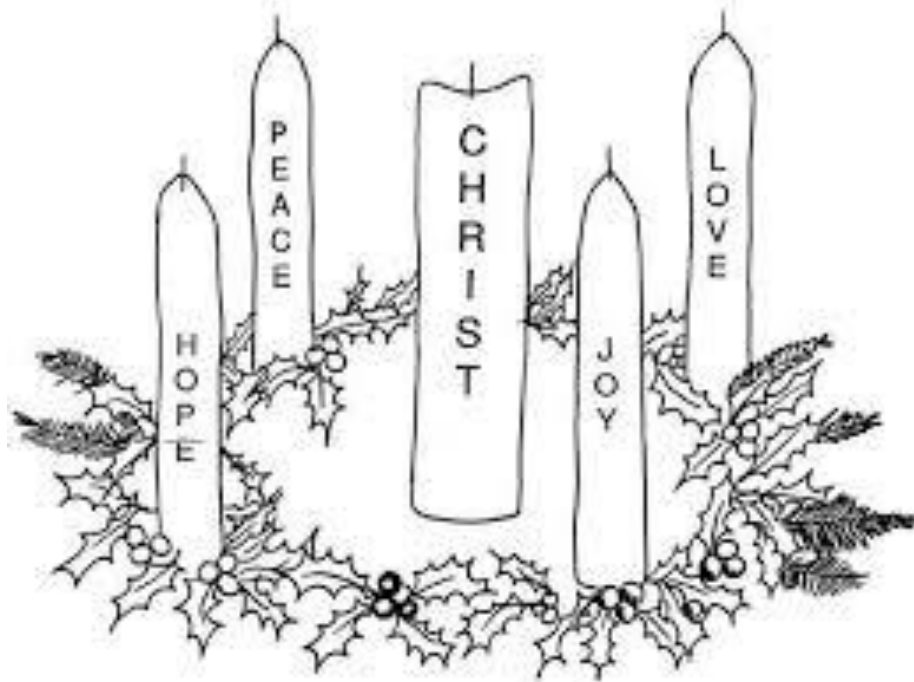
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Visit us at

<http://tinyurl.com/WCCUCC>

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WORSHIP
With **US**

