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

Bangor First United Methodist Church
703 Essex Street , Bangor Maine

Cross Talk

MAY 2025

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

Question: Water in Maine is found where? Obviously our lakes, ponds, streams, brooks, rivers, the ocean, and…our groundwater.

When we think about our water resources here in Maine, we likely ponder our lakes and ponds (over 2500 in the state) or our rivers and streams, since they are visible. However, a major resource for fresh water is beneath our feet, remaining unseen until it is tapped by our wells and other means.

During his encounter with the woman at the well in John 4, Jesus offers himself to the woman as "The Living Water." Yet initially, like our ground water, the woman was not able to see the water being offered to her, even though it was so near to her. In the same way, we are offered this Living Water each day; life-giving water that sustains, nourishes, and refreshes us. Some days, it may seem this water is pouring down upon us, much like a spring rain here in the Pine Tree State. On other days, we may have to be deliberate in tapping into that water just below the surface of our vision. Whichever the case, Jesus is with us, around us, ready for us to "tap-in."

May this month of May bring some Living Water encounters for you and yours—

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, May 3

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 drive up meals each Thursday from 4-6 pm

Bean Supper drive up May 31 from 4-6pm

United Women in Faith

Please join us for our next meeting at 10 am on June 14 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.

MOTHER'S Day Sale: May 10 from 9-2. Come find the perfect gift for Mom!

COMMUNITY MEAL

The Community Meal Take Out
Thursdays from 4-6
Drive up and pick up a delicious and nutritious meal!

GRATITUDE ATTITUDE….Mud Season

It's that time of year...Spring in Maine! The days are brighter, the sun provides more warmth. The rains come and the snow goes! With the melting of the snow come dirty, black patches on the snow and stinky mud! We used to hate mud season at school. Kids naturally love to tramp in it, splash in it, slosh in in and fall in it. Sometimes they are put in it by their friends...by *accident* of course! Since many boots, snowsuits, etc. were coated in mud, the classroom took on a unique odor as it dried. Luckily the windows could often be open at that time of year.

As I took a look at the coat racks I always noticed some clothing and boots looked as though their owners had stayed inside. There was no evidence of mud anywhere on their clothing or boots. Other clothing of course looked as though the child had made every possible effort to live in the mud while on the playground. Often, even at days end, their clothing would still be wet from the sloshy mud! As I continued to look at the mud covered clothing and boots I would often think of life. Some of our lives have seemed pristine. Nothing terrible has seemed to confront us. Others of us have lived lives that look like mud covered clothing….as we have spent our lives in muddy turmoil. The kiddos who jumped and sloshed and splashed in the mud were responsible for their situation just as we are when we have made poor decisions. At other times, like the child who is put into the mud puddle "by accident', we have done little if anything to cause our situation. The great thing to know is that regardless of the circumstance, God is always near and can help us clean up any mess we might have encountered

A story was told to me by a daring young man who loved to do dangerous and foolish things. As a youngster he was the first one into a mud puddle and the last one out. He always pressed the limits of the boundaries with his teachers, principals and parents and was lovingly nicknamed '*The Imp'*. Along with his daredevil ways, his bright red hair and the freckles that spread across his cheeks and nose, made him look like an impish poster boy for artist Norman Rockwell. As he got older his daredevil ways continued. He skied down snow-covered mountains on trails that were not authorized. He jumped into pools of water in quarries. He rode his motorcycle too fast and without a helmet. His life was one of reckless abandonment and yet, he was able to navigate life remaining relatively 'mud free'! It's absolutely amazing that he had no major accidents! In his senior year of college he became a student teacher of mine. It seemed that all those 'daring days' of his were of great use to him especially when being challenged by some of my 'impish' third grade boys. He was also a 'daring' student teacher always willing to try unique or new things...luckily within the boundaries. He was so good that he had a job awaiting him before he graduated!

To everything there is a season says Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and throughout our lives we will go thorough many of them. In the spring season of life we are young and carefree. We grow and develop as we approach the summer of our lives where we build families and grow together. In the autumn of our lives we slow down a bit, perhaps retiring and health permitting do things we have wanted to do for many years. As the winter of our lives sets in we may stay closer to home, and have time to reflect on all the blessings that we have received as we have lived our lives for Christ. God has a plan for each of us and as we move through each season he provides opportunities that lend themselves to helping us learn how to face whatever comes our way. Hard times teach us valuable lessons as do the special times of blessings in our lives. Just keep those mud boots handy as you navigate the seasons of life. Jump, and run, dance, skip and slosh your way through your life seasons remembering that God is always beside you shoveling a path, clearing the way, and cleaning you up! God has made everything fitting in it's time and he sees to it all! Thank you God for taking care of us through all the seasons of our life!

MY FRIEND'S PLACE
An Adult Social Program

And **MEMORY JOGGERS**

It's hard to believe that another month has flown by. I must admit as the beginning of April rolled around, I think we were all really looking forward to the beginning of Spring. Unfortunately, April started us off with more snow, but we did NOT let that dampen our spirits. We started April off with a lovely tea party hosted by Lisa's sister, Lori. The tables were beautifully decorated with Easter themed items. We had lovely teacups borrowed from the church and delicious homemade treats. It was definitely a festive, special event.

Another week our theme was trains and we had a great time talking about our individual experiences with train trips and what a relaxing, pleasant travel experience is compared to today's hurry and scurry attitude.

