

Bangor First United Methodist Church  
703 Essex Street , Bangor Maine



# Cross Talk

APRIL 2025

## For Information...

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First

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## *A Note from our pastor Dr. Steve Smith....*

As we approach Holy Week together, I have a Good Friday memory to share with you. We attended Orono United Methodist Church as we Smith kids were raised. Each year when attending Good Friday service, we waited with anticipation for what always happened after the last hymn. As our time closed, our pastor (John Neff) would take the Christ candle from its holder, walk it down the center aisle of the sanctuary and out of the building, signifying the death of Christ (the "Light of the World" was removed from our sanctuary.)

The memory that sticks with us is the shadow of Reverend Neff cast on the ceiling of the sanctuary. As he would walk down the center aisle with all the lights extinguished except for the candle he was holding, John's shadow would grow larger and larger as he processed down the aisle. By the time he got to the last row of pews, his shadow on the ceiling was enormous before he exited the building. Holding that candle of Christ produced a larger than life image of our pastor on the ceiling that was pretty cool to witness each year. But it wouldn't have been possible with the light of the Christ candle he was holding.

As I mentioned during a recent children's message, difficulties can make a person feel small, even insignificant. And yet, even during this time of uncertainty and worry, we are able to "live large" as we hold the light of Christ each day. Embracing Christ with simple prayer, the reading of scripture, turning your face to the blue sky, however it happens for you, transforms us from small to mighty.

I invite you to make the presence of Christ grow in your hearts and to those in your orbit during this season of Lent. Let's make some new memories this week as we walk through Holy Week together.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

The United Methodist

Church



OPEN MINDS

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN DOORS

## This 'N That...



Youth activities TBA

### FIBER ARTS FELLOWSHIP

**Tuesdays 9:30-11:00**

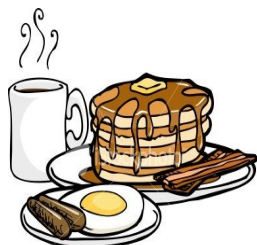


Everyone is welcome to come knit, crochet or just fellowship with us on Tuesdays.

We continue to work on the warm prayer shawls, lap robes, and other projects that keep our fingers and needles busy.

We will begin meeting again this September but hope you will join us any Tuesday that you can.

### Next Men's Breakfast



Saturday, April 5

7 am, Governor's on Broadway

### FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS



Any non-perishable items are gratefully accepted! But peanut butter & soup are always in high demand!

You are welcome to drop off donated food items at the back door of the church on **Thursdays from 10-1:00 or on Sunday mornings.**

Also checks are gladly accepted and can be sent to:  
**Ecumenical Food Cupboard**  
 PO Box 1106  
 28 High Street, Bangor, ME 04401



**Community Meal** drive up meals each Thursday from 4-6 pm

**Bean Supper** drive up April 26 from 4-6pm



United  
Women  
in Faith

Please join us for our next meeting at 10 am on **April 12** at the church and on ZOOM. Call the Church office at 945-9567 or contact Julie Brownie if you want to receive emails or telephone calls about UWF events.

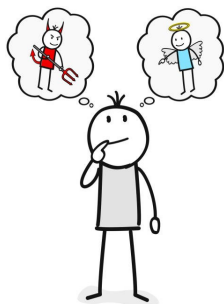


## COMMUNITY MEAL

The Community Meal Take Out  
Thursdays from 4-6

Drive up and pick up a delicious and nutritious meal!

### GRATITUDE ATTITUDE... Have You Ever Been Tempted?



The answer to the question is: YES! I have been tempted, you have been tempted, everyone sometime in their lives has been or will be tempted. It is often very difficult to resist temptation but in not resisting there is usually some sort of consequence. Take for example the time I was tempted by the most luscious piece of cake I had ever seen. It had fifteen small layers with a decadent raspberry filling spread thinly between each one. The skill required to produce such a fine piece of culinary perfection was in itself magical, but the wonderfully luring aroma of the darkest of chocolate, the beauty of the creation and the sincere desire to taste it was overwhelming. A thin slice of those fifteen layers was set before us and when we took the first bite it was exquisite! The piece was a very thin cut so not as to appear overwhelming but the richness of the filling and the buttery taste of the layers soon helped us to realize that should we consume the entire piece, it might cause our digestive system to revolt! However, the temptation to continue eating overtook us. After a full meal and a very “rich” piece of cake the uneasiness of our digestive systems later in the evening reminded us when faced with a similar situation in the future we could avoid such a consequence by resisting temptation!

