

# First Congregational Church of Eliot United Church of Christ

1361 State Road  
Eliot, Maine 03903



the

## ECHO MARCH 2012

Rev. Beth Hoffman, Pastor

<http://www.congchurcheliot.org>

### **MAD HATTERS IN MARCH! FAMILY FELLOWSHIP EVENT**

**On Friday, March 30th from 6-8PM** the fellowship team invites everyone to bring a hat to decorate as an Easter bonnet to wear to church on Easter morning. For those of you who don't like to wear a full hat bring a headband to embellish. Join in the fun as we decorate and beautify our hats. Decorating supplies will be provided and you may bring your own. During this time of fellowship refreshments will be provided. Bring your family and your hats for a fun evening. Please sign up at Sign Up Central so that we may have some idea of how many to plan for.

Hope to see you!



Any questions please call Liz @ 439-7394, Fran and Sally @ 748-0826 or Dick and Carolyn @ 439-2404. It has become a fun tradition that we have as many hat wearing worshippers on Easter Sunday as possible

### **EVENT CALENDAR**

- **LADIES CIRCLE 11:30AM  
MARCH 7**
- **BOOK STUDY GROUP-  
THURSDAY 10-11AM** gathering on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>
- **LENTEN MID WEEK WORSHIP  
7PM Wednesdays**
- **GUEST VOICE in WORSHIP  
MARCH 11- Pat Wall local  
historian,**
- **HAM AND BEAN SUPPER 4-  
6PM MARCH 24**
- **HAT DECORATING Fellowship  
Event 6-8PM MARCH 30**
- **SPECIAL SEDER MEAL APRIL  
1 3PM for children and youth. A  
no cost ticket needed to attend  
with 1 adult**
- **APRIL 1 HOLY WEEK BEGINS  
with PALM SUNDAY**

# PRACTICE

When I think of Lent, I think of watermelon. Yes I said watermelon. When my daughter Lydia was about 4 she would enjoy going up with her pastor to hear the children's message. That year he told the kids that among other things, that he was giving up watermelon for Lent. Lydia was fascinated by this gigantic sacrifice and had no notion he was being humorous. She took his sacrifice very seriously and counted down the weeks of Lent until her pastor could have watermelon again. Of course she didn't realize that it was a summer food and not a Lenten hardship.

The following Lent, she marched right up and asked if he would be giving up watermelon again. He had made a connection to her and she had made a connection to Lent. Ritual, practice and expectation of a familiar story, that Lenten watermelon and the story of its sacrifice came to be something she expected each year. Now she is a teen and has long known that it is no big deal to give up the summer fruit in the deep of winter, but still she wonders out loud if her childhood pastor is talking about it once again. Ritually living into the season of Lent, even if it is through the memory of a children's story, gives her a sense of the season and it's timing in the church life. She has been imprinted with watermelon and her faith is fuller for it.

Of course I think of other things too when I ponder the season of Lent. I know lots of things from lots of books but it is the "watermelon moments" that really sink me deep into the beautiful shadows of the Lenten journey. Whether it is the feel of the ashes on my forehead to the special purple cloth on the pulpit, the waving of the palms or the dark shadows of Good Friday worship, I have been imprinted with those deep images of this season that includes sacrifice, repentance and journey.

Perhaps our faith has a kind of muscle memory. We respond and grow through the practices we are taught even before we know we are doing important exercises. Many of these we experience for the first time as adults: a striking new hymn, a love of a new banner, a devotional book. For me, it is the ivy that Linda Gove has added to our Lenten expectations in the sanctuary. I see that ivy and I feel more deeply the wandering growth that is our Lenten walk.

Like Lydia and her watermelon, we also have some deep imprints from childhood. The black cloth on the cross is a particularly powerful one for me, as I would sit next to my father and we would imagine



that we Jesus on that powerful Good Friday. I also remember a **Seder meal\*** of lamb and grape juice, matzoth and hardboiled egg and other neat things, as I learned about the Exodus and the journey of the Israelites and their Seder dinner from my mother.

How about you? What are your imprinting memories of Lent? Are they old and deep or fresh and new? Are you leaning into Lent with all that you have and absorbing the season? Are you guiding young ones to have their own watermelon moments? Come share your thoughts with me and please come experience Lent and Holy Week through the many worship experiences offered: ritual, practice and expectation. Come challenge yourself, even as you are comforted by the familiar story in this season of journeying to Jerusalem. See you in church and on the way.

