

Bangor First United Methodist Church
703 Essex Street , Bangor Maine



Cross Talk

FEBRUARY 2017

For Information...

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(Sermon podcasts available)

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First

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Dear Church Family,

The season of Lent will begin with the observance of Ash Wednesday on March 1. Lent is a 40-day period of self-examination, reflection, and repentance that brings us closer to God in preparation for Easter. Lent has its origins in the Early Church as a time of preparation for catechumens (Christian converts) to be baptized. (Baptisms were done during the Easter Vigil service.) Catechumens entered a two or three year period of religious instruction as they journeyed toward baptism. When these candidates, their sponsors, and the community all agreed that they were ready, their names were enrolled for baptism. This began a 40-day period of intensive spiritual preparation for the reception of the sacraments at Easter. In time, as the whole community began to share this time of preparation with the initiates, it developed into the church season we now call Lent.

Spiritual practices during Lent traditionally include fasting, prayer, and alms-giving (i.e., making charitable donations.) For most churches, the emphasis during Lent is almost exclusively on personal piety. However, if we consider the origin of the season – baptismal preparation – then perhaps we should consider more carefully our baptismal vows, including our promise to be seekers of justice.

This year the focus of our Lenten worship and study series will be our baptismal call to (in the words of the United Methodist baptismal covenant) “resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves”. We’ll be inspired by the words of the prophet Amos, whose message is that God calls us to let “justice roll down like waters”. Each week we’ll recall the words of our baptismal covenant as we examine an anthem of social justice by composer Mark Miller that illuminates the scripture and theme for the day.

Like Amos, John Wesley (the founder of Methodism), insisted that personal holiness can’t be separated from social holiness. We’re called to engage in both the worship of God *and* what Wesley called “practical divinity” – living our faith and seeking justice in the world around us. They’re both inextricably woven into the fabric of the genuine Christian life. This Lent we’ll be invited to consider our faithfulness not only in the context of our personal lives, but also of our pursuit of compassion, mercy, and justice for others.

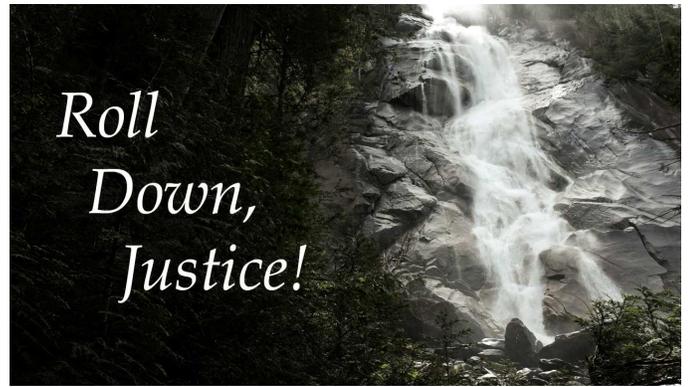
I hope you’ll plan to join us from Ash Wednesday to Easter as we reclaim the baptismal call to love ourselves as children of God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves by resisting evil and alleviating suffering.

*I hate, I reject your festivals;
I don't enjoy your joyous assemblies.
If you bring me your entirely burned offerings and gifts of food—
I won't be pleased;
I won't even look at your offerings of well-fed animals.
Take away the noise of your songs;
I won't listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5: 21-24)*

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Arlene

Lenten Worship Series – “Roll Down Justice”

This year’s Lenten worship series is inspired by the prophet Amos, whose message is that God calls us to let “justice roll down like waters” (Amos 5:24). As we explore the biblical call to justice, we will incorporate the powerful music of composer Mark Miller, the liturgy of worship designer Marcia McFee, the prayer poetry of Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling, and the words of our baptismal vows.



- **Ash Wednesday – March 1, 2017 at 6:30 PM**

“Re-Cognition”

Scripture: Amos 5: 21-24

Anthem: “Make Me an Instrument of Peace”

The season of Lent begins with a call to repent, which means to “turn around.” This year, we will turn from our apathy, from simply “going through the motions” of our life and worship. Instead we will pray to be active instruments of peace and agents of change in the world.

