

First Congregational Church of Eliot
 United Church of Christ
 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
 THE ECHO |
 OCTOBER 2017

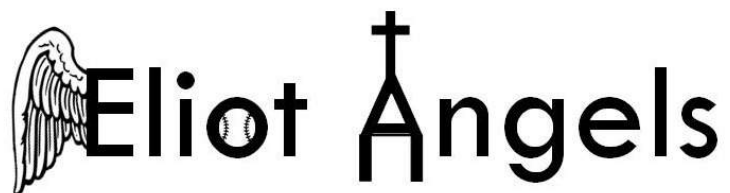
PASTOR: REV. DR. BETH HOFFMAN

Belong Believe Become

Batter up!

It is the season of Stewardship consideration and commitment and this year our theme is Baseball – why? **It's the "team" theme!** We are all important members of God's Team and we all have a part to play.. We are strong for our community in the good times and in the difficult times; we benefit from the strengths and generosity of each other, and we hope together for the future. It is through our participation and giving that we are able to strengthen and extend our love of God to everyone in and outside our church community. **We get everyone on base!**

Of course we also want to have fun in church! So this year watch for some fun surprises, letters in your mailbox and sometime at the ball park while in the sanctuary! Have you ever had your face on a baseball card? This is your chance. Have you ever touched the "Green Monster" of Fenway? Get ready for the Green Monster of Eliot! **Together we shall be THE ELIOT ANGELS** We will be gathering together in teams for some friendly competition and see how many runs (pledge faith commitments) we can score through the season! Team announcements will be made on October 8th in worship with a follow up letter



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Be a fan of FCCE! Be a team player and help us hit a stewardship home run!



**TEAM MATTHEW
 TEAM MARK
 TEAM LUKE
 TEAM JOHN**

Which Eliot Angels Scrimmage team are you? Stay tuned for the release of the roster!



HIT A HOME RUN WITH YOUR FAITH PROMISE!

What is Faith Promise? (with thanks to the Lexington Church leadership)

We are asking members and friends of First Congregational Church of Eliot to consider a pledge in support of FCCE for the coming year. It is a Faith Promise because it's a promise between an individual and God; no one will hold you to it, and what you pledge is known only to the leaders responsible for our finance management.

Our October/ November pledge drive is important for two primary reasons. Practically speaking, we do this so that we can plan next year's budget responsibly, knowing the resources we'll have to apply to the ministries we hope to fund.

More importantly, it's a commitment we make together, as a congregation, for this institution we love and share. Though everyone is invited to take part in Commitment Sunday this year on November 19th, pledges are welcome at any time.

ELIOT ANGELS for the WIN!

What is Stewardship?

Our church community and its good work are sustained by our gifts of time, talent and money – tangible expressions of our faith and love for God, our fellow human beings, and this Creation we share.

The term “stewardship” is often used in churches as a euphemism for fundraising. Stewardship is certainly about fundraising, but it is much more than that. **Stewardship** has been defined as:

1. What I do, with all that I have, after I say, “I believe.”
2. Using the gifts God has given us to do the work God is calling us to do.

At FCCE we seek to be good stewards of God's gifts in many ways, by using our time, our money, and our talents to further God's work on earth: by worshiping and learning, caring for each other, helping those less fortunate, and caring for the health of the planet.

One part is the financial stewardship of our church. The funds to support First Congregational of Eliot – everything we do, from worship and church school to our service and justice ministries – come from us, as members and friends. Unlike churches in other denominations, which may receive support from a central office or institution, FCCE is part of the congregational tradition and carries both the authority and responsibility for its building and finances. The large majority of our budget comes from gifts made each year by you our members and friends.

Join the team this important season of the church life and help us bring home a stewardship win! THANK YOU! -

A CHANCE to DO GOOD!

The Fundraising Team is supporting the Epilepsy Foundation and the Ministries of our church by collecting items for money and mission. We need your good quality stuff dropped off at the church library (not left outside) all through the month of October!

CLOTHING:Men's, Women's, and Children's clothing and shoes
Clothing Accessories: hats, mittens, scarves, ties, nylons, socks, underwear
Personal Accessories: Purses, Wallets, Fanny packs, and Bags and **Jewelry**

MEDIA:Hardback and paperback books
 Magazines Records, tapes, and CD's
 Videos and DVD's
 Computer Software

HOUSEWARES: Toys, games, puzzles, and stuffed animals
 Bed and bath towels, sheets, blankets, pillows, curtains, and tablecloths
 Crafts Candles, pictures/frames, and baskets
 Ornaments
 Hand tools
 Pots, pans, utensils, china cups, vases, dishes, cutlery, glassware, mugs, silverware, stemware
 Small electric toasters, radios, power tools, irons, blenders, mixers, humidifiers
 Stereos, CD players, speakers, and DVD and VCR players
 Bicycles, Golf equipment, skis, sports equipment, exercise equipment
 Small and large garden tools
 Table and floor lamps

