



The Landmark

Volume 21, Issue 7 | July 2022

A Letter From The Pastor

Dear Congregation of God,

Here on the Maine coast, we have had a cool and rainy spring. It's been a good start for flower and vegetable gardens. And as I write to you in late June, the summer solstice, the day the sun reaches farthest to the north in our hemisphere, will soon occur. Summer solstice creates our longest day and our shortest night of the year. It is the astronomical beginning of summer.

With summer here, our thoughts turn to all the good things we enjoy in this season. I'm thinking about travel. Next week, Shari and I are going to attend the national conference of the NACCC. In case you don't know what the NACCC is, it stands for National Association of Congregational Christian Churches—affectionately called the “NA” for short. Our church is a member of the NA. I mention this because for many years, I did not know what the NA was. I was a member of First Congregational Church in South Paris, Maine for a long time before I learned about the church's connection to the national association.

Thinking about the NA makes me think about the history of American Congregationalism, and this brings me to travel. If you are looking for some summer travel ideas, I have two good recommendations for you. These two destinations are “must see” for anyone interested in church history, particularly Congregational Church history. They are, of course, Plymouth and Boston.

Boston is wonderful for walking tours. On your route, plan to visit the Congregational Library and Archives near Boston Common at 14 Beacon Street. Here you will find a beautiful reading room and research center, home to rare books and original documents from early American Congregational Churches. Visitors need to schedule an appointment. From here, you can take a walking tour of Boston's historic churches. This would be a very nice day trip.

In Plymouth there is a lot to see. You can access Plymouth Rock and the Mayflower II by walking along the waterfront in a nice city park. Try to arrive early in the morning because it gets crowded, and parking is scarce. The rock itself presents some mysteries and conflicting legends. By some accounts, the present-day rock was relocated, moved several times, or broken in half. In any case, it makes for an interesting tale, and one told daily by a park ranger, standing beneath the Greek columns marking the site, a temple-like enclosure designed to keep souvenir hunters from chipping off pieces to take home.

You can see some of the Mayflower II from the city park. But to access the complete exhibit, you will need to purchase a ticket. The Mayflower II is one of the three “living history sites” offered by the Plimoth Patuxet Museum. The other two are Plimoth Patuxet village and Plimoth Grist Mill. All are interesting and worth seeing.

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JULY BIRTHDAYS

6-Jul Ronald Hopkins
15-Jul Patricia King
24-Jul Riley Adams

MISSION NEWS

By Nancy Hamilton, Chair

Ukraine – Project HOPE

At their June meeting, the committee voted to continue to support Project HOPE's work in Ukraine and with Ukrainian refugees with a donation of \$500.

Camp Capella

The committee also voted to send Camp Capella \$300 in memory of Alex Hooper, to whom the camp experience meant so much.

Uvalde

Pastor Ed suggested that we support the Uvalde, Texas community with a donation to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. We decided on a \$200 donation to aid the families of the victims of the school shooting, and Pastor Ed wrote a personal cover letter to Father Eduardo Morales, the priest of that parish.

CourageLIVES

When the committee learned from director Carey Nason that CourageLIVES was hosting a baby shower for one of the group's survivors, we decided to show our support with a \$75 donation for a Target gift card.

Fundraiser in August

The committee is planning a fundraiser toward the end of August. More details next month!!

Join Us!!

Missions Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 in Curtis Hall. Anyone interested (member OR friend) is welcome to attend.

FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By Bob Snowdale, Chair

Maine Fire Protection has scheduled the replacement of all the sprinkler heads and fluid in the vestry for Monday, June 27 all day

The deep cleaning that we contracted for has been completed! You may have noticed the fans in the sanctuary and Curtis Hall are no longer disgustingly dirty! Also, next time you're in the kitchen, move the fridge out and check out the floor!

Still working on the Murphy Room. Boxes of unwanted books will be removed, the old couch from the pastor's office will be offered for sale in the next bulletin and Landmark. Ed's couch will be moved to a storage locker.

The trustees have voted to remove the tree in front of the sanctuary. We have not decided on a replacement yet. I want to share with you our thought process, because there are a lot of differing opinions about this. The first thing that was noticed is that this tree sheds a lot of stuff which soils the steps and walkway around it. It was also noted that the tree has outgrown the space allocated for it. (It's too big for that spot). Finally, looking closely at the tree the leaves are misshapen and curling which is usually an indication of some sort of disease. So it will be removed and the stump removed as well. Once we see what we have, we can think more about possible replacements.

TAKE A SEAT!!!

There are *still* chairs from the choir loft that need a good home. If you would like to take one home with you, we are asking for a donation to the Music Ministry - consider \$50/per chair and the chair is yours! Contact Jennifer McKeon or Bob Snowdale if you are interested.

BIBLE STUDY NEWS

By Bob Snowdale

Just thought a quick note about our bible study group might be interesting. We are currently working our way through Genesis. It's kind of a long book, with lots of interesting stuff you probably heard about in Sunday school. Creation stories, Noah's flood, the tower of Babel, important patriarchs like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and their equally important wives, Sarah, Rebecca, and Rachael. We have a several people who bring their own bibles with commentary which everyone shares. We've learned a lot, and sometimes leave with questions about events, too. Once Genesis is wrapped up, we plan to get into Moses, and Egyptian exile and exodus, and so on. We are meeting on Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 PM.

