

First Congregational Church of Eliot
United Church of Christ
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
THE ECHO |
MAY 2018

PASTOR: REV. DR. BETH HOFFMAN

Inviting

Loving

Serving

Spring Plant Sale



Just in time for
Mother's Day!

Plants, Garden items,
crafts and more!

Saturday, May 12, 2018

8:00am to 1:00pm

Bolt Hill Road,
Eliot, Maine

Sponsored by: the First Congregational
of Eliot, UCC

(All proceeds go to the ministries
of the church)

For more info: 207-439-1105

FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends in Service,

God is doing a new thing at FCCE and we are being called to do our best to be a partner in this divine work.

As a community of faith we seek to love God with all our hearts, souls and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves through worship, education and service.

We seek to be a caring church community dedicated to the nurture and sharing of each other's faith and spiritual growth and committed to serving the local and world-wide community in love.

The whole point of the Christian church is to be connected to one another in mission—doing the work that Jesus urged us to do—caring for the poor and marginalized. At FCCE we strive to maintain a balance between local, national and international mission endeavors.

And it is so important but it is not easy! I am leading a new team called MISSION

FORWARD and I think we are off to a great start.

We are imagining new ways of bring disciples in the world and we have some fabulous ideas.

We will not be about meetings we will be about mission and I want you to come up along side as we walk this journey. Looking for a way to deepen your relationship with the church and with God? Then Mission Forward may have the right rhythms for you.

Find a project, program or relationship opportunity that works for you and come on board and then when it is completed, you can take a sabbath rest. Small groups dreaming of mission can change the world and change your heart!

Starting up right now- *Teams serving at the Soup kitchen (including our children)- Teams going out to do community clean up and carpentry- Teams making connections to end elder isolation- Starting in the fall- Teams preparing a Concert for a Cause.*

Resurrection is happening at FCCE!



-
Pastor
Beth

AMIGOS 2018:

Feeding Forward: Elijah met a widow in the middle of a drought. She did not have enough food, or enough oil...and nothing was growing. Elijah went into her home and brought to her the good news of God's abundance, and miracles occurred. "And Elijah said to the widow: Do not be afraid...for thus says the God of Israel: The jar of mead will not be finished and the jug of oil will not be lacking until the day of God's giving showers upon the face of the ground!" (1 Kings 17:13-14).

Every day in Honduras, thousands of children go hungry. Through the York Association's AMIGOS Program, our congregations have dedicated themselves to trying to feed as many of these precious children as possible. This year, we hear God's call again. These hungry siblings of ours need the Good News of God's abundance... they need amigos – friends – who are willing to go to their home and experience God's abundance in their midst.

We are asking our AMIGOS throughout the York Association to serve our friends in Honduras by recruiting people to go to Honduras in July to meet these children in their homes, and by raising money to provide meals for these most vulnerable children. Every 50 cents we raise will provide a healthy, vital meal for a child. Help our AMIGOS on the ground in Honduras provide food that will not run out and clean water that will not run dry, until God's abundance pours out freely on the earth for all people. Please give as generously as you are able!

We will be collecting through the month of May and joyfully last year FCCE sent over 1000.00 to this worthy mission. There will be a bucket in the sanctuary for collection of your money gifts but Pastor Beth is looking for someone to take leadership on this collection. Could it be you? Please pray about this and how God is calling you to serve.



SUNDAY SERVANTS

Fellowship Hour

6 Paula Caswell & Joan Donhuaser
 13 Marcia Goss & Sherry Goodnough
 20 Peggy Gray & Robin Wheeler
 27 Bobbie Gosselin & Joanne Cultrera

Ushers

6 Linda and Walter Gove
 13 Loraine Boyer and Dick McKenney
 20 David and Paula Caswell
 27 Brad and Jen Swanson

Nursery

We will always have a caregiver available for our littlest ones in the fellowship Building and all ages are always invited to stay for full worship.