FURNITURE: Smaller items that can be easily carried by one person
 Small or lightweight chairs
 Small tables, card tables, and night stands
 Small dressers, small bookcase, small cabinets
 Small lamps and lights

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:Weapons and explosives
 Hazardous waste
 Construction materials
 Flammable products
 Large Appliances
 Automobile parts
 Food
 Large furniture pieces
 Mattresses and box springs
 Sleeper sofas

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

FIRE FIGHTER SUNDAY

OCTOBER 29 at 10AM

Pastor Beth serves as the Chaplain for the Kittery Fire Department and of course we are neighbors with the Eliot Fire Department and so once again we have invited the officers and firefighters of KFD and EFD to join us for a special worship service that blesses us all. Please be there on this amazing day. An invitation is extended to all Eliot and Kittery fire fighters and their families and friends.



During our Fire Fighter Sunday fellowship hour, let's have lots of chili to serve our guests! Sign up to bring in a pot of chili and a friendly competition for best recipe complete with voting and a trophy!



We also will celebrate Sierra Rodenhuis who is serving and studying as a firefighter!



CHRISTMAS CAROLE FAIR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

CRAFTS & GIFTS



Fingerless gloves, Knitted/crocheted baby items, scarfs, mittens, socks, handmade jewelry

RAFFLES

Gift certificates, food and gift baskets

THE BAKERY SHOPPE

Homemade Pies, Breads, Cookies, Bars, Scones, Brownies and more

THE CANDY SHOPPE

Fudge, Nuts and Special Treats!

CHILDREN'S SHOPPING ROOM

Gifts \$1 and under. Volunteers help with shopping and wrapping

JEWELRY

Vintage Necklaces, Bracelets and more!

FOOD COURT

Breakfast Sandwiches, Lobster Rolls, Corn Chowder, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs
Apple Pie and Sundaes for dessert!

THE COOKIE WALK

16 Feet of ALL Kinds of Cookies!

WHITE ELEPHANT

Used Items at BEST Prices!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1361 State Road (Rt. 103) Eliot, Maine
207-439-1105



*First Congregational Church
of Eliot, UCC*
www.eliotucc.org 207-439-1105

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**** weekly Worship 10am						
1 **** World Communion Sunday	2 7pm Craft Group	3	4 12:30pm Ladies Circle **1-7pm Banjo ~ Weekly 6:30 Choir	5 Exercise 8am Thrift Shop 3-6 ** Bluegrass 4-7pm (Weekly)	6 Exercise 8am	7 Thrift Shop 9-Noon
8 **** C.E. Penny Collection	9 7pm Craft Group	10 Deacons 6pm	11 Prop. Bd. 5:30pm ** 6:30 Choir	12 ** Exercise 8am Garden Cl 12-3:30pm Thrift Shop 3-6	13 Exercise 8am	14 Thrift Shop 9-Noon
15 **** Finance Committee 11:30	16 7pm Craft Group	17 Council 6pm	18 ** 6:30 Choir	19 ** Exercise 8am Thrift Shop 3-6	20 Exercise 8am	21 Thrift Shop 9-Noon
22 **** C.E. 11:30	23 7pm Craft Group	24 <i>Bright Lights</i> Class 6-7:30pm Fellowship Hall	25 ** 6:30 Choir	26 ** Exercise 8am Thrift Shop 3-6	27 Exercise 8am	28 Thrift Shop 9-Noon
29 **** Family Worship Sunday	30 7pm Craft Group	31	ALL CHURCH SOFTBALL GAME AFTER WORSHIP ON the 15th!			

OCTOBER 29 is our FABULOUS FIRE FIGHTER SUNDAY
DON'T MISS IT!

LADIES CIRCLE

On Wednesday Sept. 6, 11 ladies met. Doris Grover served strawberry shortcake for refreshments..300 items plus \$30 was turned in to the Pease Greeters. Some of the ladies are still knitting wool helmet liners. Eleven more were turned in. Thanks to the church for all their help in making this such a welcoming donation to the men and women as they pass through Pease serving our country. Many items were brought in for the Mission School kits.

\$200 was given to Peggy Gray and Linda Downey to be used for publicity for the coming fair. next meeting will be on Wednesday Oct. 4 at 12:30. Barbara Sullivan and Janice Bowden will have refreshments. We are asked to bring in can goods, as in the past, for Project Share to help the Lions Baskets for Thanksgiving.

Our November meeting will be on Monday Nov. 6 at 9:30 a.m. When we will start to set up for the Christmas Carole Fair which will be on Saturday November 11.

Our Thrift Shop has done very well this summer. In October, the Thrift Shop will be open every Thursday from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. and every Saturday from 9 a.m. - Noon. There will be bag sales each day until the end of October, at which time we will close for the year.

All ladies are welcome to join us on the first Wednesday of each month.

