



The Witness

Spring 2015 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

Pastor's Reflections

Friends and members of Winthrop Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, I am writing this letter on Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday or Carnival. On this night, the last night before the beginning of the season of Lent, I am anxiously waiting for Tasha to come home from work so we can go eat pancakes for dinner. When we return home, we will indulge in a favorite treat that we only eat during this time of year, the King Cake. While many countries eat some version of a king cake (so named for the three Magi, sometimes called kings, who visited the young Jesus and his family), we favor the New Orleans style... it's like a giant cinnamon roll covered in sweet icing and gold, green, and purple sprinkles. There's usually a little plastic baby crammed into the cake somewhere, a little reminder of Jesus in the midst of all of the revelry. If you find the baby, you have to provide the cake next year. In our house, Mardi Gras is a time of good food, good fun and good friends.



But, most of you (well, all of you except for Dana who compiles the newsletter) will not be reading this on Mardi Gras. By the time you see these words; we will have begun the season of Lent. You may have already had ashes placed on your head in the sign of the cross. You may have chosen to increase your giving to those in need. You may have adopted a new spiritual discipline. Maybe you are fasting, giving up something so that you can make a bigger space for God in your life. But, maybe you are simply sitting with the stillness and mystery of this season, participating in the journey through the Gospel of Mark's narrative of Jesus' life and ministry. Regardless of how you are spending your Lent, it is likely a far cry from the festive atmosphere of Mardi Gras. This is a season for contemplation, discovery, and reconnection. It is also a season where we remember the life, death, and resurrection of the one we call Christ. This is the season where we pay particular attention to both how he lived his life (with compassion, among friends, challenging oppressive authority, and being utterly faithful) and how he died (among the outcasts and thieves, at the hands of leaders who owed their power to an oppressive empire). We wait, in hope, for his resurrection and seek to find ways to live out that joyful resurrection in our own lives every day.



This season is full of paradoxes. But, it is rich. I am glad that we can spend time on this journey together. As I said in a weekly newsy note, may all your Mardi Gras celebrations fortify you for the Lenten journey ahead.

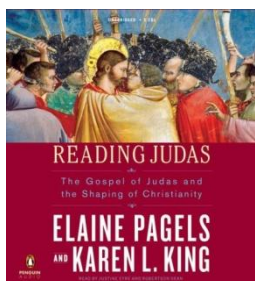
Pastor Chrissy

We are an Open and Affirming Church

Page 1 of 8

SPRING EVENTS

- † Sunday, February 22nd – Deacons Love Fund collection
- † Sunday, February 22nd – “Souper” Sunday –purchase a some soup to go after worship
- † Sunday, February 22nd – Lenten Book Study *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*- after worship service
- † Tuesday, February 24th - Lenten Book Study (alternate time) *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*-11:30 am – Take part on Sunday or on Tuesday
- † Wednesday February 25th – Crafty Ladies 10am – 2 pm
- † Sunday, March 1st – Lenten Book Study *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*- after worship service
- † Sunday, March 1st – WAMA Book Discussion *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander- 4 pm multi-purpose room – Winthrop Town Hall
- † Tuesday, March 3rd - Lenten Book Study (alternate time) *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*-11:30 am
- † Fish Chowder – Friday, March 13, 2015 11:30 am-12:30 pm
- † Sunday, March 8th – Lenten Book Study *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*- after worship service
- † Tuesday, March 10th - Lenten Book Study (alternate time) *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*-11:30 am
- † Wednesday March 11th - Crafty Ladies 10am – 2 pm
- † Wednesday, March 11th – Church Council Meeting – 6:30 pm
- † Sunday, March 15th – One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- † Sunday, March 15th – Lenten Book Study *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*- after worship service
- † Tuesday, March 17th - Lenten Book Study (alternate time) *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*-11:30 am – Take part on Sunday or on Tuesday
- † Sunday, March 22nd – Lenten Book Study *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*- after worship service
- † Tuesday, March 24th - Lenten Book Study (alternate time) *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*-11:30 am
- † Wednesday March 25th - Crafty Ladies 10am – 2 pm
- † Sunday, March 29th – Palm Sunday
- † Sunday, March 29th – Lenten Book Study *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*- after worship service
- † Tuesday, March 31st - Lenten Book Study (alternate time) *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*-11:30 am
- † Thursday, April 2nd – Maundy Thursday Service Fellowship Hall
- † Sunday, April 5th – Easter Sunday
- † Wednesday April 8th - Crafty Ladies 10am – 2 pm
- † Wednesday, April 8th – Church Council Meeting – 6:30 pm
- † Fish Chowder – Friday, April 10, 2015
- † Wednesday, April 22nd - Crafty Ladies 10am – 2 pm
- † Fish Chowder – Friday, May 8, 2015
- † Sunday May 10th – Mother’s Day – Blanket Sunday Offering



From the Board of Church and Community Concerns

The BCCC welcomes two new members: Ronda Watson and Margaret Imber! Their participation in our mission work will be greatly appreciated.

