

Bangor First United Methodist Church
703 Essex Street , Bangor Maine



Cross Talk

The UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH, 2024

For Information...

Phone: 207-945-9567

Email:
bangorfirstumc@gmail.com

Website:
www.fumcbangor.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/Bangor
First

Included in this issue....

Upcoming Events	2
Gratitude	3
My Friend's Place	4
Library news	4
Prayer requests/Joys	5
Birthdays	6
A note from Jeff	7
Church study info	7

The United Methodist
Church



OPEN MINDS

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN DOORS

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

What does the word *hope* mean to you? Often due to a problem translating a word from another language, we assign meanings to words that are off the mark, and therefore, less impactful. For example, as renowned pastor Tim Keller stated during a recent interview, the word hope is often used as a pleasant sort of wish. In fact, the way we use hope leaves open the possibility for the opposite of hope, which is uncertainty. When we express that we *hope* something will happen, we leave open the option that this something will not happen. But that is not what the word hope really means. The Greek word for hope is *elpis*, which means *the assurance of the future*. The true meaning of *elpis*, or hope, doesn't leave any wiggle room.

Why share the word hope with you today as we journey through Lent? Because along with the work of spiritual self-examination during Lent, along with the "giving things up" nature of Lent, Lent is also truly a season of hope. At the end of our Lenten journey we find Easter Sunday, the day we embrace and celebrate resurrection. Easter represents the completing work of the new covenant provided to mankind, made possible through the birth, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In this covenant, we find peace, purpose, assurance, security for today and the future. Easter is our, in the Greek sense of the word....HOPE....guaranteeing an assurance of our future.

So along with the work and what at times seems like the toil of Lent, let us also celebrate the *elpis/hope* made real to us by God in Christ. Easter will be here soon, friends!

See you Sunday!

Pastor Steve

This 'N That...



March 10 following worship. Taco feast, a devotional and some in the dark mini golf! See you there!

FIBER ARTS FELLOWSHIP

Tuesdays 9:30-11:30



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

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

We are also currently sorting through all the wonderful things folks have gathered for us this summer and hope to be putting "kits" together to work on both here at church and at home.

Next Men's Breakfast



Saturday, March 2

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



BEAN SUPPER Next Bean Supper is **March 23, 2024**

Community Meal continues to serve drive up meals each Thursday from 4-6 pm



United
Women
in Faith

Our February meeting was busy and joyful. Thanks to Sharon Ridley and Karen Ritz-Perkins we had lots of activity and fun filling over 20 bags for First Friends. This was done in coordination with the Evangelism Committee. They have all been delivered, another joy in itself. Karen presented a program on missions and giving. If anyone did not make a mission pledge and would like to do so, the pledge cards are in the UWF box outside the church office.

Please join us for our next meeting on **March 9th at 10am** 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... Wearing of the Green



If you're "wearing the green" on March 17th you may be Irish or you may just love St. Patrick's Day! (And watch out if you're not wearing green as you might get a pinch!)

St. Patrick is a patron saint of Ireland. Born in the late 4th century he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He spent six bleak years there as a herdsman, during which time he turned to his faith for strength and comfort. He had a dream one night that a ship was awaiting his escape and upon escaping found passage on that ship to his homeland, Britain. In later

years he felt a call to return to the Ireland to help the people there, but ignored the call for a long time because he doubted his abilities and felt his lack of education a hinderance to his ability to help. Once he did muster the courage to return to Ireland his spirit was renewed and he went about baptizing and confirming people in the Christian faith. He was humble to a fault and thankful that he could bring people to God. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches and schools. One of the symbols of St. Patrick is the shamrock, Ireland's national flower. The three sections of the shamrock represent the Holy Trinity....Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Today we can study the lives of saints and others who lived long ago and read about the sacrifices they made in the name of Christ, changing for the better, the lives of those around them. Humble and loving, they carried the message of Christ tirelessly. But we don't just have to look to the past to find examples of those who humbly work to bring the message of Christ's love to others. They reside amongst us today. We find them working at the Community meal, or making bags for nursing home walkers. We find them in committee meetings working to provide needed services. We come across them in shelters that take in the homeless and provide warm beds and a hot meal on a daily basis. They are in hospitals and nursing homes, providing comfort and care. We find them providing beautiful, uplifting music that lends so much to a church service, or we find them giving sermons to congregations who need to quell their doubts and uncertainties. These loving, humble folks, although not officially *Saints*, as workers for Christ do similar work....They are the hands and feet of Jesus. And for all of them I am grateful.



And **MEMORY JOGGERS**

Greetings,

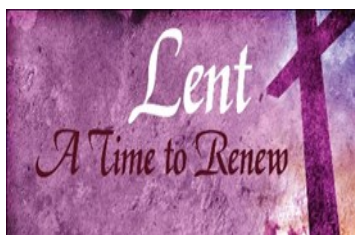
My Friend's Place is a small, non-profit dementia day-care program. We are blessed to serve those who have Alzheimer's or other memory loss issues. We provide a specialized day program where laughter and friendship truly are the "best medicine." It is a safe, interactive experience where participants can enjoy a non-judgmental environment. Our program provides much needed respite for family members and other care partners. *My friend's Place* is a much needed, one-of-a kind program in our region.

Each day starts with tea, coffee and snacks, as we sit around a table together for socializing, much like our participants enjoyed before their diagnosis. It is a sad reality: when a person with dementia loses the ability to carry-on routine conversations, they often become socially isolated. We have wonderful volunteers that work to provide a wonderful experience for those who join us each week. We always welcome new volunteers. If you would like to find out more about our programs please contact me at 945-0122.

