

Our Mission

***By God's Grace, West Parish Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ, is committed to Nurturing and
Celebrating God's Love in our lives, in the Church Family,
in the Community and in the world***



June 2021 newsletter

Steeple View

West Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ



Pastor's Perspective June 2021

Summer is here, though, with temperatures in the high 50's as I write this, it doesn't feel very summerish. People are beginning to feel more comfortable gathering together as more are vaccinated. This bodes well for family reunions and celebrations.

These past few days I have been in southern New Jersey visiting my parents. Ben and Evan joined me for the visit. It was great to see them since it had been 9 months since I last saw them. I feel very fortunate that both of them are doing relatively well though both struggle with various ailments. Mostly, they have been dealing with isolation because of the pandemic and limited interactions with other residents of the community where they live. What an incredible feeling it was to be able to hug them, look in their eyes, and really be able to visit.

And what an incredible feeling it was last Sunday to be able to worship together in person in the sanctuary for the first time since mid-March of last year! That, too, felt like a true homecoming. There is nothing like looking out and seeing your faces (even masked) and feeling the Spirit's presence among us. And, because the service is also live-streamed, more people are able to attend and participate in the service. There are many more reunions and celebrations ahead. Summer is here, we can breathe more comfortably and confidently, and things are opening up.

God's grace and peace to each one of you and enjoy all that enjoy all that summer has to offer in Maine.

Tim





Christian Education

June is almost upon us. I hope that your Spring has been a beautiful one so far.

The children are now finishing up their exploration of The Lord's Prayer. through the lens of these questions:

- What is Prayer?
- Praying to whom?
- Praying for what?
- Praying for today?
- Praying for you, me, us, we
- Praying when it's difficult

The children painted rocks to foster building bridges of peace in God's Kingdom (Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.) You can see some of these rocks on the garden in front of the church. They also made homemade bread with their families (Give us this day our daily bread).

We have begun having in-person Sunday school again, with those families who are comfortable coming to church in person. We plan to hold simple Sunday School lessons outside this summer, as frequently as we can. Children's Day is Sunday, June 6 and will be outside under a tent.

We plan to have outdoor family gatherings twice a month this summer, with one being a full-church day trip to Pilgrim Lodge, where we can safely engage in the traditional activities of our Conference's beloved summer church camp, and also introduce a new generation of children and families to this wonderful place.

As always, if there is any way that you'd like to help with Christian Education, an email to either myself at PboyleWight@gmail.com or Jim Chandler or Deb Lewis (co-chairs of the CE Committee) at Chandler@megalink.net and FineArts.DeborahLewis@gmail.com with your thoughts or ideas.

May the Spirit of the Risen Christ, and of new life and opportunities, be each and every one of you!

~ Patricia

Smile Fund Sale June 19

The Smile Fund Sale is returning in person. After a year of not being able to have the annual yard sale to benefit the Smile Fund, the World Service committee is delighted to bring the community fundraiser back. The sale will be primarily in the church dining room with larger items outside. The sale is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will follow CDC guidelines, masking required indoors with social distancing.



Donations may be dropped off between Sunday, June 13 through Thursday, June 17 on a table in back section of the church. No donations after that date.

Items to donate include: toys, tools, books, household items, and gardening items
NO – electronics, clothing, shoes, jewelry, stuffed animals, used bedding, or pillows.

All money collected goes to the Smile Fund, which provides dentures to adults who fit the guidelines. Our community has provided so much by giving people a smile, like improved self-esteem and better health. The church has just approved case number 94.

This is an entire church program and the World Service needs your help. Volunteers are needed to organize the tables on Wednesday and Thursday, price the items on Friday, work the sale on Saturday and help with clean-up. Let Jane Chandler know if you can help.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and plans to help with this fundraiser.

Welcome to Willow

Willow Dunham has officially been adopted by her loving family. Congratulations.

Randi and Jeremy Dunham are officially the parents of Willow. They have been her loving parents since a very young age. It is just such a joy that she has been adopted. Willow joins Rahkiyah and Baylee, and our entire congregation.

Calendar of June events

Tuesday, June 1 – Prayer Group at 8:45 AM on Zoom

- Lectionary Bible Study at 4 p.m. on Zoom
- Monthly Book Group at 7 PM at church and on Zoom

Wednesday, June 2 – Men's Breakfast at 8 AM at the church and Zoom

- Stewardship Committee at 9 AM at Church

Thursday, June 3 – World Service at 3 PM at church and on Zoom



- Book Study “Lies My Preacher Told Me” at 6:45 PM on Zoom

Saturday, June 5 – Retirement celebration for Deborah Jenks, Maine Conference Associate Minister,
10-12 AM on ZOOM

Sunday, June 6 – Children’s and Youth Sunday, Worship at 10 AM outside under a tent

Tuesday, June 8 - Prayer Group at 8:45 AM on ZOOM

- Lectionary Bible Study at 4 PM on ZOOM
- Trustees at 6:30 PM on ZOOM

Wednesday, June 9 – Church Council at 6:45 PM on Zoom

Thursday, June 10 - Pastoral Relations Committee, 10 AM at church

- Book study on “Lies My Preacher Told Me,” 6:45 PM on ZOOM

Sunday, June 13 - Worship with Communion at 10 AM at church and on YouTube Live

- Drop of Smile Fund donations between June 13 and June 17 in church dining room

Tuesday, June 15 - Prayer Group at 8:45 AM on ZOOM

- Lectionary Bible Study at 4 PM on ZOOM

Wednesday, June 16 – set up for Smile Fund Sale

Thursday, June 17 – Set up for Smile Fund Sale

- Book study on “Lies My Preacher Told Me,” 6:45 PM on ZOOM

Friday, June 18 – Pricing of items at Smile Fund Sale – 9 to noon

Saturday, June 19 - Smile Fund Sale 9 AM to 1 PM in church dining room

Sunday, June 20 - Worship at 10 AM at church and on YouTube Live

Tuesday, June 22 - Prayer Group at 8:45 AM on ZOOM

- Deacons at 10 AM at church and on ZOOM
- Lectionary Bible Study at 4 PM on ZOOM

