

Bangor First United Methodist Church  
703 Essex Street , Bangor Maine



# Cross Talk

NOVEMBER, 2023

## For Information...

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First

## Included in this issue....

Upcoming Events	2
In His Service	3
Gratitude	4
My Friend's Place	5
Library news	5
Prayer requests/Joys	6
Birthdays	7
More Info	8
Calendar	9

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

While driving through Surry recently I spied an impressively large bird's nest perched high in a tree as a large bird was tending to its construction. As I watched for a bit, I wondered why this bird would choose to build its nest at the very tip-top of the tree, where it is so vulnerable to wind, weather and predators? I don't know the answer to that question. However, I'm going to assume the bird knows what it is doing. In fact, as I watched it for a spell, it was clear this was going to be a strong, substantial nest. The building materials themselves were not very impressive. The bird would snatch an ordinary, somewhat small twig off the ground, then fly it up to the nest. After securing it, the bird would forage for more small twigs and blades of grass, transport the items to the nest, weave them in, then repeat the process. As a result, the nest seems very strong and secure, able to withstand the harsh winds of winter due to visit soon.

Over the years, we've built our own nest, haven't we? It's our church. We are the twigs and blades of grass, woven together to create our nest. Alone, individually, we may not look terribly impressive. But God has chosen us, woven us together, and has provided us with a nest (church) where we can gather together often to learn, laugh, support each other and stay safe together as the storms of life blow around us.

During this month when our attention turns toward the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday when we gather to give thanks, I count our "church nest" as a huge blessing in my life. I pray you are mighty thankful for this gift from God too!

Peace and Grace,  
Pastor Steve

The United Methodist  
Church



OPEN MINDS

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN DOORS

## This 'N That...



### Ecumenical Youth Conference!

All Souls Congregational Church  
November 4  
9-4

Breakfast & Lunch are provided along with guest speakers, breakout sessions, exciting faith-building activities with other area Christian youth, and music and worship!  
Come join the fun!!!!



Sunday school is going strong.  
There is a nursery available each Sunday.



### BEAN SUPPER

Next Bean Supper is  
March 23, 2024

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

### 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**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Our next meeting is November 11 at 10 am.** Our meeting will begin with a devotional and program, followed by a quick business meeting and a program by Partners for Peace. If you are currently not on our email list and would like to be added to the Zoom list please give the office a call at 945-9567 or send an email to: [bangorfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:bangorfirstumc@gmail.com)



**Our new District Superintendent...**

Rick McKinley is our new District Superintendent. A special education teacher for 14 years in Maine, Rick later attended Duke University Divinity School later serving churches in North Carolina and Massachusetts. He most recently has served as Church Development Director for the New England Conference. He efficiently led our annual Church Conference this year. We look forward to his leadership as we move into a new year.

**Church Committees: Music Committee**

The music committee is newly established and its primary purpose is to work to continually examine and work on music in worship.

The Committee recently studies the feasibility of purchasing the Worship & Song music books for the sanctuary. The committee also works to encourage new members for our Fellowship and bell choirs.

They always welcome suggestions from the congregation about music they might enjoy hearing. They also are happy to answer questions about the choirs or musical selections.

Bob Allen is chair of this committee.



**Decision Making for United Methodists**

In 2019 some churches left our denomination and joined the more conservative Global Methodist Church over concerns that the United Methodist Church had grown too liberal on key cultural issues....Pastor Steve gave a very informative presentation on the issues at hand on March 12.

Summary points include:

- There has always been disagreement regarding Biblical interpretation.
- Some churches are opting to join the Global Methodist Church
- The General Conference will likely leave choices to local churches
- Local churches can opt to join Conferences that more align with their preferences.

If you would like more information contact Pastor Steve at 866-2144 or via email at: [smithsteve2144@gmail.com](mailto:smithsteve2144@gmail.com)

**Church Committees: Library Committee**

The *Fellowship Library* has been an addition to our church for over a year now. They have built up a varied collection of all sorts of books and always welcome suggestions about topics in which the congregation might be interested. They are working with the Christian Education director to make sure that there are great selections for our children and youth. They also have some magnifying reading equipment that can be checked out if you are a person who might find smaller print challenging.

The Library Committee also publishes a monthly newsletter several times a year so be on the lookout for the latest addition. In addition they are currently providing ideas about books that connect to Pastor Steve's weekly sermons.