Pastor Beth



**\*A SPECIAL HOLY WEEK OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILDREN and YOUTH**

**April 1 at 3PM**

**PALM SUNDAY AFTERNOON**

**A special Seder meal adapted for Christian youth  
Hosted By Pastor Beth and her mother Faith**

The Seder is a family ritual prescribed according to Jewish law and based on the interpretation of the Biblical verse commanding the retelling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt: "And you shall tell it to your child on that day, saying, 'Because of this God did for me when He took me out of Egypt.'" (Exodus 13:8)

This will be a very special meal full of symbols and stories. Each attendee may have one adult accompany them and must have a ticket from the pastor.

To assist in preparations for this special occasion or find out more about this event please talk to Beth.

# HONDURAS BUCKET BRIGADE BEGINS AGAIN! NEW ITEMS!

## 2012 AMIGOS Program Sponsor Shopping List For One Bucket of Food

___	Nonfat Dry Milk (10 foil packs)...3.2 oz/pack (makes 10 qts)	
___	6 Fruit Cocktail .....	15 oz cans
___	4 Chili with Meat (not spicy) .....	15 oz cans
___	3 Chicken Meat .....	12.5 oz cans
___	4 Lbs Dried SMALL RED or Black Beans .....	16 oz bags
___	10 lbs. Enriched Rice .....	5 lb bags
___	24 Crunchy Granola Bars .....	(12) 2 bar pouches

### General Instructions

- The total cost to obtain the bucket, lid and label and shipping fees is \$10.00/bucket. Churches/organizations request that individuals filling buckets fund this fee for each bucket they fill (or ask a friend to help do this).
- Shop for food & then obtain the 5 gallon bucket from your church/organization's AMIGOS Coordinator.
- Filled buckets and fees are due back to your church by Saturday, April 28, 2012.
- Our coordinator is **JANE SPINNEY** and she is willing to shop for items if you are unable to do so but wish to fund a bucket.
- Please don't wait for a bucket to shop, they may come late, and you'll be late returning your food.
- Menu Substitutions for items are OK (example - 15 oz can of pears instead of fruit cocktail).
- Due to limited packing space, sizes of items are critical. If you can't find the exact size as specified, select the nearest size you can find (example – 14.5 oz instead of 15 oz).
- Small Red beans are labeled as such; they are NOT kidney beans!
- Honduran Customs does not allow any food to be removed from sealed manufacturer's packaging. Exterior boxes can be removed only if items inside are individually wrapped. (granola bars)

# VALENTINE'S DAY TEA FASHION



**CELEBRATE THE MANY YEARS OF  
MINISTRY OF JANE SPINNEY!**

**SATURDAY APRIL 14th 4PM**

Bring your memories and bring your good wishes as we bless her retirement years and life up all the heart and soul she has given this church through the years.



**A WORD OF INVITATION FROM OUR  
NEW CHURCH FAIR DIRECTOR**



**Looking for  
Positive and Enthusiastic People!**

Dear Church Family, As some of you already know I've taken over the church fair for this year. I'm looking for folks (yes that means men and kids too!!) who want to help make some changes to our fair, continuing to add to the energy of our thriving congregation. Even if you can't attend Monday nights' Craft Group, you can still get involved. We are presently looking for wool sweaters, and quart size Mason jars. Please think about what you too can contribute and help make this year's fair a joyful experience and a fantastic success!

-Robin Wheeler

---

**CRAFT NIGHT CREATIONS**

Craft Group meets every Monday night at 7 P.M.

You can bring something to work on for the fair or there will be things available for you to do.

Last month, plastic frames were decorated with a saying and embellishments (Dottie's favorite word) added to them.

We will be decorating wooden frames in the next few weeks. We will be working on new things in the weeks ahead, so come and join in the fellowship.

All are invited!

**VARIETY SHOW ON MAY 5th**

Plans are again underway for another of our variety shows. The main purpose of the variety show is to just get together and have some fun. This year's show will be held on Saturday, May 5th and will begin at 6:00pm in the church sanctuary. Following the variety show there will be time for everyone to share in some refreshments and fellowship

Dick Bogh volunteered to organize the variety show. He is excited about the possibility of involving some new "talent" in the show.. The goal is to involve a number of performers in a variety of presentations, but to limit the length of the show to about 1-1/2 hours.

If you are interested in participating in this year's show please let Dick know what you plan to do for a performance. Anyone wishing to perform should let Dick know (439-2404). In the spirit of what our church is all about, it is our goal that people who come just to watch the show will enjoy themselves and add considerably to the camaraderie that we are trying to capture through this event.