And you can't talk about Spring with discussing rain and what April Showers bring to us. Our people made some attractive umbrellas that we used to decorate our bulletin board. We have some very creative and talented friends.

Of course, each week we try to have a different variety of games that are not only fun, but get us up and moving, challenge our hand and eye coordination, require us to develop a little strategy and develop some team spirit as we cheer each other on. For our Rain theme, we had participants toss pennies into an upside down open umbrella.

Hopefully, now that the weather is cooperating more, we may be may be able to go outside to enjoy the beautiful weather soon.

Happy Spring Everyone!

United Women in Faith Offers Financial Assistance

Did you know that First Church's UWF unit offers three types of financial assistance? They are **scholarship assistance to high school seniors** who are continuing their education (This application is due May 15th); **registration fees for Camp Mechuwana** programs; and, **assistance for Mission U, UWF programs, and travel expenses for UWF and other church related programs.** More information will be coming about this assistance.

The application forms are located behind the UWF slot in the middle section of the mail container outside of the office.

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 .Come **CHECK IT OUT!**

Prayer Requests and Joys at FUMC

Family Joyce V.

Sharon R.

Leslie J-W

Charles W.

John C.

Baby Adrian Joseph

Darlene, Beth's mom

Keith W.

Bill M.

Steve E.

Helen W.

David H.

Christina W.

Suzanne W.

Tuhan K.

Meghan B.

Amanda R-P

Jessie S. & Husband

Donna & Beckett

Lynn D.

Marion

David P

Prayer Requests

Steve P.

Page C's relatives

Amanda H.

Christine C.

Kim M.

The homeless & hungry

Pray for our nation

For the victims of recent tornadoes and floods

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 the beauty and warmth 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
- For those who feed the hungry in our community
- 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)*

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 Sherry Robinson	**5** Beth Khoury	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
11 Peter Forrest Matthew Murphy Annie Haskins	**12**	**13**	**14** Terry Ritz-Perkins Jeff Sennett	**15**	**16**	**17**
18	**19**	**20** Wayne Griffeth-Hurst	**21**	**22**	**23** Julie Brownie	**24** Elaine Dinsmore
25 Don Small Megan Christensen	**26**	**27**	**28** Bob Allen Barbara Howard	**29** Jeff Jones Cathy Van Dolman	**30** Tammy Worcester	**31**

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**

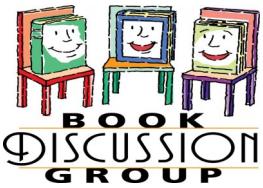
***Join the Fellowship Choir or come and play a handbell**

***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 begins May 13.

GRATITUDE

This month we celebrate Mother's Day. All of us have or have had a mother. If you were fortunate your mother, with loving care and nurturing, and helped shape you into the person you are today. If you are fortunate to have her with you be sure to share your gratitude for all she has done for you. If she is with God, thank him for the gift of your mother!

Mother's Day Sale

Saturday, May 10
9 am - 2 pm
Baked goods
Plants
Small gifts
Books & More!

	Newsletter Deadline	Worship Schedule
The colorful spring flowers remind us of the warm, sunny days ahead. The winter has come and gone.	**Deadline for information for the June newsletter is May 19.** 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 Open 7:30-11:00 *Community meal 4-6 *Mahjong 12:30	**2** Office closed My Friend's Place 10-2 DKG state meeting 9-3	**3** AA at 11:00 Men's Breakfast 7 am at Governor's on Broadway
4 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship Worship committee	**5** Office Open 7:30-11:30 My Friend's Place 10-2 DKG 4:30	**6** Office open 7:30-11:30 Fiber Arts 9 am Mahjong 9am Kitchen cert. class 1-4	**7** Office open 7:30-11:00 Memory Joggers 10-2	**8** Office Open 7:30-11:00 Evangelism committee 10:45 Community meal 4-6	**9** Office closed My Friend's Place 10-2	**10** AA at 11:00 Mother's Day Sale 9-2
11 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship Fireside room in use 1-3 pm	**12** Office open 7:30-11:30 My Friend's Place 10-2	**13** Office open 7:30-11:30 Fiber Arts 9 am Mahjong 9am New Study begins	**14** Office open 7:30-11:00 Memory Joggers 10-2	**15** Office open 7:30-11:00 *Piburn 1pm Mahjong 12: 30 3 pm Food distributiohn	**16** Office closed My Friend's Place 10-2	**17** AA at 11:00 Fireside Room in use 9-4 pm
18 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship Security committee meeting	**19** Office open 7:30-11:30 My Friend's Place 10-2	**20** Office open 7:30-11:30 Fiber Arts 9 am Mahjong 9am	**21** Office open 7:30-11:00 Memory Joggers 10-2	**22** Office open 7:30-11:00 Community meal 4-6 *Mahjong 12:30	**23** Office closed My Friend's Place 10-2	**24** AA at 11:00 Bean Supper 4-6
25 8:30 Pathways 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship	**26** Office closed 	**27** Office open 7:30-11:30 Fiber Arts 9 am Mahjong 9am Ad Council at 7 via Zoom	**28** Office open 7:30-11:00 Memory Joggers 10-2	**29** Office open 7:30-11:00 Community meal 4-6 *Mahjong 12:30	**30** Office closed My Friend's Place 10-2	**31** AA at 11:00 BEAN SUPPER 4-6 pm