DIRECT FROM THE DEACONS

By Mary Alden, Deacon of the Month

Dear Church Family and Friends,

We surely live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. God's creation has been marvelous this spring, hasn't it?

Your Deacons continue to meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 3:30 in Curtis Hall. If you need to bring something to us, please call one of us or Pastor Ed. We look forward to hearing from you.

On Sunday July 17th right after the service, we will be hosting (weather permitting, of course) an all-church picnic at Mosman Park. We are inviting everyone to come; church family, extended families, friends, and neighbors. It will be a bring your own chair and picnic food and maybe something for a dessert table, details to follow.

As we have opened up the sanctuary it would be great if each of you would sign up to greet,

usher or do a simple coffee or cold drink for after church. Also, if you would like to donate flowers for the altar, please get in touch with one of the Flower Committee.

Have a wonderful summer!

In Psalm 94/18-19 It says: *When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O Lord, helped me. When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.*

Remember God loves you and we do too!

Your Deacons, Priscilla, Mike, Barb, Dorothy, Karen and Mary

NEW FRIENDS!

Please add these new friends to your church directory:

Dionne and Bart Maase

40 Kelley Dr.

Stockton Springs, ME 04981

Dionne's Cell: 202-842-7804

Bart's Cell: 702-936-2724

Dionne's email: lotofnoise@msn.com

Joseph Holbrooks

6 Knox Ave.

Searsport, ME 04974

Cell: 404-683-0229

Email: Joseph.holbrooks@gmail.com

COFFEE HOUR OUTSIDE!

By Priscilla King

On Sundays where the weather is pleasant, we would like to have a simple fellowship time (cold drink and snack) outside on the lawn and deck in front of the church. HOWEVER, we need volunteers to set up, serve, and clean up. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in Curtis Hall.

For more information, call Priscilla.

KINDNESS NEWS

By Jayne Snowdale, Director

If you have ever wondered what a ton of food looks like –literally – then just stop by the church any 1st or 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 am and you will see the Good Shepherd truck delivering just that, and sometimes more! It's hard to fathom, that our small project has grown to the numbers that we now serve, and that we go through somewhere between 2.5 – 4.0 tons of food in a month!

And we keep growing!!!! With the close of school for the summer, we will begin offering a Summer Food Service Program – providing 60+ lunches daily. We will have 4 – 5 locations throughout our community where we will deliver daily to children who would normally get lunch at school. It's not just the amount of food we provide, it's the ability to provide it!!! We have over 30 volunteers that make this all happen, and we are always looking for more!

If you are interested in how you might volunteer at Kindness, please give me a call... we are Kindness, because of you, and we would love to have you join our family!

Jayne E Snowdale
407-694-8733

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sue Nichols

As you may know, graduating seniors who are part of our congregation are offered a scholarship of \$500 by Women's Fellowship. To receive the award, they have to successfully complete the first semester of their freshman year, and sign up for a second semester. Rosa Estes is this year's recipient.

Women's Fellowship will meet again at 10 am on the first Tuesday in September. Please consider joining us! If you would like to be placed on the email contact list, please let Sue Nichols know.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

By Sue Nichols

After a delayed opening, the spring session of Sunday School continued for seven weeks, ending on June 5th, Children's Sunday. On that day, Beckham, Carter, Ezra and Shayla sang "The Butterfly Song," assisted by Mrs. Maunz, and Pastor Ed. Each child received a potted marigold to take home, and roses were given with thanks to our current teachers, Mary Alden, Sheri Judkins, Nicole Middleswart, Sue Nichols, and Sue Vail. Many thanks to our Minister of Music, Carolyn Maunz, for directing our children's choir.



Pastor Ed recognized our two graduating seniors, Jon Harvey, and Rosa Estes. Jon graduated with honors from Skowhegan HS and will be entering the Army National Guard Boot Camp on June 20th. He is the son of Tara and CJ Harvey, and the grandson of Judy and Norm Otis.

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Rosa Estes graduated from SDHS and will attend Husson University in the fall with a major in Forensic Science. Her parents are Catherine Buley and David Estes.



The Sunday School Committee is looking forward to resuming classes in September. If you are interested in teaching or assisting on occasion, we'd love to have you join us. If you have a neighbor, friend, or relative who has a (grand)child or two, perhaps they'd like to join us as well.

MUSIC NOTES

By Carolyn Maunz

It always feels a bit lonely in church music after the first Sunday of June, when Sunday School and Choir ends for the season. We always look forward to their return in the fall. Fortunately, our church has a lot of talented people who happily volunteer to provide some special music throughout the summer.

We look forward to hearing Don and Judy Mayberry sing some of their own songs on Sunday June 26th, and have enjoyed Pastor Ed's and Sue Nichols' selections so far in June.