Thurs., June 24 - Book study on “Lies My Preacher Told Me,” 6:45 PM on ZOOM

Sunday, June 27 - Worship at 10 AM at church and on YouTube Live

Tuesday, June 29 – Prayer Group at 8:45 AM on Zoom

- Lectionary Bible Study at 4 PM on ZOOM

From the Deacons

The May meeting focused on preparations for the church opening for worship on May 23. At the time of this newsletter, we know that the Pentecost celebration/Church opening went very well. There were more than 50 in attendance and red was the color of the day. Our wholehearted thanks to all those who worked hard to make the hybrid service work so well. Another change in the way we operate will be on communion Sundays - June 13th this month. The procedure will be to pick up the elements as you enter the sanctuary – a cup of juice and bread in a paper cup and grape juice in a communion cup. As you leave at the end of the service, there will be a special dishwasher tray for the cups and wastebasket for the paper. Please do not leave cups in the pew, but take them out with you to be washed.

Our thanks to Donna Coe for filling the planters out front and Melinda Remington who volunteered to do the watering this summer.

Plans are in place to cover for Tim when he is on vacation and sabbatical this fall. Linda Couture will be filling in for him during sabbatical and a couple of other Sundays this summer.

At this point over \$600 has been collected for Pilgrim Lodge. The generosity of our church will provide needed support for this special place.



Diversity Garden

The Diversity Garden (triangle garden) is looking for some plants to fill in the spaces. Extra annual seedlings or small non invasive perennials would be most welcome. Pick a spot in the garden and put in your plant(s). For those of you who like an organized garden, apologies for this chaos of plants. Guess that is what we humans are – a chaos of individuals of every size, color, shape and not to forget, individual gifts of the Spirit!



The children painted these rocks to build bridges of peace in God's Kingdom.

Please plant by Sunday, June 6. The Diversity Garden will be mulched the following week. Our thanks to Eileen for cleaning up the gardens and mulching them.

Flowers

Susan Herhily puts together the flower list. Contact her if you are interested in bringing an arrangement for a Sunday morning. She put together this list of altar flowers for the rest of 2021.

Susan said, “What a wonderful way to beautify the altar and celebrate being back in our beloved sanctuary!” (no altar flowers on first Sunday of the month, communion Sunday.)

June 6 - Linda McDonough

June 13 - Flower Sunday/Communion Sunday

June 20 - Lynda Ainslie

June 27 -

July 11 -

July 18 – Marshalls

July 25 - Melinda Remington

August 8 - Jane Chandler

August 15 - Diane York

August 22 -

August 29 - Linda Davis

September 12 -

September 19 – Jan Whitworth

September 26 – Susan Herhily

October 10 – Marilyn Sahlberg

October 17 – Andee Alford

October 24 -

October 31 – Deb Lewis in memory of her mom

November 14 – Jane Chandler

November 21 – Steve Lovejoy

November 28 – Melody Bonnema

December - poinsettias

Some dates are blank, making an opportunity for others to provide a simple bouquet . Please get in touch with Susan Herhily, if you can help with church flowers.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

June 1 – Braden Scott	June 13 – Diane Dupuis
June 5 - Susie Dickerson	June 14 – Alex Baribeau
June 5 – Sarah DeCato	June 15 – Melody and Garrett Bonnema
July 8 – Lucy Nordahl	June 16 – Ellen and Art Marshall
June 9 – Chelsea Marshall	June 27 – Rahkiyah Dunham
June 10 – Ryder and Amy Scott	June 27 – Jamie Doyle

Congratulations to our graduates

Alex Baribeau – son of Lauren Head and Bob Baribeau – Alex graduates from Gould Academy and plans to take a gap year followed by admission to University of Denver. Congratulations, Alex.

This has been a very difficult year for all teachers, students, and parents as they have struggled with work, remote learning, in person safety in the classroom. All of this work is certainly appreciated.

Book Group

Book group will meet in person Tuesday, June 1 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Since this will be our first in person meeting we will mask and socially distance. Sorry, no food to be served at this gathering.

There will also be a Zoom invitation for those who prefer the comfort of their home. This month we will discuss: *The Book of Lost Friends: A Novel* by Lisa Wingate.

Anyone is welcome to join the monthly book group discussions. July we are reading any book by Earnest Hemmingway. And August we will read *Burglars Can't be Choosers* by Lawrence Sanders.

.Love Bowl for Strengthen the Church

The June Love Bowl is for the national church's one of five for five collections throughout the year. Strengthen the Church supports new church starts and small church improvements. Money is granted to churches that apply for funding. Maine has used the money in the past to send our youth to National Synod, the governing body of our church with meets every other year. This year the Synod is virtual and Patricia Boyle-Wight is our association's delegate. The Synod is July 11-18. Anyone can register and attend as a visitor. Go to www.ucc.org and look for Synod links.

"A little love can go a long way. When our lives become unpredictable or chaotic, when we're facing into a storm, when we're weary and discouraged, fearful or confused... a little love can give the boost we need.

Many of us find that love in our church. But there are many people still seeking and yearning for a little love, a little hope, and a reassuring word. They have not found a church that's reaching out with an extravagant welcome, where they can hear the message of the unconditional love of our still speaking God. That's where the Strengthen the Church special mission offering steps in. Called Strengthen the Church, this offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders."