Bangor First United Methodist Church
703 Essex Street , Bangor Maine

Cross Talk

SEPTEMBER 2020

For Information...

Phone: 207-945-9567

Email:
bangorfirstumc@gmail.com

Website:
www.fumcbangor.org
(Sermon podcasts available)

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Bangor First

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The United Methodist Church

OPEN MINDS

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN DOORS

A note from our Pastor…..

Toward the end of August, we Smiths enjoyed our annual vacation at Fortune's Rocks Beach, which is part of Biddeford Pool. Since our vacation happens shortly before back-to-school time for the grandkids, we spend one of our days in North Conway, New Hampshire doing some back-to-school shopping. Mind you, I kind of pride myself in being a "cool" grandfather, the kind that keeps up with the latest trends and fads. Yet every time we take the grands clothes shopping (especially the teens) I am reminded of how far out of touch I am with such things. The fashions they end up taking home are far from what I would have picked-out for them. I remember the same thing happening with my parents when they took us kids back-to-school shopping. *"Are you sure that's what you want to wear to school"* my mother would ask in bewilderment? My point: clothing styles based on teens' preferences have changed a bunch through the years, and they will change yet again.

The style of "doing church" has changed a lot through the years as well, hasn't it? Back when I was a young lad, my family dressed in our "Sunday best", complete with shirts and ties for the guys, and dresses for the gals. The hymns were the old favorites, and the format of church was quite formal. Then along came the 80s and 90s, when the "style" of church for some segued to tee-shirts, jeans and an informal, casual style for church gatherings. "House" churches started popping-up (small gatherings in homes) while non-denominational "mega-churches" became fashionable . And as of this past March, the way we "do church" changed dramatically out of necessity due to the pandemic. Instead of gathering in our sanctuaries per usual, we suddenly began meeting online, utilizing technology platforms such as Facebook Live and Youtube. Pastors hosted church services from their living rooms, while integrating music and children's messages in new, creative ways.

And yet, with all of the changes that have taken place in fashion trends and the myriad ways we "do church," there is one thing that has never changed. In fact, we haven't seen a change in this area for the past 3,000 to 4,000 years, even before the words of the Old Testament were written. I'm referring to the *human condition*. It is mind-boggling to consider how the world has changed since the days of Abraham, Sarah and Moses, particularly in the areas of technology, medicine, education, and yes-clothing styles. However, we have this in common with our ancient ancestors: our human condition. We, like the many generations before us, experience joys, sorrows, victories, and defeats. We struggle with failure, loneliness, disappointment, and pain. Like humans present and past, we struggle to be faithful in our relationship with God and each other. And like the psalmists in scripture, we lament and call out to God to hear our prayers and redeem us and our circumstances.

During these waning days of summer, I invite you to join us either in-person or online for worship each Sunday morning, whether you're wearing a tie or jeans, dress shoes or sandals. We live in an ever-changing world, yet we celebrate the never-changing presence of God made known to us in Jesus Christ, our rock, redeemer, and source of stability. Despite the changes all around us, we will embrace together the words of the psalmist (Psalm 102:27) *"But you are the same, and your years have no end."*

See you in church!

This 'N That...

FUM

Thanks so much!

To everyone who donated items, cleaned and sorted, helped set-up or take down, bought items, pitched tents or helped rent them, assisted customers, directed traffic....whatever you contributed.....

We thank you!

Because of you the Yard Sale was a HUGE success!

Bob Allen & Judy Hastings
Co-Chairs
FUMC Yard Sale

Thanks!

Linda Morris would like to thank everyone for the cards and food donations in celebration of her 80th birthday. The Ecumenical Food Cupboard received 5 huge boxes of donations!

KEENAGERS

Meetings for this year will be announced as they are scheduled.

Monday Bible Study meetings will be announced as they are scheduled.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Executive Committee of the United Methodist Women met recently and decided to not do in-person meetings until further notice. We will continue to look for ways to meet, perhaps virtually later in the fall and during the winter.

A decision was also made to postpone our Annual All Church Fair until the fall of 2021. We will reevaluate this decision in January to consider our options at that time.

The District and Conference UMWs will hold their usual fall meetings on line this fall. The District meeting will be October 10 and the Conference meeting will be October 24. Links and further information will be announced soon.

To our FUMC Family....

We would like to thank everyone for their wonderful cards and for the uplifting healing prayers that have been sent over the past many months of illness. The love, support and kindness have meant so very much!

Chris & Karen Cronan

This 'N That...