Blessings,

Lisa Jordan, Director MFP

FELLOWSHIP LIBRARY NEWS



Easter is fast approaching, which means we are journeying through Lent right now. That means exploring your relationship with God, getting closer and going deeper. The Fellowship Library has a variety of books to help you with the Lenten journey and Easter's promise. There are excellent study books by Adam Hamilton, such as "24 Hours That Changed the World", Susan Robb's "Seven Words", and "Lent in Plain Sight", a devotion through 10 objects by Jill Duffield. to name a few. There are also children's book that families can read together.

Come in and browse for reading material, music and even a jig saw puzzle!

CHECK IT OUT!

Prayer Requests and Joys at FUMC

Family of Gary C.
 Jeff & family on the
 passing of his brother
 Family of Ty P.
 Jim C.
 Sue W.
 Helen W.
 Charles W.
 Family of Merton K.
 Dottie E. & family
 David H.
 Tim R.
 Family of Juanita R.
 Family of Mary Jane T.
 Suzanne W.
 Andy & Diane M.
 Tuhan K.
 Neighbor of Roz
 John brother of Jill
 Nicole
 Amanda H.
 Patsy
 Jessie S.
 Donna friend of Roz



Prayer Requests

Andy P.
 Family of Charlotte W.
 Donna & Beckett
 John, brother of Jill
 Lynn D.
 Bill P.
 Carolyn Mc
 Marion
 Margaret S.
 Patsy
 Amanda Q.
 The homeless & hungry
 All those who have lost
 loved ones due to gun
 violence
 The people of Ukraine
 Pray for peace in our
 nation
 The people of Palestine and
 Israel

JOYS

We are grateful for...

- New beginnings
- God given courage & strength to face whatever life sends our way
- For new beginnings
- Health and recovery from illness
- Family & friends
- God's unconditional love
- For all those who help, even when not being asked
- Our pastors, musicians & Sunday school leaders
- 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 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

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)



March Birthdays 2024

Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

<i>Happy Birthday to you!</i> God Bless you and keep you the whole year through					1	2
3	4 Vicki Kolenik	5 Mary Ann Harlan	6	7 Chris Cronan Deborah Towle	8	9
10 Eileen Harding Nick Cowperthwaite	11 Morita Tapley	12 Deb Christensen	13 William Christensen	14	15	16 Peter Haskins
17	18 Sue Croce	19	20 Silvia Wright	21	22	23 Liam Murphy
24/31	25	26	27	28 Sue White	29	30 Robert Commeau Phoenix Swett

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 1:00 & Thursday at 7 via Zoom

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

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

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

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

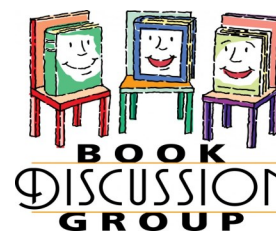
***Join the Fellowship Choir** or come and play a handbell

***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

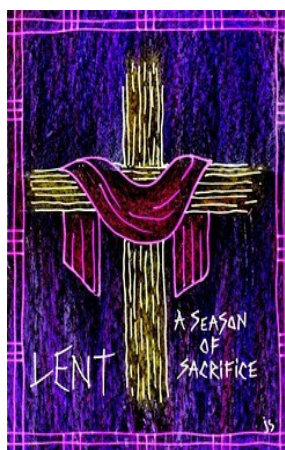
We are a busy church and there are lots of ways to grow! For information about any of our programs contact the office at 945-9567



The new study "Wrestling With Doubt, Finding Faith" continues.

Groups meet on Tuesdays at 1pm at church, and Thursday evenings at 7:00 online.

LENTEN EVENTS



Palm Sunday Service

March 24
Bangor First UMC
10:30 am

Maundy Thursday Service

Corinth UMC
6:30 pm

Good Friday Service

Bangor First UMC
6:30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

10:30 am

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for information for the April newsletter is March 18.

Information may be submitted in written form, via email, or by phone.

Worship Schedule

*Pathways to God 8:30
via Zoom*

*Traditional Worship Service:
10:30
On-line and in person*



*Because he lives we can face
all our todays and tomorrows.*

MARCH



2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 AA at 11:00 Men's breakfast 7 am Governor's
3 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship	4 Office open 7:30-10:30 DKG at 4:30	5 Office open 7:39-12 Fiber Arts Fellowship 9:30	6 Office open 7:30-12 Bells at 6 pm	7 Office open 7:30-10:30 Community meal 4-6	8 Office closed	9 AA at 11:00 UWF at 10
10 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship	11 Office open 7:30-10:30	12 Office open 7:30-12 Fiber Arts Fellowship 9:30	13 Office open 7:30-12 Bells at 6 pm	14 Office open 7:30-10:30 Community meal 4-6	15 Office closed	16 AA at 11:00
17 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship PALM SUNDAY	18 Office open 7:30-10:30	19 Office open 7:30-12 Fiber Arts Fellowship 9:30	20 Office open 7:30-12 Bells at 6 pm	21 Office open 7:30-10:30 Community meal 4-6 Piburn 1 PM EAAA food distribution	22 Office closed	23 AA at 11:00 BEAN SUPPER 4-6
24/31 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship March 31: HAPPY EASTER	25 Office open 7:30-10:30	26 Office open 7:30-12 Ad Council at 7 via Zoom	27 Office open 7:30-12 Bells at 6 pm	28 Office open 7:30-10:30 Community meal 4-6 Maundy Thursday service/ Corinth 6:30	29 Office closed Good Friday service here at 6:30	30 AA at 11:00