Dick Bogh

# OUR MARCH SUNDAY SERVANTS

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

### MARCH

- 4 Laurie Hair and Loretta Downey
- 11 Nancy Hoyt and Sue Beattie
- 18 Paula Caswell and Sue Berg
- 25 Bobbi Jean Gosselin & Betty Grogan

### APRIL

- 1 Joanne Cultrera
- 8 Deacons
- 15 Jane Spinney and Vicki Koch
- 22 Ruth Vetter Jan McMullen
- 29 Bobbi Jean Gosselin & Betty Grogan

## USHERS

- 4 Jan McMullen and Linda Gove
- 11 Mike Wayburn and Mark Hoffman
- 18 Sue and Gary Berg
- 25 Joan and Richard Donhauser

## ACOLYTES

- 4 Ella Quinn
- 11 Andy Wormwood
- 18 Isabel Fajardo
- 25 Nate Orr

## LITURGISTS

- 4 John Marshall
- 11 Pastor Beth
- 18 Donna Tobey
- 25 Laurie Hair

## DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Jan McMullen and Linda Gove

## SANCTUARY STEWARDS

Linda Gove  
Mike Wayburn

We are always looking for Sunday servant volunteers. Please talk to our stewards or our pastor

## HAM & BEAN SUPPER

The next Ham and Bean Supper will be  
March 24, 2011 from 4-6 PM

Adults \$9.00.

Children under 12 \$2.00

Children under 5 are free

## BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Jennifer Pelkey
- 10 Ann Emery
- 10 Lisa Marshall
- 18 Lydia Hoffman
- 25 Richard Donhauser
- 28 Kyle Cultrera

## ANNIVERSARY

- 25 Vicki and Jeff Koch



C  
E  
L  
E  
B  
R  
A  
T  
I  
O  
N  
S

## **HELP FEED THY NEIGHBOR AND DANCE ABOUT IT!**

The South Berwick-Eliot Rotary is sponsoring a fundraiser to benefit the two food pantry's in Kittery & South Berwick as well as The Table of Plenty (which feeds about 400 hungry people a week in our community).

**Our own John Marshall's band, WORK IN PROGRESS, is donating their time and musical talents for entertainment.** There will be a Silent Auction with items offered for all price ranges. This wonderful event will take place Friday, April 13th at the Regatta on RT 236 in Eliot. Tickets are \$25 per person.

If you are unable to come, but would still like to help, auction items and/or cash donations are very much appreciated.

Any questions call/ E-Mail ROBIN WHEELER at 207-439-2082/ [DRJR38@hotmail.com](mailto:DRJR38@hotmail.com)

---

## **OUR CHURCH AND PROJECT SHARE**

I think all of you are familiar with the Project Share program which provides food baskets and Christmas presents for families in need during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. This is a program that originally began through the efforts of the Ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary shortly after the end of World War II, For a number of decades now this service program has been coordinated by the Eliot Lions Club, which involves other organizations like the churches, the schools, the Naval Ship Yard, the town highway department, and the Boy Scouts.

In order to accomplish the goal of getting the food baskets ready to be delivered on the Saturday before each of the holidays the food must be collected, sorted, and packaged into boxes for each individual family. Our church has always played a major role in this effort. First of all it has always been our church that has provided the space where the food and Christmas presents have been collected and prepared for delivery. The food comes to us from area churches and individual schools, with the highway department picking up the food at the schools and bringing it to our church. From there, it is really a massive undertaking to get the food baskets ready to be delivered. As the members of the Lions Club get older and less physically able it becomes more difficult to assure that the Project Share program actually gets

accomplished each year. I suggested before the holidays at one of our Lions Club meetings that a Lions Club member of each church ask for volunteers from church for sorting and packaging of the food. **GUESS WHICH CHURCH CAME THROUGH AND REALLY HELPED OUT!**

Helping to sort and package food from our church were Carole Shirk, Betty Grogan, and Al and Jeanne Morin. Jane Spinney volunteered by helping to wrap the Christmas presents that went out to each family.

As I observed how much quicker the work went thanks to the volunteer help from our church members, it was with considerable thanks and pride as our church again showed itself to be a place where Christianity lives. My sincere thanks to all who helped, from all the members of the Lions Club.

-DICK BOGH

## **MOMENT FOR MISSION**

The Mission Board has decided to hold a food sale on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Parish Hall to raise funds needed to purchase items to finish the school, hygiene layettes and clean up buckets. The congregation is invited to donate food and then of course purchase items.

In February the Ladies Circle help to put together 18 bags with personal items for Footprints and 11 bags for Meals on Wheels. Thank you for all the help.