We have all seen cartoons of the devil and angel on someone’s shoulder. The angel whispers into the ear of the conflicted to be “good” to remember what has happened in the past, to honor the goodness inside them resisting temptation’s pull. The little devil on the other shoulder is at the same time whispering to go ahead, to not worry or be afraid. That it is okay to choose evil over good! What a conundrum! All of us know which choice brings us to goodness, but it is often the more consequential path that tempts us to go in the wrong direction.

Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness and while there was tempted by the devil over and over again! The biggest temptation offered by the devil was that if Jesus were to worship him, then Jesus could have all the world’s kingdoms! Jesus’ replied.... *“It’s written that you will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.”* The devil continued to test Jesus. He asked him to throw himself from the highest point of the temple for as God’s son he would surely be rescued by the heavenly angels. Jesus warned the devil not to test God! Although to some it seems that Jesus’ life could have been easier had he taken the devil’s bribes, Jesus withstood the devil’s tests by not giving into his temptations.

Fighting temptations is a battle with which we live daily. The world rushes on and we often get caught up in ourselves and when doing so are more easily tempted to make poor decisions. Setting goals for ourselves, taking time to serve others, attending church, growing our faith and asking God for help along the way can help us better resist temptations. We will still be tempted, that’s just the way life goes, but as 1 Corinthians 10:13b reminds us...*God is faithful. He won’t allow you to be tempted beyond your abilities. Instead, with the temptation, God will also supply a way out so that you will be able to endure it.* And for that we are truly grateful!



## And **MEMORY JOGGERS**

It's been another extremely busy month at My Friends Place and Memory Joggers. And the BEST thing about now being in March is that we're starting to feel winter start to loosen its' grip. The days are brighter, and we have daylight until almost 7 PM. I think this has put everyone in a much better mood these days.

As usual, our variety of topics gives us so many opportunities to learn new things. After our wonderful people, my next favorite thing is all of the interesting things we learn about each new topic. Our discussions and fun facts provide for a lot of learning and laughs.

This month we discussed the tradition of telling Fairy Tales, the Month of March and Ireland (St. Patrick's Day). We're all familiar with the stories we learned as children; Hansel and Gretel, Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pigs, etc. But did you know many of these stories can be traced back thousands of years? Originally, stories were told orally and passed down from generation to generation. The oldest known folk tale was traced back 6,000 years (to the Bronze Age) is titled The Smith and the Devil. It's about a blacksmith who sells his soul to the Devil to gain supernatural abilities. Then people like Charles Perrault, Hans Christian Anderson, The Brothers Grimm and others started collecting and publishing these folk tales as early as 1697.

Then we moved on to discuss the month of March and talked about the changes we begin to see. Our participants shared memories of flying kites, hanging laundry on outdoor clotheslines and the WONDERFUL smell that gives your clothes, and the best part is March signals the end of winter!

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day by learning more about Ireland. Quite a few of us have Irish heritage. Wherever our ancestors came from, we should ALL be proud of our heritage. It turns out that St. Patrick wasn't originally from Ireland. He was born in Roman England. He was a missionary in Ireland and used the Shamrock to teach the concept of the Trinity to his converts. The first St. Patrick's Day Parade was not held in Ireland, but in NYC in 1762. And despite the popular legend that St. Pat drove the snakes out of Ireland, that's not true.

Enjoy the warmer days and more daylight. Take care and God Bless!

*Mary Keller*

### **United Women in Faith Offers Financial Assistance**

Did you know that First Church's UWF unit offers three types of financial assistance? They are **scholarship assistance to high school seniors** who are continuing their education (This application is due May 15<sup>th</sup>); **registration fees for Camp Mechuwana** programs; and, **assistance for Mission U, UWF programs, and travel expenses for UWF and other church related programs**. More information will be coming about this assistance.

