For Information...

Phone: 207-945-9567

Email:
bangorfirstumc@gmail.com

Website:
www.fumcbangor.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Bangor First

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The United Methodist Church

OPEN MINDS

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN DOORS

Bangor First United Methodist Church
703 Essex Street , Bangor Maine

Cross Talk

FEBRUARY 2025

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

February is upon us!

Quiz time: What does the word February mean? Coming just after January, the month of new beginnings, is February. From the Latin word Februarius, meaning "to purify," February was known as the "Month of Purification" during ancient Roman times. It is a transitional time, finding itself just after a month of reflection and new year's resolutions.

What do you think of when you hear the word "pure?" I think of those Ivory Soap commercials from back in the 70's that bragged their soap was 99 and 44/100's pure. I also think of Ronnie Milsap's country hit from 1974 called "Pure Love," featuring lyrics boasting his love was 99 and 44/100's pure (picking-up on the Ivory Soap slogan.) I also think of purity when I spy some of our Maine fields covered as far as the eye can see with a blanket of "pure" white snow.

Hmmm....I wonder, why don't I think of MYSELF when I hear the word pure? No brainer there, right? Despite my best intentions, I am far from pure, and I never will be. Sure, I might be a swell fella, but I will never be pure....not even 99 and 44/100's pure! Indeed, I, and the rest of my fellow humans don't have the capacity to be pure. And yet, we can be made new each and every day. How? *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come."* (NASB)

While I recognize we will never be perfectly pure people, we are able to begin each day with a wonderful sense of renewal and repurposing by claiming and embracing these words from 1 Corinthians 2:15. Celebrating these words from the Apostle Paul would be a great way to welcome the month of February (which means to "purify,") don't you think?

Peace and Grace,

Pastor Steve

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, February 1

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 Box1106
28 High Street, Bangor, ME 04401

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

United Women in Faith

Please join us for our next meeting at 10 am on February 8 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…. Love, Exciting and New

February is best known as Valentine's month. As youngsters in school we always looked forward to the school Valentine's party and spent a considerable amount of time addressing Valentine cards to our classmates. Often you would hear little titters of laughter coming from different corners of the room as a young lady opened a special card from her "beau". Then as one grew older it might be a Valentine's dance that you looked forward to. An opportunity to dress up in your "Sunday best" and wear a corsage on your wrist or a boutonniere in your lapel. The gym "ball room" was decorated to the nines with Valentines that were suspended from the ceiling and festively blew in the breeze from the overhead heaters. A table, adorned with a red table cloth and lots of Valentines, was overflowing with all kinds of snacks befitting of the season. At one end stood a gigantic punch bowl almost overflowing with a bright pink or red beverage. (A teacher also stood nearby to make sure an ambitious young man didn't try to drop a bit of "moonshine" into the bowl!) The music mostly had a rock 'n roll beat but there would be an occasional "slow dance" where you danced with arms outstretched, never close to each other! The chaperones would be sure to give you the evil eye should the distance between you and your partner be shortened. Young love blossomed for some and seemed yucky to others but everyone was disappointed when the event ended.

When you are young, everything seems exciting and new. There are so many things to see and do and so many new feelings flood your thinking! Although the teen years have had some rough patches for most of us, the "Boomers" of my generation seemed to have it a bit easier than teens today….as there was no social media with which to deal. That's not to say people weren't bullied or laughed at, it was just not as immediate and as lasting, nor could it be as easily be perpetuated in a mirid of directions. Don't get me wrong, we had a lot of unrest and upheaval in the 60's. Wars and conflicts ignited demonstrations, many of which were violent. Young men were being drafted to serve in a conflict in a faraway place to which many were opposed. New weapons of war that were being used often caused lasting injury to those who were exposed to it. Young people were often highly involved and they protested in the streets. For many youngsters this was also the age of newfound freedoms and experimentation with banned substances. It all seemed exciting and new. It was a wild and crazy time.

We are beginning a new year and the possibilities, regardless of our age are many. There are so many new things to do and to learn about. We meet new people along the way with whom we establish friendships. Some of us may move to a new home, or begin a new job or assignment. Some of us will graduate from high school or college and begin new adventures in our first year of college or new job. Some of us will welcome a new addition to the family as a parent or grandparent. Some of us will find love and marry. Some of us will lose someone very dear and enter a period of mourning. Perhaps we will suffer set backs as we move through a period of illness and treatment. Others of us will find themselves on the brink of financial crisis. Some of us will be frustrated with our jobs or our co-workers. Many will worry about the direction of our country. For all of you I pray that you will have more times of joy in your life this year than times of sorrow or worry.

Our lives can be exciting and new. Just like the song from the show "The Love Boat"...*Love, exciting and new come aboard let us welcome you*... we can welcome one another and sail the waters of peace, love and contentment each and every day. We can love one another and care for each other. We can dance through our lives with the joy of gratitude. We can work and serve others, we can exercise and stay fit, we can prepare and eat healthy meals and we can take care of our health. We can remember each day how truly blessed we are regardless of what the day has given us and thank God who meets our every need.