Focus on Our Church Family

Barbara Wing

Barbara Wing is a busy lady around First United Methodist Church! She is always so willing to help out, and lots of groups seek her help. She is a loyal volunteer for My Friend's Place and her calm, quiet demeanor make her an asset to the work that group does. Barbara is an active member in our church serving as a hard-working member of the Evangelism and Member Care Committee and on the visitation team as well. She helps with preparation and serving of receptions when needed. Barbara also takes part in various women's groups in the church such as Piburn Circle. Thank you Barbara for all you do in our church. You are an example of quiet grace and your willingness to help out in any way you can is invaluable example of doing God's work to us all . God Bless!

Thelma Merritt

Another go-getter is Thelma Merritt who is actually the mother of Barbara Wing and despite her advancing age she gets out and about when possible. Thelma has been an active member of our church for a number of years. Although it is more difficult for her to attend now she still enjoys keeping up with the happenings at the church and especially enjoys the Pastor's notes and other correspondence she receives. Thelma attends Piburn Circle and enjoys the programs and being part of the group. She always wears a smile and her care and concern for others is always evident. Thank you Thelma for being an example of how to love and care for others and for always wearing a smile! We are so fortunate to have you as an example of Christian Love and caring! God Bless!

On Line and On Site Services....

Sundays at 10:30 via Facebook live or in the church sanctuary

BIBLE STUDY DEVOTIONAL GROUP

Wednesday evenings from 7-8 on Zoom

Beginning September 2 a study on Heaven

For information on how to connect to Zoom contact Pastor Steve at 866-2144

Current Office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday

8-12

Thursday 8-10:30

QR code for smart phones that will take you directly to the FUMC electronic donation page.

Administrative Council Meeting

7:00 pm

September 22

Via Zoom

O Thou who has given us so much, Mercifully grant us one thing more, A grateful heart.

George Herbert

COMMUNITY MEALS FOR SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER MEALS

The Community Meal is closed until further notice.

SEPTEMBER NEEDS

Once we return to serving meals we will need three folks to pick up the food at the Good Shepherd Food Bank on a monthly basis. Watch for announcements regarding need.

GRATITUDE ATTITUDE... FALL

Fall is my favorite time of year. The air begins to cool, the humidity lessens, and the slant of the sun brings different colors to the sky both morning and evening. I love to watch the leaves begin their vibrant autumn show. It is a magical time.

In the shifting of seasons, autumn is a time of shutting down, of dying away. In the fall, because of changes in the length of daylight and in temperature, the leaves stop their food-making process. The chlorophyll breaks down, the green color disappears, and the yellow, red, brown and orange colors become visible giving us breath-taking scenery. The leaves eventually become dry and fall to the ground. All part of God's grand plan of which we are the beneficiaries!

To everything there is a season ...so the familiar scripture from Ecclesiastes begins. We go through seasonal changes in our lives as well. Things sometimes break down, or change. We often meet obstacles that seem to block our path and sometimes the outcome seems bleak. There seems to be no way forward and the time seems dark and dreary. In these dark seasons turn to friends and family for help….(Remember you also have a church family that will support, help and pray for you.) And of course turn to your most ardent supporter... your Heavenly Father who loves you unconditionally and will always be with you to give you strength and hope.

As you enjoy the beauty of the season of fall remember that although it is a season of change, it brings with it unique beauty and is a time of preparation for the winter ahead. It is the same as you pass through the seasons in your life. Each season is preparation for a different time, place or purpose. Change is uncertain but if you ask God to be with you, you will never go through a season of your life alone. He will be with you and you will come out on the other side the beneficiary of his love and care, and just like the trees after a cold, difficult winter you will come to a new and brighter season.

Get out in your car this fall, take a walk in your neighborhood, or take some time on a warm afternoon to sit on your porch. Enjoy the splendor and sheer majesty that is fall here in Maine. In every season God has a plan for nature and for your life as well. He will never ever leave you, nor forsake you. He will always be by your side.

Thank you God for all your gifts and provisions to us throughout all seasons and we especially thank you for the beauty of Fall….and for being with us in every season of our lives!

MCS

NEWS FROM….. MY FRIEND'S PLACE *An Adult Social Program* And **MEMORY JOGGERS**

September themes for My Friend's Place and Memory Joggers are, Labor Day, Potato Passion, Jars, By the Number, It Takes Two, Farmer's Market, Children's Lit., Colors of Fall, and Come Fly With Me.

We are open Wednesdays and Fridays for now, with up to six participants each day. I worry with the combination of the common flu and COVID-19 if we will be able to continue our program through the winter months. Praying hard for a vaccine!