Our July music will include:

- July 3, Jim Rose and the FCC Bell Choir
- July 10, vocal solos by Dionne Hasse and Pastor Ed
- July 17, Women's Ensemble and a vocal solo by Linda Payson
- July 24, Karen Kelley with Tracy Bigney

The replacement Yamaha U1 piano for the Allen Room arrived in early June. The replacement (covered by warranty) was necessary, as the original one sold to us came with a cracked sound board from its journey from Japan to the states. We look forward to utilizing this new instrument for our music program throughout the year.

The Bell Choir members have really gelled as a group and are having a grand time learning new pieces for future offerings. Our final performance for the summer will be the Prelude and Postlude on Sunday, July 3. Bell Choir members this year are Don Maunz, Linda Payson, Lee Nahme, Sue Nichols, Sandra Otis-Anderson, Dionne Hasse, Jay Holweger, Bob Snowdale, Betty and Lyle Johnson.

Our church is so lucky to have many dedicated and talented people participate in our music program. Please thank them when you have a chance.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

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But my favorite things in Plymouth are these: First, the four Pilgrim Bibles on display in the Pilgrim Hall Museum at 75 Court Street. These Bibles, one belonging to John Alden, and one belonging to William Bradford, crossed the Atlantic with their owners on the Mayflower. Second, the two side-by-side churches in the Plymouth Town Square--First Parish and Church of the Pilgrimage. When the original congregation split during the 1801 Unitarian schism, the dissenters built their new church right next door. The result still stands; the front door of the UUA church is about fifty feet away from the front door of the UCC church. Both congregations remain active. Finally, take the trail behind First Parish for a good hike up to Burial Hill Cemetery. This beautiful site overlooking the town is on the National Register of Historic Places. It has been a burial site since 1620. Several Mayflower passengers are buried here, including William Bradford. All in all, Boston and Plymouth are fun historical destinations for Congregational travelers. Wherever you go this summer, happy travels, and may God's blessings go with you!

*Grace and peace,
--Pastor Ed*

COMMUNITY NEWS: Searsport Historical Society

The Searsport Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 12th at 7 pm at the Methodist Church Vestry on Main Street in Searsport.

Our guest speaker will be Kevin Johnson, Photo Archivist, from the Penobscot Marine Museum. He will be continuing the presentation he began at our April meeting featuring pictures of Searsport homes and buildings in the 1940s & 1950s from the "Small Collection." He is

asking for our help to identify the names and locations of the pictures. Our meetings are open to the public and all are welcome. Masks are required.

COMMUNITY NEWS: Independence Day Weekend Celebrations

Saturday, July 2nd

At **11 am** Mosman Park will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Secretary of State, Sheena Bellows, will speak at 11 am at the picnic pavilion and present the park with a certificate of merit. All are invited to bring a picnic lunch (beverages and cookies will be provided by the park association) and the Belfast Bay Fiddlers will provide music. There will also be a woman doing 'extraordinary' face painting for the children.

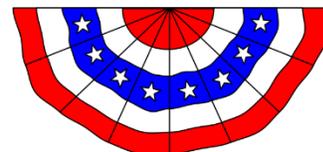
The **fireworks** will be on Saturday evening at about **9 pm**. The Army-Navy Band will be playing at the park around 7 pm prior to the fireworks.

Sunday, July 3

The historical Society will hold the Annual "Hometown Holiday Variety Show" in Union Hall at 7 pm. Adults \$8, children (under 12) \$4.

Monday, July 4

There will be rowboat races in the morning; the Methodist Church will have games for kids, baked goods, craft table, and food truck. The Lion's Club will have its chicken barbecue at 11 am. The Parade will begin at 11 am starting on Norris Street and ending at the Public Safety Building. In the afternoon there will be foot races at Mosman Park, and in the evening there will be food vendors, and a live band concert by Annie and the Rainmakers from 7 to 9 pm.



JULY CALENDAR

July 4, INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 5, 12, 19, 26, 1:00 PM, Bible Study, Murphy Room

July 6, 8:00 AM, Men's Breakfast, Methodist Church

July 6, 10:00, Missions Committee, Curtis Hall

July 20, 8:00 AM, Men's Breakfast, Methodist Church

July 17, After church, All-church Picnic, Mosman Park

July 17, Deadline for Landmark articles

July 26, 3:30, Deacons' Meeting, Curtis Hall

Proclaim liberty throughout
the land unto all the
inhabitants thereof.
Leviticus 25:10

(Inscription on the Liberty Bell)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church

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Email: fccsearsport@gmail.com

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Pastor Ed Gabrielsen

Office hours: Tues. & Wed. 8-4 (or by appt.)

Email: edgabrielsen1114@gmail.com

Cell phone: 207-595-9173

Bill Zito, Administrative Assistant

Office (and home) hours: Tues. and Thurs. 11AM-3PM

Cell phone: 207-323-0230

Carolyn Maunz, Minister of Music

Office/prep hours: Tues. 8:30-10:30AM, Thurs. 1:00-2:00PM

Email: clmaunz@icloud.com

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