*The application forms are located behind the UWF slot in the middle section of the mail container outside of the office.*

### **FELLOWSHIP LIBRARY NEWS**



Our library is full of all sorts of interesting things....puzzles, study books, periodicals, books for leisurely reading, books for information and of course Bibles. Check the Fellowship Library hall bulleting board for featured books .Come **CHECK IT OUT!**

## Prayer Requests and Joys at FUMC

Family Eva B.  
 Sharon R.  
 Leslie J-W  
 Charles W.  
 Baby Adrian Joseph  
 Keith W.  
 Bill M.  
 Family of Pat C.  
 Helen W.  
 Family of Barbara D.  
 Charles W.  
 David H.  
 Christina W.  
 Suzanne W.  
 Tuhan K.  
 Meghan B.  
 Amanda R-P  
 Jessie S.  
 Donna & Beckett  
 Lynn D.  
 Marion  
 Darlene, Beth's mom  
 David P



### Prayer Requests

Steve P.  
 Christi S.  
 Page C's relatives  
 Suzanne W.  
 Amanda H.  
 Christine C.  
 Elena & Bobby B.  
 The homeless & hungry  
 Pray for our nation and its leaders  
 For the victims of the fires in LA and for those who are bravely fighting them.  
 For our pastors and church leaders including our Bishop and District Superintendent  
 For our children and youth  
 For those who lead us in worship and for those who provide the video links to those watching from home

### JOYS

#### We are grateful for...

- God given courage & strength to face whatever life sends our way
- For crisp winter days and fresh fallen snow
- For the beauty and warmth of early spring
- Health and recovery from illness
- Family & friends
- God's unconditional love
- For all those who help, even when not being asked
- Our pastors, musicians and media techs
- Opportunities to learn and grow our faith
- The support of our congregation
- Our pets who give unconditional love
- Food, clothing and a home... the necessities of life!

Into your hands Heavenly Father we entrust these people who are in need of your healing touch, knowledge of your presence, and your comfort.

Sustain them in good days and bad. Help them to feel your loving presence with them during every difficulty, for you are always there ahead of any circumstance.

Watch over all those who are in need. Help them to feel that you are near them and know that all they need do is look to YOU for comfort and for strength.

In Your loving name we pray. Amen

*Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He doesn't grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted. Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.*

*Isaiah 40: 28-30 (Common English Bible)*





**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

<p><i>Happy Birthday to you!</i>  <i>Happy Birthday to you!</i>                  God Bless you and keep you the whole year through!</p>		1	2	3	4 Peter Christensen	5 David Hastings
6	7 Ann Parke	8	9	10	11 Coralie Cross	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Scott Christensen
20 Noah Chick Marie Johnson	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Zac Cowperthwaite	28 Roz Fisher	29 Melody Murphy Dale Brownie	30 Steve Smith			

**If you don't find your name on the birthday calendar it is because the office doesn't have the information. If you would like to be included on the Birthday Calendar just let the office know the month and day. (We don't need the year unless you want to share it!)**



Grow Your Faith at FUMC:

**\*Tuesday Bible Study meets at the church at 1:00pm & at 7pm via Zoom**

**\*8:30 Sunday Spirituals (discussion group)**

**\*In person and online Sunday morning worship at 10:30 with Sunday school**

**\*On line devotionals Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays via email**

**Men's Breakfast devotion and fellowship the first Saturday at 7 am**

**\*Join one of our women's faith and fellowships groups: United Women of Faith, Piburn Circle**

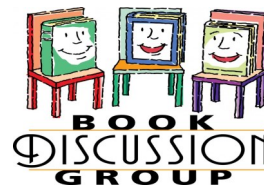
**\*Join the Fellowship Choir or come and play a handbell**

**\*Get involved in mission by helping with our Community Meal on Thursdays... with our Bean Suppers throughout the year...or volunteer at My Friend's Place**

**\*Visit our library and check out a book for enjoyment, information or to grow your faith.**

**\*Volunteer to serve on a church committee**

**We are a busy church and there are lots of ways to grow! For information about any of our programs contact the office at 945-9567**




Groups meet on **Tuesdays** at 1pm at church and at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The Lenten study is *The Final Days: A Lenten Journey Through the Gospels* will continue through Lent.