I am frequently in touch with the U Maine Center on Aging, keeping MFP updated on the latest news on the effect of COVID-19 here in Maine.

Please keep our folks in your prayers.

Blessings,

Dottie England, Director

FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS FOR THIS MONTH

Canned fruit

Peanut butter

Canned meat

Hamburger Helper or Rice-a-Roni

Toilet paper

Or whatever you can donate!

You are welcome to drop off donated food items at the back door of the church on **Thursdays form 10-1:00 or on Sunday mornings.** The food will be collected and dropped off at the Food Cupboard **which is experiencing huge demands.** Also checks are gladly accepted and can be sent to:

Ecumenical Food Cupboard
PO Box1106
28 High Street, Bangor, ME 04401

Prayer Requests and Joys at Bangor FUMC

Prayer Requests

Mary Jane T.

Karen C.

Sandra B.

Wayne Griffeth, Sr.

Dorothy & Henry S.

Peg & David S.

Philip F.

Bill P.

Bob & Jackie L.

Matthew M.

Marion G.

Alex

Geneva I.

Mariam G

Jessie S.

Eliana B.

Jean H.

David H.

Sylvia W.

Darlene S.

Sherry R.

Family of Larry L.

Wayne G-H

Marty & family (sister of Linda T.)

Dale (Son-in-law of Darlene S.)

Great granddaughter of Don G.

Janice & Joe, friends of Jeff & Jill

For families facing storm damage

Pastor Steve and all who are serving

The homeless & hungry

For rental property problems

Small business owners

All those who have lost loved ones

Health Care Workers

Food store workers

Essential Services workers

For rain to our very dry areas

JOYS

- Birthdays
- Graduations
- Health
- John Haskell who brings us wonderful music each week
- For Wayne who has been keeping the church extra clean!
- Sunshine and warmer temperatures
- Weekly devotionals from our pastor
- The wonderful services via Facebook Live on Sunday mornings and for the in-person opportunity
- For the Calling Connection team who phone our members each week
- Our church family

Into your hands Heavenly Father we entrust these people who are in need of your healing touch, the 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	3 Donna Leland	4	5
6 Robin Whitney Nic Prins	7 Marcel Tardif	8 Barbara Wing	9	10	11	12
13	14 Al Soucie	15	16 Rachel Downs Vicki Mower	17	18 Sally Beal	19
20 Baerbel Pelkey Dottie England	21 Elaine Prins	22	23	24 David Griffeth-Hurst	25	26
27	28 Keith Antworth	29	30		*Happy Birth-day 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!)

Worship Assistants for September, 2020

*****If you are unable to cover the date for which you are scheduled please arrange for a substitute or call the person who contacted you or give the office a call.**

Readers	Trustees	Media
To Be announced	To Be announced	
3	3	Geoff Dapice
10	10	Wayne Griffeth-Hurst
17	17	**Sound**
24	24	Jim Burkhart
31	31	Dale Brownie

Greeters for the 10:30 am Traditional Worship

Sanctuary Door	Essex Street Door	Back Door
To Be announced	To Be announced	To Be announced
3	3	3
10	10	10
17	17	17
24	24	24
31	31	31

God gives us the colors of fall to remind us of the glories of his creation!

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for information for the October newsletter is September 21.

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

Worship Schedule

Pathways to God 8:30

Traditional Worship Service: 10:30

Christian Ed for children at 10:45 (2nd-4th Sundays) through September-June ...

FUMC CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office open 8-12	2 Office open 8-12 Devotional & Bible study	3 Office open 8-10:30	4 Email devotional from Pastor Steve	5
6 Worship in church at 10:30 or on Facebook live	7 Devotional from Pastor Steve	8 Office open 8-12	9 Office open 8-12 Devotional & Bible study	10 Office open 8-10:30	**11** Email devotional from Pastor Steve	12
13 Worship in church at 10:30 or on Facebook live	14 Email devotional from Pastor Steve	15 Office open 8-12	16 Office open 8-12 Devotional & Bible study	17 Office open 8-10:30	18 Email devotional from Pastor Steve	19
20 Worship in church at 10:30 or on Facebook live	21 Email devotional from Pastor Steve	22 Office open 8-12 Ad Council 7 pm via Zoom	23 Office open 8-12 Devotional & Bible study	24 Office open 8-10:30	25 Email devotional from Pastor Steve	26
27 Worship in church at 10:30 or on Facebook live	28 Email devotional from Pastor Steve Email devotional	29 Office open 8-12	30 Office open 8-12 Devotional & Bible study			