Julie Brownie is the lady to see if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the library. The library is always open for browsing and for checking books out so feel free to drop by anytime and take a look!



## COMMUNITY MEAL

The Community Meal Take Out  
Thursdays from 4-6

Drive up and pick up a delicious and nutritious meal!

### *GRATITUDE ATTITUDE.... Giving Thanks*

The dictionary defines *thankful* as *being grateful*. How appropriate to our continuing conversation on gratitude! At this time of year we always take time to give thanks for all that we have received. My suggestion has been and continues to be to take time each day to give thanks. It is an attitude of gratitude to cultivate all year long!

November, is the month in which a day is set aside for giving thanks. My third grade class had a reading text book that had an entire unit of stories on the first Thanksgiving. Although not totally historically accurate, the stories did provide my third graders a glimpse of the hardships endured by those who settled here and by those who already lived here when the Pilgrims came.

There can be found in historical accountings many stories about the “real” life of those people who arrived to the “New World” so many years ago. Included in those accounts are the arrival of the indigenous people many years before the European explorers. These people were fought against, had to make unwanted alliances for their own safety from other indigenous groups, and a few were taken by European explorers back to Europe as slaves who were later brought back home. When the Pilgrims arrived they were surprised to find that two members of the native tribe actually spoke English, a great benefit to them in that first year of hardship. We also know that the indigenous people were eventually “relocated”.

Fast forward to today. These days we don’t deal with chopping down trees, hewing logs and building homes in fierce winter storms, with simple tools. Our lives and comforts aren’t dependent on planting crops that we hope will grow, making all of our clothing, wondering if our neighbors mean us harm, cooking over an open fire, covering our windows with oiled cloth, or dealing with sickness without the benefit of medicines or medical professionals. However, even all these years later many people here at home and around the world do not have warm homes, enough food, or access to state-of-the art medical care. Not everyone has the clothes they need. Not everyone is safe and secure from danger where they live.

Most of us in our local neighborhoods are able to meet our daily needs. Unlike the Pilgrims we don’t have to fell trees, hewn the wood into logs to build homes, hunt for our food, make our clothing, tend to those who contract major illnesses without the benefit of medical assistance. Given all that we have how then do we best share what we have with those who don’t? And what does the Lord require of us in our efforts? Scripture tells us that He has shown us what is good and wants us to.... *act justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with our God.* (Micah 6: 8) He also tells us that... *faith without works is dead* (James 2:17) and so expects us to work at helping others, doing that... *work in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* (Colossians 3: 17)

God wants us to be about his work and we don’t have to travel to a far away place to do God’s work (although we can support those who do). There is much for us to do right here, and in giving of yourself in even small ways, you become a messenger of God’s enduring love and caring. So be alert! Be watching and be grateful! Make a point of celebrating Thanksgiving every day! Being thankful is being grateful and you never know when your *gratitude attitude* will make a difference in someone’s life!





## NEWS FROM...



And **MEMORY JOGGERS**

My Friend's Place and Memory Joggers continue to be busy with lots of fun activities and programming. Each week there is a theme with activities around the theme. We sing, play games, listen to the music of special guests, paint, do arts and crafts, present musical selections, enjoy seasonal foods, and play chimes. We are always busy and engaged and having a great time!

We always welcome more volunteers so if you would like to find out more about this very important program and would like to shadow for a day on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday please give me a call at...945-0122. or speak with Skippy about setting up a time. We are so grateful to the church for all your support and always welcome new volunteers!

*Lisa Jordan*, Director



Recently the volunteers in the Fellowship Library have been highlighting a few books each week that help dig deeper into the Sunday Sermons and other activities in the Church. The book titles are posted on the bulletin board in the hall and are on the "Highlighted Books" table in the library. They will remain there for a few weeks before swapping them out.

**CHECK IT OUT!**

**FIBER ARTS  
FELLOWSHIP**  
Tuesday, September 5  
9:30-11:30



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

This fall we are making "fidget squares" or blankets for the Veteran's Home. We will also 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.

Hope to have you join us any Tuesday that you can.