It's a new year! 2025 is here! May you experience the love and care of others and as you continue to move through a new year and may it be for you *exciting and new*!

MY FRIEND'S PLACE
An Adult Social Program

And **MEMORY JOGGERS**

Now that the busy holiday season is behind us, My Friends Place and Memory Joggers are back to our normal routine. Due to the holidays, we've only met a couple of times in January. Since we've returned, we learned about snow flakes (did you know they start out as a speck of dust, and the largest snowflake ever documented was 15" in diameter?) We're always learning new and interesting things when we get together. The topic we discussed recently was winter birds.

There are many beautiful birds that come to stay with us this time of year; woodpeckers, black-capped chickadees, blue jays, mourning doves, cardinals, house sparrows and house and purple finches just to name a few. In order to celebrate our feathered friends, we painted bird houses this past week. I think I can speak for all of us when I say we're looking forward to spring and warmer weather.

Mary Keller , Volunteer and Newsletter correspondent

FELLOWSHIP LIBRARY NEWS

CHURCH 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 and join us on **Sunday, February 2 for "Holy Donut Sunday"** where books will be available to take a look at while you enjoy a delicious donut! Come **CHECK IT OUT!**

February 17

Prayer Requests and Joys at FUMC

Eva B.

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.

Jeff & Barbara

Rolfe F.

Jessie S.

Linda M.

Roz

Donna & Beckett

Lynn D.

Marion

Sharon R.

Darlene, Beth's mom

Prayer Requests

Linda M.

Judy S.

Gwen

Steve P.

Christi S.

Page C's relatives

Suzanne W.

Amanda H.

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 of winter and the promise of 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)*

February BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you! **God Bless you and keep you the whole year through!**						**1**
2	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6** Don Gallupe (101 years young!) Donna Frost	**7**	**8**
9	**10**	**11** Steve Earl	**12**	**13** Barbara Modery Ken Killian	**14**	**15** Bruce Young Maggie Cowperthwaite
16 George Parke Stephen Ritz-Perkins	**17**	**18**	**19** Rena Anderson	**20**	**21** Jim Chick	**22**
23 Kerry Woodbury	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27** Kara Scheiber Louise Hatch Jan Ashton	**28**	

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**

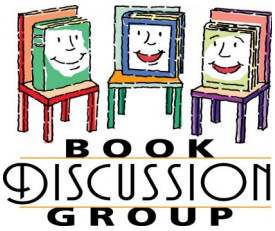
***Join the Fellowship Choir or come and play a handbell**

***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 study on the book of Revelation will begin in early 2025!

Reserve the Date….

The *University of Maine Singers* will present a concert here at Bangor First United Methodist Church on Wednesday, March 19 at 6:30.

GRATITUDE

For what things are you grateful...

Health? Happiness? Family? Friends?

Pets? Your home? Your job? Your sight?

Peace? Contentment? Food? Love? Your education?

Your talents and abilities? Your faith?

God's love and guidance? Your church family?

The cool, crisp air? The beauty all around you?

Your freedom? Your blessings? And…

	Newsletter Deadline	Worship Schedule
God sends you Valentines you your whole life through!	**Deadline for information for the March newsletter is February 17.** Information may be submitted in written form, via email, or by phone.	*Sundays….* *Pathways to God 8:30 via Zoom* *Traditional Worship Service: 10:30 On-line and in person*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 AA at 11:00 Men's Breakfast 7 am at Governor's on Broadway
2 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship	**3** Office Open 7:30-11:30 My Friend's Place 10-2	**4** Office open 7:30-11:30 Fiber Arts 9 am Mahjong 9am	**5** Office open 7:30-11:00 Memory Joggers 10-2 Bells	**6** Office Open 7:30-11:00 Community meal 4-6 Mahjong 12:30	**7** Office closed My Friend's Place 10-2	**8** AA at 11:00 UWF 10 am
9 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship	**10** Office open 7:30-11:30 My Friend's Place 10-2	**11** Office open 7:30-11:30 Fiber Arts 9 am Mahjong 9am My Friend's Place Board 5pm	**12** Office open 7:30-11:00 Memory Joggers 10-2 Bells	**13** Office open 7:30-11:00 Community meal 4-6 Mahjong 12:30 Piburn 1 pm EAAA food distribution	**14** Office closed My Friend's Place 10-2	**15** AA at 11:00
16 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship	**17** Office **closed** Presidents' Day My Friend's Place 10-2	**18** Office open 7:30-11:30 Fiber Arts 9 am Mahjong 9am	19 Office open 7:30-11:00 Memory Joggers 10-2 Bells	**20** Office open 7:30-11:00 Community meal 4-6 Mahjong 12:30	**21** Office closed My Friend's Place 10-2	**22** AA at 11:00
23 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship	**24** Office open 7:30-11:30 My Friend's Place 10-2	**25** Office open 7:30-11:30 Fiber Arts 9 am Mahjong 9am Ad Council at 7	**26** Office open 7:30-11:00 Memory Joggers 10-2 Bells	**27** Office open 7:30-11:00 Community meal 4-6 Mahjong 12:30	**28** Office closed My Friend's Place 10-2	