THRIFT SHOP

October open every Thursday 3 p. m. - 6 p.m and Saturday 9 a. m. to Noon. This is the start our bag sale. We are closing for the season on October 28. WE ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTING ITEMS FOR SALE.



Neighbors in Need

(NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. During October there will be a basket for your gifts for receiving our annual Neighbors in Need special mission offering of the UCC. The 2017 theme is: "Protect the Sacred: In a just world, clean water is life." Please give generously as the lands have been ravaged by hurricanes and this will really help

Learn how to make "Bright Lights" with wine bottles and twinkle lights! Tuesday, October 24 from 6:00 to 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Linda Gove will show you how to make them! Just in time for the holidays! The cost is \$20 and includes apple cider and snacks and a finished product! There is a limit of 10 participants so don't hesitate to sign up by calling the church office at 207-439-1105. (This is part of our "10 to \$100" challenge.)

COUNCIL/BOARD/TEAM HIGHLIGHTS for October

Financial Jan McMullen, Treasurer, reported that she will need \$5387 to meet the payroll and outstanding bills by the end of September. Thanks to the Blueberry Festival (\$4208. so far), "Miracle Offering" and many on going fund raising projects we have had a better than usual summer for the church budget. Some big bills will be coming in October, November and December as well as gas, oil plowing, etc.

Property: 1. Smith Brothers repairing and waxing of the floor in the large room in the Parish Hall is happening in September. 2. Jeff Pelkey has generously fixed the cracks in the sidewalks and parking lot and will return to finish coating it. 3. The Property Board is continuing to watch and work to better handle the septic tanks at the parsonage, church and parish hall. 4. Jim Brunneau from Middleton



Lumber known to Mark has offered to donate supplies to repair the bottom section on the side of the parish hall. Because of the pending weather they will regroup to accomplish this at a later date. Estimates will soon be looked into for siding for the parish hall and the church and windows for the parish hall.

Education: Rally Day was a great success. Lydia has set up a monthly schedule for Church School. She has been able to secure the help of a number of people in the church for each Sunday. A confirmation class will be happening for 7-12 graders.

Ladies Circle: A thank you was received from the Pease Greeters for the donation of over 300 items and \$30 cash given to them last month by our church. In September, many items for the Mission School Kits were brought in by the ladies. Can goods for Project Share will be brought in for the next meeting on October 4. The Thrift Shop is doing well. It will be open every Thursday and Saturday in October doing bag sales until the close on Saturday October 28.

Missions: Collecting cleaning items for buckets to be sent to Church World Service to be used where needed for those suffering from the flooding due to the hurricanes.

New Business: 1. The various Boards are being asked to have their budget for 2018 ready for the October meeting. 2. The stewardship theme this year will be baseball. "The World Series of Stewardship" 3. The Website is still being worked on. 4. Fifth Sunday in October will be Family Sunday and Firefighters Sunday. 5. Turkey sandwiches will be made to be passed out the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

6. Christmas Eve (December 24) comes on a Sunday this year. It has been decided that there will be a regular morning service at 10 a. m. And the evening service will be at 5 P.M. (NEW TIME)

Jane Spinney, Secretary

OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVANTS

Fellowship Hour

- 1 Nancy Cultrera and Dottie Edson
- 8 Marcia Goss and Sherry Goodnough
- 15 Peggy Gray and Robin Wheeler
- 22 Bobbie Gosselin and Nancy Hoyt
- 29 Jan McMullen and Jean Paulantonio

Liturgists

- 1 Pastor Beth and Friends
- 8 Loraine Boyer
- 15 Richard Donhauser
- 22 Dick Bogh
- 29 Jeff Pelkey

Ushers

- 1 Laurie Troy and Linda Downey
- 8 Richard and Joan Donhauser
- 15 Peggy Gray and Robin Wheeler
- 22 Linda Gove and Dick McKenney
- 29 Rob and Sonya Quinn

Nursery

We always have a caregiver available for our littlest ones.
Just introduce yourself to an usher.

Deacon of the Month:

Shelby Grondin-Bushe

Church School Adventures

- 1 COMMUNITY ADVENTURE FIELD TRIP TO THE ORCHARD with Lydia
- 8 Rob and Sonya Quinn
- 15 Rob and Sonya Quinn
- 22 Rob and Sonya Quinn
- 29 Family Worship all together for FIRE FIGHTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Sanctuary Steward

Linda Gove



Birthdays

- 1 - Karen Webster
- 1 - Lucia Bonafede
- 6 - Josh Roberge
- 7 - Ella Quinn
- 13 - Vicki Koch
- 14 - Pam Atwood
- 14 - Nate Orr
- 16 - Jo Taylor
- 17 - Hayden Osgood
- 18 - Sue Bicknell
- 22 - Blake Downey
- 24 - Larry Shirk

Anniversaries

- 1 - Linda & Walter Gove
- 1 - Steve & JoAnn Cultrera
- 3 - Jim & Linda Libby
- 5 - Larry & Carole Shirk