Church School Adventures

MAY is CELEBRATION with LYDIA HOFFMAN

Liturgist

6 George Salzer
 13 Jane Spinney
 20 Sunday School
 27 Lisa Marshall and Friends

Deacon of the Month

George Salzer

Sanctuary Steward

Linda Gove



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Sue Beattie
- 2 - Tom Beattie
- 3 - David Caswell
- 5 - Linda Gove
- 10 - Tina Dodge
- 13 - Alaina Goodnough
- 19 - Joshua Gray
- 22 - Sherry Goodnough
- 23 - David Gray
- 25 - Jennifer Caswell
- 30 - Pat Cress ,
 Kaylee Masury

BIRTHDAYS we have on record. Do you know someone who has a birthday this month? Please notify us!

LADIES CIRCLE

On Wednesday April 4th 14 ladies met at **12:30**. Lots and Lots of paper products were brought in for Footprints. Janice volunteered to help Carole with sending out cards. The Thrift Shop will open on April 21st Help is needed both to sort items and price them and work on the days we are open. The ladies were asked to bake for the Bake sale to be held at the same time.

On May 2, Helen Searles and Alice Tobey will have refreshments . We are to bring small items to be put into small bags for Footprint Mother's Day.

THRIFT SHOP

We are now collecting donations for the Thrift Shop Opening. We do not want large items, baby cribs etc. We are looking for only clean salable items of clothing for everyone, kitchen articles, books, craft items, sewing and toys. Please do not leave items outside.

OPEN

Thursday May 3 and May 17 3 PM – 6 PM

Saturday May 5 and 19 9:00-Noon.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hey Friends!

April was great with our friends from Pilgrim Lodge visiting and Joan Donhauser and Brennen Shiverick teaching our adventure classes. The end of April saw some of us going with Pastor B to help wake up Pilgrim Lodge and we are getting ready to go back for our Church retreat. Not too late to sign up to come!

We will be on Adventure school hiatus for the months of June July and August and informal gatherings will be the norm during the summer. We are already planning the 2018-2019 Adventure units of learning. We are looking for leaders but also unit theme ideas. Give me a shout! No idea too wacky or weird. This May we are in CELEBRATION unit.

May 20th will be our Sunday School Sunday where we plan the whole service from soup to nuts. If you know of someone who is ready to receive a Bible please let me know.

Keep collecting the pennies! When we get to 4,000.00 Pastor Beth is going to kiss a farm animal. What one will it be?!! Maybe it will be a giraffe!


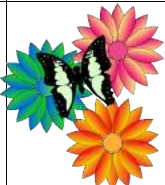
Keep Learning, Church!- **Lydia Hoffman**

May 20
10AM Worship
Installation and
commisioning
of all serving
Deacons





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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30pm Kids Reading Club	2 11:30am Ladies Circle 1-7pm Banjo Lessons 6pm Women at the Well	3 8am Exercise Thrift Shop 3-6pm 4-7 Bluegrass	4 8am Exercise	5 Thrift Shop 9am-Noon Indoor clean-up day 9 to noon At church
6 Worship 10am Holy Communion	7 7pm Craft Group	8 6pm Deacons	9 10-2 Senior Citizens 1-7pm Banjo 5:30 Prop Bd	10 8am Exercise 11-3 Garden Club 4-7 Bluegrass	11 8am Exercise	12  8-1pm Plant Sale
13 8:30 Choir Worship 10am C.E. Penny Collection	14 7pm Craft Group	15 6pm Council	16 1-7pm Banjo Lessons	17 8am Exercise Thrift Shop 3-6pm 4-7 Bluegrass	18 8am Exercise	19 Thrift Shop 9am-Noon
20 Worship 10am Children's Day 11:30 Prop Board Presentation	21 7pm Craft Group	22	23 1-7pm Banjo Lessons	24 8am Exercise 4-7 Bluegrass	25 8am Exercise Pilgrim Lodge Weekend	26 Pilgrim Lodge Weekend
27 Worship 10am	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

**SECOND CHRISTIAN
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
AND
FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF ELIOT**

**WE GATHER
TOGETHER
AND GO TO
CAMP!**



**SHARED CHURCH
REREAT**

YOU SHOULD REALLY COME
THIS YEAR

**PILGRIM
LODGE**

MAY 25-27
MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND

STAY TUNED...