On March 15 there will be a special offering taken for One Great Hour of Sharing. Our OGHS donations are used to help communities rebuild that have been devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods, not only in our country but around the world. Our donations also help villages ravaged by drought and famine by educating men and women in new practices of farming and animal husbandry.



In May, on Mother's Day, we will honor our mothers with a special offering on Blanket Sunday. In June, on Father's Day, we will support Pilgrim Lodge with a special offering.

Thank you for your generous support of our local and wider world missions!

Carol Whittier, Acting Chair-person

CE Matters

There is one opening on the Board. Please let one of us know if you are interested in serving in this capacity or if you'd be willing to help with the children's lessons.

We are currently using the Godly Play Sunday School Curriculum for lessons. An **Intergenerational bowling event** is tentatively planned for March.

TJ Mauro and **Linda Rollins** continue to serve in the nursery on alternating Sundays.

From the Treasurer

The Church's books for the year 2014 ended up with total income of **\$81,270** and total expenses of **\$73,599** for a surplus of **\$7,671**.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting

Members in attendance at the annual Meeting on January 25th approved the annual reports of the Officers, Boards and Committees of the Church. A balanced budget for 2015 was presented and passed. The Congregation approved using \$1,000 of the 2014 surplus to install carpeting and runners in the Sanctuary.

Wi-Fi available at WCC- contact the church office for details



We are an Open and Affirming Church

Page 3 of 8

Fish Chowder

Fish Chowder Luncheons are held the second Friday of every month from September and through May. No luncheon is held in December because of the Christmas fair but you can always count on fish chowder to be included on the luncheon menu.

Many hands help in putting this luncheon together that many enjoy. Except for purchasing the fish and miscellaneous items that monetary donations help pay for, ingredients of potatoes, onions, milk and butter for the chowder are prepared and donated by members. There are two regular biscuit makers providing 120~+ each time and 13 willing pie bakers that provide 11-12 pies as well. Crackers, punch and coffee are other items provided. Lee Gilman keeps us supplied with her homemade pickles.

Charlie Gove does an inventory of supplies, sets up the dining room the day before and coordinates the take-out orders. Alan Ellingwood gets the chowder going by 8 with Eric Payne and Peter Coulton helping out. There are also a hostess, a cashier, servers, a coffee server, a pie cutter, a take-out deliverer, dishwashers and the persons who distribute advertising posters in area business establishments the week prior.

Once serving is over, all workers get to sit together for a great meal and a time of fellowship. A successful day, though, is when we sell out. Anyone willing to bake a pie on occasion, donate chowder ingredients or who would like to help out on the day of the luncheon would be welcome. This month's chowder made \$323.27.

Submitted by Carol Ellingwood

Women's Guild

The Winthrop Grade School greatly appreciated our donations of hats, scarves and mittens. With all this cold weather and snow, some little people will be a lot warmer on the playground!

The Guild purchased two new round tables to replace the heavy, unsafe round tables in Fellowship Hall. These two new round tables, plus the ten rectangular tables already purchased, will make setting up for the Fish Chowder Luncheon and any receptions so much easier. There is a new waste basket in the kitchen to replace the old one held together with a screw!



Even though spring seems like it is still a long time away, we are beginning to think about the Material Aid Kits we traditionally put together for Church World Service. Lee Gilman will coordinate collecting the items we need for the Hygiene Kits, and Carol Whittier will coordinate filling the School Kits. We will be looking for volunteers to help make the school bags. Lists of the necessary items needed to fill the kits will be available at a later date. These kits will be sent

to a warehouse where they are stored until needed by victims of disasters.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 26th at Cyndi Hall's home, and our March meeting will be held at the church with Ann Mitchell hosting.

