Bangor First United Methodist Church
703 Essex Street , Bangor Maine

Cross Talk

JANUARY 2025

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**
More info	**7**
Calendar	**8**

The United Methodist Church

OPEN MINDS

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN DOORS

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

Question #1: What is your very first memory of church? Question #2: What is your first memory of being confused in church? My answer to questions #1 and #2 are actually the same. My first memory of church is of my mother playing the organ. My first memory of being confused at church relates to my Mom's organ playing. My mother typically took two pairs of shoes to church, one pair to wear when she wasn't playing the organ, and one pair to wear when she was playing the organ. You see, playing a church organ typically means you are playing pedals with your feet, while also playing keys with your fingers (an amazing feat, if you ask me.) In order to play organ pedals with your feet, you have to wear somewhat narrow shoes, which explains why my mother typically took two pairs of shoes to church on Sundays. My earliest memory of being confused at church is: *"Hey, why is Mom taking two pairs of shoes to church? Should I be taking two pairs of shoes too? Is taking two pairs of shoes a "church-thing?"*

Of course, over the ensuing years, and even to this present day, there are still "church-things" that are confusing. Over the years I've heard questions such as: *"How can God be 3-in-one?"* (Trinity) *"Why do we do a Call to Worship?" "What is the meaning of communion?" "Why do the colors change (vestments) in the sanctuary?" More significantly, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" "Where was God when I was suffering?"*

As human beings, there are likely questions that won't be fully answered in this lifetime. After all, if we understood all matters related to God and church, we would be on the same level as God. And yet, we *can* find answers together. In fact, I find fellowship, strength, inspiration, and yes....fun in finding answers together when I'm part of an inquisitive church family.

What are your questions? What confuses you about your faith experience, God and church? Being part of a church means companionship. Being part of a church family means asking questions and working to discover answers together.

Let's learn together! Let's gather in-person and online in the New Year to learn, laugh, and discover together. And of course, I am very happy to speak with you privately if you'd like to toss around questions and answers together. Just let me know.

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, January 4

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 January 11 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…. Something New

I used to get quite a lot of inspiration and humor from the writings of my third graders. In January, shortly after we returned from Christmas break I usually gave the class a writing assignment. The theme centered abound something new. Well you can guess that most of the subject matter centered around all the "new" toys and games that they had received for Christmas. Many of them did a great job of describing their new things...they told of the object's color, size and sometimes it's shape. They told how it worked or how you operated or used it. Since I was always insistent that they describe as much as possible about the subject of their writings telling the color, size, shape and operation of the object all well met the criteria. I also asked that as they write they tell about how they felt about the object….telling how they felt when they first saw it, how it smelled, felt, or sounded and why it was such a special gift to them.

One particular January I had a student who didn't write about what she had received but she wrote a fictional town she named Newville. In Newville every single thing was new. Everything was shiny and clean and everything was newly built. All the people were new and none of them knew each other. Their houses and cars were brand new and the roads were newly paved and smooth. Their schools were new with new desks, brand new colorful books and new teachers (was she doing some wishful thinking with the new teacher part?). All the students had brand new clothes and fancy new sneakers. The gym equipment was new, each child had a shiny new computer in the lab and the music recorders were of new polished wood. In Newville no person was without a home and all the food was newly packaged. Everything was shiny, worked smoothly and made everyone cheerful and comfortable. The sun always shone brightly in Newville.

There were problems in Newville though. Because everything was new people weren't always aware of how things operated so there were glitches in the use of new equipment. The houses were so beautiful that people wanted them to continue to look new so they lived carefully in them. Because they lived carefully they couldn't really be comfortable. Their cars were very new so their dads wanted them to stay very clean. He carried each child to the car so their shoes wouldn't make the car floors unclean. There were no treats to be eaten while riding along as crumbs could mess things up. The new schools were unfamiliar and "cold' feeling as there could be no pictures hung to mar the walls. The computers and gym equipment had to be used with care and were wiped clean after each use. Most importantly the new people had to get to know one another and for some of the kids that was the most difficult task of all. Everyone in Newville wanted to keep things new so they didn't live their lives at all! "How sad," the writer said!

January is here and so is a new year. A new year signals new beginnings. What would you do if we began the new year where everything was new? Would you be too nervous about marring things so you just wouldn't use them? Would you put things away in a closet or on a shelf to keep them new? Would you be shy with new acquaintances and pass them by? I'm guessing like the story of Newville our lives would not be lived if we only worked to keep everything new. Real life and new chances get messy. To live our lives we must get out in the muck and yuck! We have to be looking for things that need to be renewed and work to change them. We have to move forward and live our lives in relative comfort and peace while working to serve others. We have to make new things of a new year usable, old, familiar, and comfortable. So… in with the new...out with the old. A new year is here full of new opportunities for each of us, new beginnings, and new opportunities to serve others!

"Look! I am making all things new. "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true"…. "All is done. I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. **Revelation 21: 5b-6a**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." **2 Corinthians 5:17**,

MY FRIEND'S PLACE
An Adult Social Program

And **MEMORY JOGGERS**

Hello Friends,

As the words of one of my favorite Christmas songs goes, it is definitely "the most wonderful time of the year." I'm sure everyone excitedly prepared for the celebration of the birth of the Christ child and the volunteers and clients at *My Friends Place* and *Memory Joggers* were also busy preparing for the holiday. We made ornaments from pinecones and decorated Christmas cards. We also had fun playing Christmas themed games and had discussions about holiday traditions and favorite foods. And, of course, there was no shortage of singing Christmas carols. While we didn't always sing in perfect tune, what we lacked in expertise, we make up for with enthusiasm.

