



The Witness

Fall 2017 Edition

WINTHROP CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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Pastor's Reflections

Friends and Members of Winthrop Congregational Church UCC,

You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven. ~ Matthew, Chapter 5

I am writing you just weeks before we begin our next program year here at church. Our major summer fundraiser, the Summerfest Spectacular lunch and church fair is coming up this weekend on August 19th. Soon after, we will be blessing backpacks and lesson plans (August 27th) and beginning the next year of Sunday School (September 10th). The choir will return with some new music books in hand and new songs in their hearts. We have new member classes coming up, and a confirmation, and maybe a couple baptisms, too... all outward signs that people have felt the commitments to joyful welcome, faithful service, and meaningful worship that our church has worked hard to cultivate and want to be a part of it.

I am also writing at a time in our nation that feels very uncertain. Conflicts around race, gender, immigration-status, and sexuality, issues that our church has long felt settled through the lens of our own faith, swirl around us. For a long time now, we have committed to loving and fully engaging people of every race, ethnicity, and nationality, people from across spectrums of gender identity and sexual orientation, people from many family structures, socio-economic statuses, ages, physical and mental abilities in the life of our congregation. And, yet, we know such broad welcome is not true everywhere. Last weekend's white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia is only the latest, loudest evidence of what people of color, indigenous people, LGBTQ people, and new immigrants have long known. Hatred and bigotry are not a thing of the past. Hateful acts are committed every day and not just far way. It happens here in Maine... Here in our town and our neighborhoods.

It may be overwhelming, sometimes, to watch and read the news, and see so much need in the world. Thankfully, we serve a living God who will always have enough love to fuel our work for God's kingdom. Thank God that we've been practicing building this kingdom inside our church. Now, we can recommit to boldly practicing our faith beyond our sanctuary doors, taking the connections we have already been building with our neighbors, and working to find new ways of building love and justice with God. Remember, we're God's salt and light. We are necessary elements for new Gospel growth.

We are an Open and Affirming Church

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I think these two questions will be very important for us in the following year:



- Where are the places where you get to practice your saltiness?
- Where are you going to spread a little more of God's light in the world?

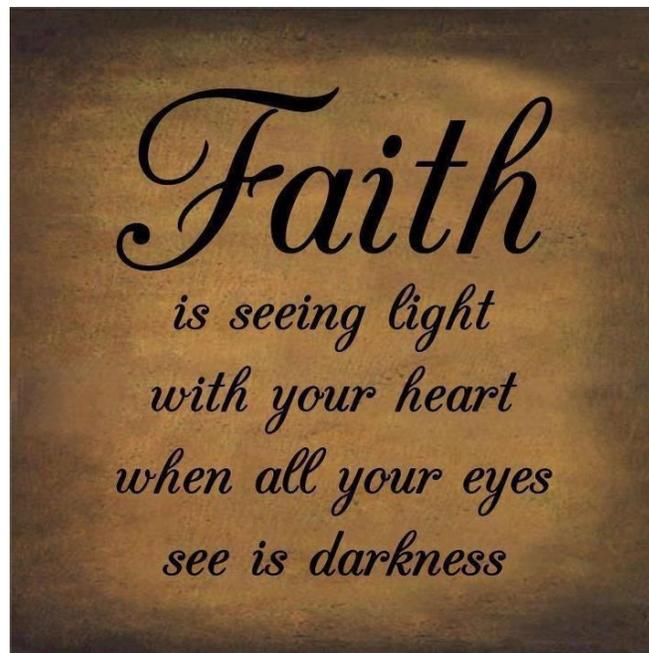


I hope that you will be a part of exploring the answers with us.

Pastor Chrissy

Other Events

- † **Saturday, August 19: Summer Fest Spectacular:** 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
 - † **Sunday, August 27: Blessing of the Backpacks and Lesson Plans** - Worship is at 9:30 am
 - † **Sunday, Sep 3:** Worship is at **9:30 am**
 - † **Friday, Sep 8: Fish Chowder Luncheon**
 - † **Sunday, Sep 10 Rally Day:** Worship is at **10:00 am**
 - † **Saturday, Sep 23rd:** 6th Annual Pie Sale - Mark your calendars!
 - † **Sunday, Sep 17:** Worship is at 10am
 - † **Sunday, Sep 17:** Living Water Association Joint Worship in Jackman
 - † **Sunday, Sep 24:** Worship is at 10am
 - † **Wednesday, Sep 27:** Maine Conference Budget and By-Laws Review Hearing – Maine Conference Center, Augusta – 3 PM
 - † **Oct 1: World Communion Sunday** – Worship at 10:00 am
 - † **Sunday, Oct 8:** Worship is at 10am
 - † **Friday Oct 13: Fish Chowder Luncheon**
 - † **Saturday, Oct 20: Maine Conference Annual Meeting** Husson University, Bangor
 - † **Friday, Nov 10: Fish Chowder Luncheon**
-



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We are an Open and Affirming Church

CE Matters

During the summer, the children had a day at Whispering Pines. There was a scavenger hunt, a balloon game, swimming, kayaking and lunch. The children learned about the Church Psalm out at camp and put the stones on the meditation trail in order. They also learned Proverbs 22:1 – *A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.* We talked about the real treasures in life. The children also helped in repairing/replacing the cross that stands on the alter out at camp. We all had a great day enjoying the camp and the company.



The Blessing of the Backpacks will be August 27th to kick off the school year. Hope you can attend and bring your backpacks and teacher lessons for the blessing.



Rally Day is September 10th. Sunday School will be starting up and we are hoping to have two Sunday School classes this year. One class for the older kids who will be working on Confirmation and one class for the younger kids. It is a blessing that we have enough children that we need two classes.