- **First Sunday in Lent – March 5, 2017**

“Naming Each One”

Scripture: Romans 8: 31-39

Anthem: “Child of God”

In a world that seems obsessed with who is “right and wrong,” “good or bad,” “in or out” or on “this side or that side,” it is a radical endeavor to name *each* person as “Child of God”.

- **Second Sunday in Lent – March 12, 2017**

“Renouncing Evil”

Scripture: Psalm 13

Anthem: “How Long?”

Over half of the liturgical songs of the Israelites were Psalms of Lament, giving voice to the pain of the people. Today we lament the injustice of our own time. And yet, we also remember that through our baptism we are given the “freedom and power to resist evil in all its forms” as we “put our whole trust in God.”

- **Third Sunday in Lent – March 19, 2017**

“Christ’s Representatives”

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-40

Anthem: “I Dream of a Church”

At our baptism, we promise to nurture one another and to “serve as Christ’s representatives in the world.” Today we ask the question, “Do we as the church look and act like Jesus?”

- **Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 26, 2017**

“Communities of Forgiveness”

Scripture: Luke 23: 32-43

Anthem: “I Choose Love”

Each time someone is baptized, the whole church body gathered also makes vows. One of the things we promise is to be a community of love and forgiveness. Each day we must choose between letting the difficult things about life create resentment in us, or allowing the work of forgiveness to make way for love.

- **Fifth Sunday in Lent – April 2, 2017**

“Faithful Disciples”

Scripture: Isaiah 58: 6-12:

Anthem: “God Has Work for Us to Do”

As we break bread today, we remember that as long as there are those who are hurting, hungry, excluded and oppressed, we are called be faithful disciples, setting a table and inviting all to the feast.

- **Palm Sunday – April 9, 2017**

“We Are One”

Scripture: Isaiah 35: 1-3; Matthew 21: 1-11

Anthem: “The Day is Coming”

Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem enacted a coming day when power is displayed not with military might but through solidarity in the name of love and justice. We pray for a time when we are one, supporting one another on the road of life, not tearing one another down because of our differences.

- **Holy Week Vigil – Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 6:30 PM**

“Traveling Companions: Journey to the Water”

Scripture: Psalm 42

Anthem: “Christ has Broken Down the Walls”

Our Lenten journey culminates in a journey to the waters of baptismal renewal in the dark of night. Drawing on the ancient Vigil ritual that incorporates Light, Water, Word and Table, we will make a pilgrimage through the church, moving through our faith story then and now.

- **Easter Sunday – April 16, 2017**

“The New Jerusalem”

Scripture: Jeremiah 31: 1-6; Matthew 28:1-9

Anthem: “Welcome”

This is the day we proclaim that justice does indeed roll down in a stream of love that cannot be stopped!

This 'N That...



We are always looking for volunteers. Sunday school...teachers, assistants, nursery volunteers and substitutes.

We follow the FUMC Safe Sanctuary Policy that requires 2 certified adults in each classroom and the nursery. All workers in our Christian Ed groups must have Safe Sanctuaries training and training sessions are ongoing as needed.

If you are interested in volunteering during the year, please speak with Co-Christian Ed Directors Nancy Isaacs or Rachel Downs.



Let's Strengthen Marriages
Saturday, February 25th
5:00-7:30

Come to "Fight Night" a webcast with Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott, well-known presenters and writers on marriage relationship topics.

Focus topics:
"Why We Fight"
"How to Fight a Good Fight"

This event is for newlyweds, long-timers, seriously dating, and engaged couples. If you want to make a good relationship great this is the event for you! Come and learn the secret of keeping a cool head and a warm heart!

Childcare and refreshments will be provided.

Sign up on our website: www.fumcbangor.org or give the office a call at 945-9567 to register.

For more information about the program:
lesandleslieccom

VISITOR MUGS



If you would like to provide a gift mug for guests at our service we are accepting monetary support of \$7.00. This gives you (or someone you know) a mug, plus one for a visitor to be put in a gift bag. ." Checks can be made out to FUMC with mugs on the memo line and given to Sue White or Peg Swett.