**Prayer Requests and Joys at FUMC**

Sue W.  
 Charles W.  
 David H.  
 Don G.  
 Amanda R-P  
 Mary Jane T.  
 Suzanne W.  
 Wayne G-H.  
 Donna F.  
 Amanda Q.  
 Andy & Diane M.  
 Sue H.  
 Tuhan K.  
 Stephen R-P  
 Carly  
 Matt & Amy W. & baby  
 Drayden  
 Neighbor of Roz  
 Family of Reggie E.  
 Carolyn Mc  
 Gary C  
 David P's son  
 Marie's son



***Prayer Requests***

Charlotte W.  
 Donna & Beckett  
 Linda friend of Phyllis  
 Nicole  
 Randy S.  
 Tim R.  
 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  
 The people of Ukraine

**JOYS**  
*We are grateful for...*

- The day set aside for Thanksgiving
- God given courage & strength to face whatever life sends our way
- For graduations & 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)*



# November

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

			1	2 Clyde Pelkey	3 Rick Sayles Judy Pelkey	4
5	6	7	8 Eva Benson	9	10 Page Chaloult	11 Amy Nye Brad Ostrow
12 Don Parsley	13 Andy Moody	14	15 Mike Morris	16 Patti Wright	17 Aaron Weston	18
19	20 Marybeth Allen	21 Luke Gervais	22 Karen Ritz-Perkins	23	24	25
26 Morgan Downs	27 Darlene Shortt	28	29	30		<p><i>Happy Birthday to you! God Bless you and keep you the whole year through</i></p>

**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**



**Bible STUDY**  
Join us!

**TUESDAYS AT 1:00**

Join us for a time of study and fellowship. On Tuesday we meet in the Family Room to discuss the study contents. The current book is :

***God Provides***

***THURSDAYS AT 7 pm via Zoom***




## HOLIDAY FAIR

**Saturday, November 4**  
**9:00-2:00**

**First United Methodist Church**  
**703 Essex Street**  
**Bangor, Maine**  
**207-945-9567**

**Gift Baskets, Pies, Cookies, Sweet breads, Yeast breads, Jewelry, Jelly, relishes, Homemade candy, Crafts Christmas crafts, and more!**  
**A take out meal will be Available from 11:00-1:30.**  
**Free admission**


**Come join the fun and find some great**

	Newsletter Deadline	Worship Schedule
 <p><i>Happy Thanksgiving</i></p>	<p><b>Deadline for information for the December newsletter is November 20.</b></p> <p>Information may be submitted in written form, via email, or by phone.</p>	<p><i>Pathways to God 8:30 via Zoom</i></p> <p><i>Traditional Worship Service: 10:30 On-line and in person</i></p>





## 2023

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
			<b>1</b> Office open 7:00-12:00	<b>2</b> Office open 7:00-12:00	<b>3</b> Office closed	<b>4</b> AA at 11:00 <b>HOLIDAY FAIR 9-2</b> <b>Youth Rally @ All Souls Church</b>
<b>5</b> 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship	<b>6</b> Office open 7:30-10:30 <b>DKG at 4:30</b>	<b>7</b> Office open 7:39-12 <b>Fiber Arts Fellowship 9:30</b>	<b>8</b> Office open 7:30-12 <b>Bells at 6 pm</b>	<b>9</b> Office open 7:30-10:30 <b>Community meal 4-6</b>	<b>10</b> Office closed	<b>11</b> AA at 11:00 <b>UWF at 10</b> <b>Veteran's Day</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship	<b>13</b> Office Open 7:30-10:30	<b>14</b> Office open 7:30-12 <b>Fiber Arts Fellowship 9:30</b>	<b>15</b> Office open 7:30-12 <b>Bells at 6 pm</b>	<b>16</b> Office open 7:30-10:30 <b>Piburn at 1pm</b> <b>Community meal 4-6</b> <b>EAAA food</b>	<b>17</b> Office closed	<b>18</b> AA at 11:00
<b>19</b> 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship	<b>20</b> Office open 7:30-10:30	<b>21</b> Office open 7:30-12 <b>Fiber Arts Fellowship 9:30</b>	<b>22</b> Office open 7:30-12 <b>Bells at 6 pm</b>	<b>23</b> Office closed 	<b>24</b> Office closed	<b>25</b> AA at 11:00
<b>26</b> 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship	<b>27</b> Office open 7:30-10:30	<b>28</b> Office open 7:30-12 <b>Ad Council at 7 via Zoom</b>	<b>29</b> Office open 7:30-12 <b>Bells at 6 pm</b>	<b>30</b> Office open 7:30-12		