AND CHECK OUT
PILGRMLODGE.ORG

PILGRIM LODGE CHURCH RETREAT

MAY 25-27 Sign up now with Pastor Beth

PILGRIM LODGE IS OPEN FOR SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Families, youth, teens, adults, people of all ages
and walks of life: there is a camp session for
you!

- Find the session (or sessions!) that is best for
you at <http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/camps/>

Reminder: Pastor Beth and her sister GG direct
a really fun family camp called



EXPEDITION EVERYONE.

July 1-4 and we have lots of FCCE campers!

CLEANING OUR SPACES and PLACES

Have you noticed how amazingly clean and bright our physical spaces are? Big thanks to Loraine Boyer, Lisa Marshall, Joan Donhauser, Jan McMullen, Sally Hartford, Diane Burbank, Nate Orr, Dayle Shiverick, Jen Swanson and all the other church mice that have been hard at work to make sure we sparkle inside and out! WOW! Is there something you could volunteer for every so often? Please reach out to Loraine Boyer as she has her cloth in hand and is shinning up the place with several other good souls.

FINANCE REPORT

The end of a quarter is a good time to review our financial status and look to the future. We receive several annual pledges in January so the beginning weeks of the year appear financially very good; however those extra pledges are usually quickly eroded by extra winter expenses. And this year has been no different.

We had a very successful Stewardship Campaign last fall which resulted in approximately \$20,000 more pledged than in previous years. But most of those extra pledges were from people who had already been

contributing generously to the church but had not pledged. In other words, we moved that money from the Identified Offerings column to the Pledged column. Now we get to see what the figures really look like.

Compared to 2017, Pledges and Identified Offerings for 2018 increased by \$1,365. Total General Fund Income for the quarter increased by only \$700. So, yes, offerings are up a little, but other sources of income are down a little.

Now let's look at expenses. Total General Fund expenses are also up for the quarter: by \$1,570. Most of that increase has been in utility expenses with gas for the church up by \$1,400; oil for the Parish Hall up by \$880; and plowing up by \$810. It has been a cold winter with many storms and we are paying the price!

Spring may be right around the corner, but with snow in mid-April, who knows?! We ended the month of March with a negative balance in the checkbook. April is looking very tight also. Maybe some warm weather and sunshine will lift our spirits and fill the coffers!

Jan McMullen, Treasurer



**INSIDE BEAUTIFICATION
WORK DAY
MAY 5TH**

**9AM- NOON
MANY HANDS
LIGHT WORK**

Have you ever deeply craved the feeling of genuine heartfelt connection with other women? Have you wondered where a place is that you can go and be yourself in your struggles and successes, trials, tribulations, and endeavors of parenthood, relationship, career, caregiving, spirituality, and all that is involved in the bucket carrying of your life? Come fill your bucket at the well of friendship and faith.



Women at the Well

A new opportunity to be in community and support with one another, in faith, fun and friendship

Come join in the new women's ministry at First Congregational Church of Eliot

First Wednesday of the month at 6PM starting in May.

Listen, Lean and Learn.

Rest. Renew and Recharge.

Please feel free to invite other women that you think might want to be connected in this way.

All women are welcome to this new community opportunity of support and spirituality.

Our June July and August dates for meeting together have yet to be decided.

NO RSVP is needed but Beth would love to hear if you are thinking about making this a part of your time in your life of faith and hope. Hospitality will be smoother if we can get a general count. Thanks!

603-620-5348