Coffee Fellowship Schedule

January: Trustees

February: Piburn

March: Worship

April: SPRC

May: UMW

June: Choir

July: Sunday School

August: Mission

September: Handbells

October: Finance

November: Evangelism

December: Administrative Council

Snacks should be ready by 11:15.
Groups need to make sure all dishes are washed and the dishwasher turned off

QR code for smart phones that will take you directly to the FUMC electronic donation page.



COMMUNITY MEALS FOR FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY MEALS

- February 2:** Oriental Mix / Rice
- February 9:** Soup & Sub
- February 16:** Turkey cutlets w/
gravy & smashed potatoes
- February 23:** Pot Luck



FEBRUARY NEEDS

- February 2:** Desserts
- February 9:** Desserts
- February 16:** Desserts
- February 23:** Desserts



My Friend's Place and Memory Joggers!

My Friend's Place February themes are Italian Food Festival, Pizza Day, Seeing Red, Valentine's Day, See the USA, Cheerful Cherries, Cat's Meow and Mardi Gras.

We are in need of volunteers. We have three volunteers currently out with surgeries, three snowbirds leaving in March and April and one snowbird program coordinator out until March 14th. If you are able to fill in even one day during these months, please let me know.

We are now back on Facebook. "like us" at My Friend's Place and Memory Joggers Bangor, ME J

Blessings,

Dottie England, Director

FOOD CUPBOARD FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY

During the month of January we are asking for donations of the following items for the food cupboard:

- *Canned tuna, chicken & Vienna sausages**
- *Boxed Mac & Cheese or Hamburger Helper**
- *Canned Veggies**
- *Cereals**
- *Toiletry items**



Please place items in our food cart in the narthex.



You are invited to a
25th Anniversary Renewing of Vows

for Bill & Tammy Mason

Sunday, February 19 at 10:00 am.

Refreshments will follow.

Please RSVP Tammy at 659-0730 by February 12.



KEENAGERS

Monday, February 27

12:00 noon

Lunch is served at a cost of \$5.00

February Meetings / Events at Bangor First UMC



Ongoing Group Meetings

Food Addicts in Recovery meet each Monday at 6:30

Bangor Community Chorus rehearses every Tuesday at 6:30 (Sept-May)

Toymakers meet each Monday evening at 6:00

Cub Scouts meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 (Sept-June)

Delta Kappa Gamma meets monthly (Sept-June) on the first Monday.

EAAA Café: Tuesdays; Noon

Meetings:

- Feb. 11:** UMW
- Feb 16:** Piburn; 1:00
- Feb 19:** Missions
- Feb. 28:** Ad Board
- Feb 25:** Marriage webcast; 5:00
- Feb. 26:** Evangelism
- Feb 27:** Keenagers

Events:

- Informal Worship** Thursdays at 6:00
- Sundays at 8:30:** *Pathways to God*
- Sundays at 9:15:** *Bible Study*
- Sunday School/ Christian Education** 10:45 (2nd-4th Sundays)

Page & Tom C.
 Mary Jane T
 Dawn R.
 Nancy C. & daughter
 Eliana
 Bob & Jackie L.
 Lonna, Chuck & Family
 Bill & Tammy
 Sister of Rachel
 Marie & Sherwood
 Nancy I.
 Jill S.
 Family of Stephen T.

Sylvia M.
 Judi C.
 Devon S.
 Bob & Ben C.
 Peg S.
 Devon S.
 Freda McK
 Adam S.
 Madilynn
 Tammy B.
 Our church leaders
 The Bangor Area Street Pastors



Prayer Requests

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.

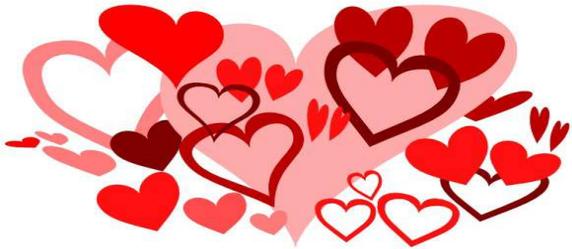
Watch over all those who are in need. Help them to feel that you are always near them and know that all they need do is look to you for comfort and for strength.

In Your loving name we pray. Amen

The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing. He lets me rest in grassy meadows; he leads me to restful waters; he keeps me alive. He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me. Your rod and your staff...they protect me. You set a table for me right in front of my enemies. You bathe my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over! Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the Lord's house as long as I live.