## GRATITUDE

### For what things are you grateful...

God's love? Health? Happiness? Family? Friends?  
 Peace? Contentment? Food? Love? Your education?  
 The crocus and daffodils? Your talents and abilities?  
 Your sight and hearing? Your faith?  
 The book and Bible studies? Your ability to read?  
 God's love and guidance? Your church family?  
 The warm spring breezes and bright sunshine?  
 The beauty all around you?  
 Your freedom? Your blessings? And what else?...

Appreciate what you have and cultivate a heart of gratitude, for discontent comes when we focus on what we lack. *In our daily lives, it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but the gratefulness that makes us happy.* From the notebook of Karen Cronan

	Newsletter Deadline	Worship Schedule
 <p><i>The colorful spring flowers remind us of the warm, sunny days ahead. The winter has come and gone.</i></p>	<p><b>Deadline for information for the May newsletter is April 21.</b></p> <p>Information may be submitted in written form, via email, or by phone.</p>	<p><i>Sundays. ...</i></p> <p><i>Pathways to God 8:30 via Zoom</i></p> <p><i>Traditional Worship Service: 10:30</i></p> <p><i>On-line and in person</i></p>

# APRIL

## 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Office open 7:30-11:30  <b>Fiber Arts 9 am</b>  <b>Mahjong 9am</b>	<b>2</b> Office open 7:30-11:00  <b>Memory Joggers 10-2</b>	<b>3</b> Office Open 7:30-11:00 <b>Evangelism committee 10:45</b> <b>*Community meal 4-6</b> <b>*Mahjong 12:30</b>	<b>4</b> Office closed  <b>My Friend's Place 10-2</b>	<b>5 AA at 11:00</b>  <b>Men's Breakfast 7 am at Governor's on Broadway</b>  <b>Penny Dolley memorial reception 10-12</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship	<b>7</b> Office Open 7:30-11:30  <b>My Friend's Place 10-2</b>  <b>DKG 4:30</b>	<b>8</b> Office open 7:30-11:30  <b>Fiber Arts 9 am</b>  <b>Mahjong 9am</b>	<b>9</b> Office open 7:30-11:00  <b>Memory Joggers 10-2</b>	<b>10</b> Office Open 7:30-11:00  <b>Community meal 4-6</b>  <b>Mahjong</b>	<b>11</b> Office closed  <b>My Friend's Place 10-2</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>AA at 11:00</b>  <b>UWF 10 am</b>
<b>13</b> 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship   <small>PALM SUNDAY</small>	<b>14</b> Office open 7:30-11:30  <b>My Friend's Place 10-2</b>  <b>Holy Week</b>	<b>15</b> Office open 7:30-11:30  <b>Fiber Arts 9 am</b>  <b>Mahjong 9am</b>	<b>16</b> Office open 7:30-11:00  <b>Memory Joggers 10-2</b>	<b>17</b> Office open 7:30-11:00  <b>*Piburn 1pm</b>  <b>Maundy Thursday service 6:30</b>	<b>18</b> Office closed  <b>My Friend's Place 10-2</b>  <b>Good Friday service at Corinth 6:30</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>AA at 11:00</b>  
<b>20</b> 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship  	<b>21</b> Office open 7:30-11:30  <b>My Friend's Place 10-2</b>	<b>22</b> Office open 7:30-11:30  <b>Fiber Arts 9 am</b>  <b>Mahjong 9am</b>  <b>Ad Council at 7 via Zoom</b>	<b>23</b> Office open 7:30-11:00  <b>Memory Joggers 10-2</b>	<b>24</b> Office open 7:30-11:00 <b>Community meal 4-6</b> <b>*Mahjong 12:30</b>	<b>25</b> Office closed  <b>My Friend's Place 10-2</b>  <b>BSO auditions 9-5</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>AA at 11:00</b>  <b>Bean Supper 4-6</b>
<b>27</b> 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship	<b>28</b> Office open 7:30-11:30  <b>My Friend's Place 10-2</b>	<b>29</b> Office open 7:30-11:30  <b>Fiber Arts 9 am</b>  <b>Mahjong 9am</b>	<b>30</b> Office open 7:30-11:00  <b>Memory Joggers 10-2</b>			