We are hoping to plan a fall intergenerational event. We will keep you posted on the day, time and place. As always, we are looking for people willing to help our Board with Sunday School. Please let us know if you can give us any time to help support our children as they grow in faith.

Blessings from the Board of Christian Education

News from the BCCC

Now that summer is sadly coming to an end, the BCCC is beginning to think about the Stewardship Campaign in September! Our theme for Stewardship 2017 will be, "Journey to Generosity, The Way of Jesus", Matthew 9:35-10:23.



We will draft a pledge letter and pledge form in September, and you should have your copy around the first of October. This year, you will receive your letter and form via e-mail as we are trying to reduce our expenses by not using paper, envelopes and stamps! If you do not have e-mail, you will receive your letter by mail. In October, we will begin our Campaign in earnest, and you will be hearing quite often from members of the BCCC and our very supportive Pastor Chrissy!

Carol Whittier

From the Treasurer

Good news! We are in a good financial position as of July. YTD Total Income is ahead of projections by \$631. Everyone is doing an excellent job in controlling expenses. YTD Total Expenses are below budget by \$3,862 mainly due to the Building Equipment/Maintenance and Office Equipment budgets not being used yet. It will be important to meet or surpass our income projections and manage our expenses throughout the remainder of the year. Thank you everyone for everything you do to financially support the Church so we can continue all the great work we've been doing in serving our community and supporting our missions.



Women's Guild

The Women's Guild serves as a social outlet for the ladies of the church as well as providing church support and community outreach. All ladies of the church are welcome to participate.

Our first meeting this fall will be held on Thursday, September 28th at 6:30 at a location to be determined. Other meetings are slated for Oct 26th and January 25th. During the holiday season, the Guild will plan a social gathering (a play, concert, or excursion). Watch for more specifics in your weekly Newsy Notes.

Cyndi Hall, President

6th Annual Pie Sale is on September 24th

Our 6th Annual Pie Sale is right around the corner! On Saturday, September 23rd, the front lawn of our church will be the setting where pies of many flavors will be on sale. Many talented bakers from our congregation work their magic in creating delicious savory and dessert pies for this church fundraiser. Meat pies, quiches, fruit pies, and other varieties will be available from 10 A.M. until we're sold out! Come early and get some tasty treats to share with your family and friends!



Debbie Burns

Hannaford Gift Cards 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.



Next Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Capital Funds Drive Update

A capital funds drive has been undertaken by the church 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 will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts at the Summerfest Spectacular. The donuts will be on sale for \$8 a dozen with just over half of the proceeds going to the capital funds drive. We will take orders for the donuts at the Summerfest and for a few weeks afterwards. We are asking for a deposit of \$4 at the time of the order. Donuts will be available for delivery to the purchasers at the church on Saturday, September 9.



Donations can now be made to the capital funds drive through a PayPal link on the church's web site. We will soon distribute a news release announcing the capital funds drive to the community and encouraging donations.

Lisa deWolfe has offered to organize a cribbage tournament benefiting the capital funds drive. She is planning to hold the tournament in mid-January.

If you would like to pledge or donate in support of the capital funds drive, please send your pledge or donation to:

Winthrop Congregational Church UCC
10 Bowdoin Street
Winthrop, ME 04364.

Doug Whittier

200th Anniversary of Hampden UCC

Save the Date! September 30 – October 1, 2017.

Hampden Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the gathering of the congregation with a weekend of fun, food, music, and worship.

Saturday plans include family fun activities, a luncheon Bar-B-Q, tours of the church highlighting its 200 years of local and world mission, and a 4:00 p.m. concert (including past and present choir members and church musicians) in the Sanctuary.

A Celebration Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday will highlight contributions of past members and clergy, the Maine Conference, and a reunion choir.

More info to come in the weeks ahead.

Come join with us in this celebration!

For additional information please contact Sara Henry, Moderator. shenry@maine.edu



Wi-Fi available at WCC- contact the Church Office for details

September Birthdays		September Anniversaries	
4	Ann Dooling	9/13/97	Ted LaCrone & Amy Tague
6	Marie Pettengill	9/14	Eric & Martha Payne
9	Peter Coulton	9/16/67	Doug & Carol Whittier
11	T J Mauro	9/22/51	Charlie & Mary Gove
12	Sue Poole	9/23/72	Jeff & Anna Brown
15	Megan Patterson	9/25	Milton & Pamela Hadley
16	Rae Ann Demos		
17	Betty Evans		
	Cyndi Hall		
	Eric Nelson		
	Ruby Nelson		
19	Marlene Douglas		
21	Bob Morgner		
October Birthdays		October Anniversaries	
1	Sonny Maxim	10/11/86	Tom & Kathy Irwin
	Christopher Martin-McNaughton	10/13/07	Luke & Rebecca Lazure
7	Kara Hiendlmayr		
11	Rick McNaughton		
16	Wendy Dennis		
	Pamela Livingstone		
22	Joshua Martin-McNaughton		
24	Wendy Wagner		
26	Jamie Martin-McNaughton		
31	Ginger Smith		
			
November Birthdays		November Anniversaries	
7	Roger Hanson	11/12	Peter & Sharon Coulton
12	Pamela Hadley	11/19/60	Alfred & Marie Pettengill
13	Ted LaCrone	11/20	Tasha Dunn & Chrissy Cataldo
19	Sandra Smith		
21	Madeline Patterson		
22	Dana Hall		
25	Fred Douglas		
28	Melissa deWolfe		
29	Justin deWolfe		
	Ginny Webb		

Are we missing your important date (birthday, anniversary)? Let us know at the Church Office: wccucc@fairpoint.net or (207) 377-6043.

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<http://tinyurl.com/WCCUCC>