As we welcome a new year, I believe I speak for all of us *at My Friends Place/Memory Joggers* when I say it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with our families this past year and. We wished them a blessed and happy holiday season and are looking forward to continuing to work with our wonderful participants and their families in 2025.

From all of us to all of you…*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

Mary Keller , MFP Volunteer and Newsletter correspondent

Pine Cone Ornaments

Decorative Christmas Card

Seasonal Game Card

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. We also have a magnifier you can borrow if you find reading small print challenging. Check the Fellowship Library hall bulleting board for featured books. Books for digging deeper into sermon topics are featured right now. Come in and **CHECK IT OUT!**

Prayer Requests and Joys at FUMC

Eva B.

Charles W.

Baby Adrian Joseph

Keith W.

Bernice S.

Beverly W.

Helen W.

Barbara W.

Charles W.

David H.

Christina W.

Suzanne W.

Tuhan K.

Morgan W.

Jeff & Barbara

Morgan W.

Jessie S.

Linda M.

Roz

Donna & Beckett

Lynn D.

Marion

Family of Nancy P.

Darlene, Beth's mom

Prayer Requests

Steve P.

Christi S.

Page C's relatives

Suzanne W.

Carol & John F.

The homeless & hungry

Pray for our nation and its leaders

For the people who live in a place of war and hostility

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 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)*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	**2** Bonnie Randall	**3**	**4** John Kolenik
5 Donna Gravely Pat Woodbury	**6**	**7** Julie Antworth	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**
12	**13** Linda Folsom Priscilla Soucie	**14** Nancy Soucy	**15**	**16** Judy Hastings	**17**	**18** Jackson Roberts
19 Scott Smith	**20** Helen Willey Anne Porter Aiden Clarke	**21**	**22** Tom Christensen	**23** Lorena Fenlason	**24**	**25** Heather Roberts Cooper Nye
26 Rolfe Flood	**27** Jessie Stanhope Shay Ostrow	**28**	**29** Elizabeth Downs	**30**	**31**	***Happy Birthday to you!*** ***Happy Birthday to you!*** **God Bless you and keep you the whole year through**

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**

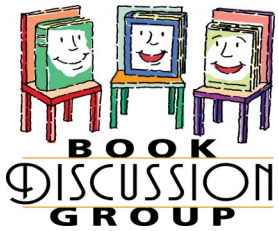
***Join the Fellowship Choir or come and play a handbell**

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

Martin Luther King Service

First United Methodist Church of Bangor

January 19 at 3 pm

Sponsored by *Faith Linking in Action*

Light refreshments following the service.

GRATITUDE

Begin the New Year with gratitude for all that you have and all that you will receive in the year ahead!

	Newsletter Deadline	Worship Schedule
Wrap God's love around you and you'll be warm and toasty all winter!	**Deadline for information for the February *2025* newsletter is January 20.** 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*

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 **Office closed**	**2** Office Open 7:30-10:30	**3** Office closed **My Friend's Place 10-2**	**4** **AA at 11:00** **Men's Breakfast 7 am at Governor's on Broadway**
5 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship	**6** Office Open 7:30-11:30 **My Friend's Place 10-2**	**7** Office open 7:30-11:30 **Fiber Arts 9 am** **Mahjong 9am**	**8** Office open 7:30-11:00 **Memory Joggers 10-2** **Choir/ Bells**	**9** Office Open 7:30-11:00 **Community meal 4-6** **Mahjong 12:30**	**10** Office closed **My Friend's Place 10-2**	**11** **AA at 11:00** **UWF 10 am**
12 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship	**13** Office open 7:30-11:30 **My Friend's Place 10-2**	**14** Office open 7:30-11:30 **Fiber Arts 9 am** **Mahjong 9am** My Friend's Place Board 5pm	**15** Office open 7:30-11:00 **Memory Joggers 10-2** **Choir/Bells**	**16** Office open 7:30-11:00 **Community meal 4-6** **Mahjong 12:30** **Piburn 1 pm** **EAAA food distribution**	**17** Office closed **My Friend's Place 10-2**	**18** **AA at 11:00**
19 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship **Martin Luther King Service 3pm**	20 Office Closed **My Friend's Place 10-2**	**21** Office open 7:30-11:30 **Fiber Arts 9 am** **Mahjong 9am** **Ad Council at 7**	**22** Office open 7:30-11:00 **Memory Joggers 10-2** **Choir/Bells**	**23** Office open 7:30-11:00 **Community meal 4-6** **Mahjong 12:30**	**24** Office closed	**25** **AA at 11:00**
26 8:30 Pathways 10:30 Worship	**27** Office open 7:30-11:30 **My Friend's Place 10-2**	**28** Office open 7:30-11:30 **Fiber Arts 9 am** **Mahjong 9am**	**29** Office open 7:30-11:00 **Memory Joggers 10-2** **Choir/Bells**	**30** Office open 7:30-11:00 **Community meal 4-6** **Mahjong 12:30**	**31** Office closed	