Psalms 23

Birthdays



February, 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Emily Isaacs	4
5	6 Don Gallupe Donna Frost	7	8	9	10	11 Steve Earl
12 Ruth Shepardson	13 Joseph Guay	14	15	16 Stephen Ritz-Perkins	17 Joan Rosie Cindy Sayles	18 Victoria Ashton
19	20	21	22	23 Kerry Woodbury Mark Paulette	24	25
26	27 Louise Hatch Jan Ashton	28				

*Happy Birthday to you, to Jesus be true.
God Bless you and keep you the whole year through!*



Worship Assistants for February 2017

***If you are unable to cover the date for which you are scheduled please arrange for a substitute or call Sue White.

<u>Readers</u>	
5	Nick Prins
12	Glenn Mower
19	Chris Cronan
26	Jim Burkhart

<u>Trustees</u>	
5	Andy Moody
12	Gregg Stewart
19	Pat Woodbury
26	Andy Moody

<u>Media</u>	
Geoff Dapice	
Wayne Griffith-Hurst	
<u>Sound</u>	
Jim Burkhart	

Greeters for the 10:30 am Traditional Worship

<u>Sanctuary Door</u>	
5	Dan & Louise Hatch
12	Jim Mello & Sherry Robinson
19	Dale & Julie Brownie
26	David & Baerbel Pelkey

<u>Essex Street Door</u>	
5	Charlotte Witham
12	Barbara Warner
19	Ruth Shepardson
26	Debbie Courtney

<u>Back Door</u>	
5	Roz Fisher
12	Stacey Whittington
19	Karen Cronan
26	Nicholas Prins

	Newsletter Deadline	Worship Schedule
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving!</p> 	<p>Deadline for information for the March newsletter is February 20.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Information may be submitted in written form, via email or by phone.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pathways to God 8:30</i> <i>Traditional Worship Service: 10:30</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Christian Ed for children at 10:45 (2nd-4th Sundays)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Informal Worship: Thursdays at 6:00</i></p>



“Talking About Race”

The Bangor First, Orono, and Hampden Highlands United Methodist Churches will present a 4-week study and discussion series on Sunday evenings in February from 6:30 – 8:30. We’ll meet each week in the sanctuary to view an installment of the powerful documentary, “Race: The Power of an Illusion”, which explores beliefs about race, privilege, policy, and justice. Afterward there will be small group discussion in the family room. Open to the public. Refreshments and childcare will be available.

- February 5 — “The Difference Between Us”

This episode explores why humans can’t be subdivided into races, and how there isn’t a single characteristic, trait—or even one gene—that can be used to distinguish all members of one race from all members of another.

- February 12 — “The Story We Tell”

In this episode we look at the eye-opening tale of how deep social inequalities came to be rationalized as natural—deflecting attention from the social practices and public policies that benefited whites.

- February 19— “The House We Live In”

This final episode focuses not on individual attitudes and behavior, but on the ways our institutions and policies advantage some racial groups at the expense of others.

- February 26 — Snow Date

If the snow date is not needed, we will explore United Methodist resources for understanding

BASKETS & MORE BASKETS....

We were very successful in selling baskets for the 2016 church fair. Be on the lookout for clearance & closing sales for baskets & items to fill your 2017 basket! Questions? Contact Roz Fisher at 404-4729 or by email at osurosalyn1960@gmail.com

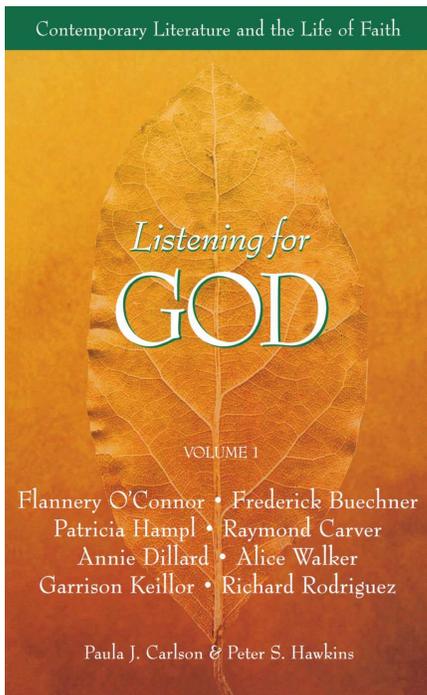
VOLUNTEER NEEDED to serve on the Transportation for All Committee. Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 at the Hammond Street Congregational Church. This committee works in conjunction with the Bangor City Council to improve transportation in our city. If you would like more information contact the church office or Bob Al-

Bangor First United Methodist Church Calendar for.....