The Mission Board is seeking help with the above kits and are in need of the following:

School kits:

Hand towels, nail clippers, tooth brushes, blunt scissors, pencil sharpeners and rulers.

Clean Up Buckets:

100 ft of Clothes line, work gloves and Playtex gloves, dust masks, bug repellent, concentrate Lysol.

Please leave donated items in the designated basket in the narthex.

Thank you for all the help  
-The Mission Board.



news

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In February we learned about Jesus casting out demons, healing the sick, spreading his message from town to town and the disciples witnessing his transfiguration. We celebrated Mardi Gras with face painting, play time & Pandamania VBS music. Derek loves to dance!

Our spring mission project will be to raise money for Heifer project. We will be coloring eggs on Palm Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> so dress appropriately. No church school on Easter – children will attend church with their families.

Be sure to mark your calendars and tell your friends... Vacation Bible School will be held July 9-13 from 9AM – Noon. This year’s program is called SKY and the focus scripture is Mark 10:27 Everything is possible with God.



## Kittery Eliot Clergy Association WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP “Held in Hunger”

### March 7

Here at First Congregational, UCC, Eliot  
Guest Preacher Rev. Jeff Gallagher

### March 14 –

St. Raphael’s  
Guest Preacher Pastor Bill Humphrey

### March 21

St Mark’s United Methodist, Kittery  
Guest Preacher Rev. Brad Hirst

### March 28

Eliot United Methodist, Eliot  
Guest Preacher Rev. Chris Lanzara

## HOLY WEEK at FIRST CHURCH

### PASSION/PALM SUNDAY APRIL 1, 10AM

A musical worship service  
with Holy Communion

### MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL and SERVICE

April 5, 6PM

Gathered in the Fellowship hall we remember the Last Supper

### GOOD FRIDAY IN THE SHADOWS

APRIL 6, 7PM

Dramatic worship - Kittery-Eliot Clergy Assoc.

### KEEPING VIGIL April 6, 9PM - April 7 11AM

Come spend time in reflection and watchful rest in the sanctuary at the foot of the cross. A sign up sheet will make hour slots of time available.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE-** place to be determined. Deacons are considering new options. Please talk to them if you have suggestions or strong feelings to share.

## LADIES CIRCLE NEWS

Seventeen ladies met on Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Each one brought their own sandwich and dessert of cupcakes and yogurt ice cream was served by Dot Edson and Jeanne Morin.

Each one brought a valentine with your initials hidden somewhere on the card. Some were a little hard to find!

Small personal items for ladies were donated and put in Valentine bags to be given to Meals on Wheels and Footprints.

For table decorations over 80 items of food, paper products and personal items for Footprints were used. Jeanne made flowers for the tables out of stripes of comics from the newspaper!

March 7<sup>th</sup> we will be going out to eat at Fogarty's in South Berwick. We will meet at the church to carpool at 11:00. Be sure to sign up if you plan to go as we have to give them a count the Monday before.

Jane Spinney

## GETTING THRIFTY AGAIN! OPENING DAY APRIL 21 9AM-NOON

It is almost that time again for the Thrift Shop. You may bring items you wish to donate to the Thrift Shop any time now. Please be sure they are clean and in good repair.

We do not accept undergarments. No shoes unless they are new. No baby cribs, high chairs, playpens or toys that you think have lead paint on them.

We will be needing people to volunteer to work on the days we are open. (The first and third Thursday and Saturday each month from April 21st thru October 27th). Karen Davis worked every Thursday with Janice Bowden.

The Mission Board will have a Bake Sale on opening day, the money to go towards purchasing diapers for the Layettes.

## Storm Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather our church leadership will make a decision as to whether to cancel worship. Should service be cancelled, we will notify you by Facebook, email and on WCSH6 TV and WTSN Radio. In any event, please use your judgment and keep safe.

**We will always be here next week!**



**Join us for worship each Sunday at 10AM  
Everyone is welcome and the door is always  
open to friend and stranger.**

**Our dynamic Sunday school begins at 10:15  
after the Children's Message with our pastor.**

**Our Worship team and our choirs invite your  
heart to sing along with the Spirit!**

## Special Presentation in Worship on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10AM

**We will be honored by the voice of Pat Wall, local  
historian as she offers us a gospel of justice as  
seen through the challenges of slavery of past  
and racism of present. She will use a lens of Eliot  
history and stand with the marginalized in the  
pages of local documents. Ms. Wall is a engaging  
speaker with a timely message and a deep  
passion for God's people.**