Carol Whittier, President

Hannaford Gift Cards Sales



Now into the 5th year, \$400 has already been added to the \$8,825 total earned ending 2014, putting it up to \$9,225. This is a great amount for approximately 12 members supporting this fundraiser on a regular basis.

No one is solicited, bakes, donates or has to clean after for this on-going event!

Thank you to all who support this worthwhile money maker! Carol Ellingwood.

Honduras Mission Trip

Pete and I will be returning to Roatan, Honduras to provide medical care for several communities on the island. We will hold three or four clinics. We have connected with the New Life church and will be having a clinic there again. We will also bring much needed supplies to Clinica Esperanza, a volunteer nonprofit clinic which serves all of the people on the island. We were able to witness their wonderful work last year and they are an invaluable source of healthcare for the people. Listed below are items that we need to take with us. There will be a suitcase at church where people can leave donations. Monetary donations can be given at the church office and will be used to purchase medication and other medical supplies that need to be purchased for the trip.

Any monetary or other materials donated are tax deductible. The nonprofit tax ID is on the website for Clinica Esperanza to use with your purchase receipts. Checks can be made out to Winthrop Congregational Church.

Here is a list of items that are needed:

- Adult multivitamin with or without iron
- Children's chewable vitamins (not gummy's)
- Tylenol arthritis 650 mg
- Tylenol 500 mg
- Ibuprofen 200mg
- Children's Tylenol chewable
- Children's junior Tylenol chewable
- Children's infant Tylenol drops
- Loratadine tablets
- Tum's or Maalox tablets
- Calcium Guiafenison 200 mg tablets
- Sunglasses (Reny's and Marden's usually have inexpensive glasses)
- Reading glasses (1.25, 1.5, 1.75 strength)
- Young children's books and coloring books
- Crayons and children's markers



Thank you, Pete and Lisa deWolfe

Vision Communication Team

In an effort to use our whole space to communicate our mission and vision, the Vision Communication Team is being developed to coordinate the finishing touches to our recent renovations. Having an inviting space is vital to engaging and uplifting not only our current members, but also any potential members who come through our door. One of the primary goals of the Vision Communication team is to engage our whole church in an important conversation about how we understand and communicate our vision, similar to the conversations the church had when preparing for the pastoral search process. With these goals in mind, here is the charter for the Vision Communication Team, including the church mission statement.

The Winthrop Congregation Church, UCC Mission statement:

Our mission is to be a Christ-centered community of prayer and worship, of welcome and care, of learning and growing, of witness and service in the worldwide church of Jesus Christ.

Purpose of the Vision Communication Team:

The purpose of this committee is threefold:

- † First, they will develop and complete a process for gathering input from the congregation. The committee is asked to assist the Church Council to create consensus in approach.
- † Second, having gathered input from the congregation, the committee will recommend to the church how we want to represent ourselves and our beliefs within the congregation and to visitors.
- † Third, the committee will develop a process for implementation of recommendations.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



March Birthdays		March Anniversaries	
3	Peter deWolfe	3/5/88	Peter & Lisa deWolfe
10	Kris Hatfield		
15	Mike Burns		
28	Carol Ellingwood		
29	Ruth Emerson		
April Birthdays		April Anniversaries	
1	Eric Conrad	4/28/79	Alice & David Anderman
7	Matthew Dennis		
8	Corinna Coulton		
9	Julia LaCrone		
13	Peter Hatfield		
15	Nick Burns		
	Carol Whittier		
	Jeff Brown		
17	Sharon Coulton		
19	Mike Mayette		
May Birthdays		May Anniversaries	
3	Alice Darlington	5/17/80	Jeff & Wendy Dennis
4	Jean Doughty		
5	Connie Mayette		
7	Barbara Pray		
9	Becky Gillespie		
	Shirley Rollins		
10	Linda Rollins		
20	Emma Conrad		
21	Kelly Dooling		
22	Jeff Dennis		
31	William Maxim		

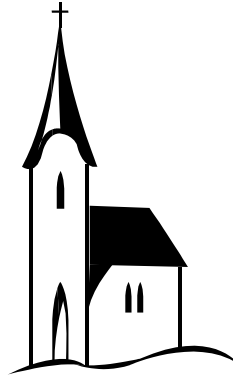
Next Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Check us out on

facebook

Visit us at

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=lf#!/pages/Winthrop-Congregational-Church/146739145356709>



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