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 Memory Joggers 2:00 Book study 6:00 Scouts 7:00 Choir	2 4:00 Community Meal 6:00: Worship 6:45 Bells	3 10:00 My Friend's Place	4
5 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship Worship Comm Race Series 6:30	6 Bible Study 1:00 6:00: Toymakers 6:00: FAIR	7 10:00: My Friend's Place 12:00 EAAA Café 6:00 BCC	8 9:00 Memory Joggers 2:00 Book study 6:00 Scouts 7:00 Choir	9 4:00 Community Meal 6:00: Worship 6:45 Bells	10 10:00 My Friend's Place	11 UMW 9:30
12 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship 10:45 Christian Ed Race Series 6:30	13 Bible Study 1:00 6:00: Toymakers 6:00: FAIR	14 10:00: My Friend's Place 12:00 EAAA Café 6:00: BCC	15 9:00 Memory Joggers 2:00 Book study 5:30 SPRC 6:00 Scouts 7:00: Choir	16 1:00 Piburn 4:00 Community Meal 6:00: Worship	17 10:00 My Friend's Place	18
19 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship 10:45 Christian Ed 11:45 Missions committee Race Series 6:30	20 Office closed Bible Study; 1:00 6:00 Toymakers 6:00 FAIR	21 10:00: My Friend's Place 12:00 EAAA Café 6:00 BCC	22 9:00 Memory Joggers 2:00 Book study 6:00 Scouts 7:00 Choir	23 4:00 Community Meal 6:00: Worship 6:45: Bells	24 10:00 My Friend's Place	25 Marriage web-cast 5:00
26 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship 10:45: Christian Ed 11:45 Evangelism Committee Race Series 6:30	27 Keenagers; 12:00 Bible Study; 1:00 6:00 Toymakers 6:00 FAIR	28 10:00: My Friend's Place 12:00 EAAA Café 6:00-8:30 Ad Council				

Coffee and Conversation



Each week we meet on **Wednesday from 2:00 - 3:00 PM at Tim Horton's on Broadway** to share in a book discussion. Our next "Coffee and Conversation" will begin on **January 18** with a discussion of *Listening for God: Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith, Volume 1*. Please read Chapter 1 for the first meeting. Books are available through Amazon and other book sellers. If you would like the church office to order a book for you, please call 945-9567 and allow at least 2 business days for delivery.

Publisher's Description:

Where do you listen for God? In this collection of stories and essays from writers such as Flannery O'Connor, Frederick Buechner, and Annie Dillard, the challenge is to pay attention everywhere. *Listening for God* is a resource intended to help you investigate how life and faith merge in surprising ways and places. Contemporary American literature may not be the most predictable place to listen for God, but it may well turn out to be among the most rewarding.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church invites members of our congregation to their next Taizé service on Friday, February 10, 2017 @ 6 p.m. Join us at 21 Holyoke Street (corner of North Main St. and Holyoke) Brewer, Maine.

Taizé Worship is a Non-denominational Service in which meditative prayer, scripture, and Songs of Taizé are used in a relaxed atmosphere where the worshiper will easily become comfortable with the music, scripture, prayers, quiet reflection, and community. Taizé songs are short chants that are repeated several times so one can feel the inner movement of the music and allow themselves to settle into a contemplative worship experience. There is time for silence with meditation and prayer. The service is patterned after worship in the ecumenical Community of Taizé, France.

St. Patrick's hosts a Taizé service bi-monthly.



MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC
PRAYER, A MESSAGE
SCRIPTURE, SKITS

Thursday evenings at 6:00