

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

PASTOR: REV. DR. BETH HOFFMAN

Inviting

Loving

Serving

PAPER BAG AUCTION

A FUN FUNDRAISER

WHAT >

A live auction event where each bag is kept a secret until bidding. Any new item or service or adventure should have a value of at least 15 dollars and could be a lot more.

HOW >

Pick up an empty paper bag from organizers. Put something really good inside and with a value estimate. If it is an experience, put it on paper. Come to the auction and watch it raise some excitement and some fun funds!

WHO >

YOU! Bring a bag and the content information to the auctioneer and his assistant by June 11. And come bid!

WHEN >

AUCTION
JUNE 12 6PM

BROWN BAG AUCTION



June 12 at 6PM

Fellowship Hall
First Congregational Church of Eliot

WELCOME NEW DEACONS

Shelby Grondin-Bushe

Linda Gove

Jan McMullen

Jeffrey Pelkey

George Salzer

Laurie Troy

Lisa Marshall

Mark Dodge

Lauren Small

Dayle Shiverick

Sandy Norris



FEEDING FORWARD 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 JUNE 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.



**. ALL ARE
WELCOME.**

**ALL ARE
INVITED.**

ALL ARE LOVED.

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Fellowship Hour

3 Peggy Gray and Robin Wheeler
 10 Rob and Sonya Quinn
 17 Richard and Joan Donhauser
 24 Tyler and Lauren Small

Ushers

3 Jennifer Swanson and Nancy Hoyt
 10 JAn McMullen and Jean Paulantonio
 17 Sonya Quinn and Joan Pelkey
 24 Jan Spinney and Sue Beattie

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.

Liturgist

3 Pastor Beth and MID Sandy Norris
 10 Jeffrey Pelkey and Justin Pelkey
 17 Dave Caswell
 24 Loraine Boyer

Deacon of the Month

Sandy Norris

Sanctuary Steward

Linda Gove



BIRTHDAYS

1 - Pam Lankford
 9 - Carolyn Bogh
 10 - Amelia Bonafede
 11 - Alex Marshall
 12 - Sherri Anderson-Wormwood
 17 - Gary Berg
 18 - Kirsten Berg
 18 - Fran Hartford
 19 - Michael Eldredge
 20 - Diane Burbank
 20 - Zach Donhauser
 21 - Sal Colella
 24 - David Beattie
 27 - Linda Downey
 27 - Liam Quinn
 30 - Freya Colella

ANNIVERSARIES

2 - Mark & Beth Hoffman
 8 - Bob & Nancy Hundley
 15 - Rod and Faith Follum
 17 - Fran & Sally Hartford
 29 - John & Susan Downey
 29 - Keith & Sheryl Goodnough

LADIES CIRCLE

On Wednesday May 2ndth 15 ladies met at **12:30**. Lots and Lots of small items were brought in to be put into small bags for Mother's Day .for Footprints.

19 School Mission Kits and 52 Health Kits were put together this year and have been taken to Portland to be taken to Church World service.

A few of the ladies are still knitting helmet liners for the service men. Dot Edson has set a goal for herself to make 100. She has done 73 so far!!!

Ladies voted \$50 again this year to be donated to Amigos (Feeding Forward).

The Thrift Shop will be open twice a week two weeks of each month from now until October. Help is needed both to sort and price items and work on the days we are open.

On June 6, Dot Edson and Nancy Hoyt will have refreshments .

We are to bring small items to be given to the Pease Greeters, During the month of June, we will be asking church members to help as in the past.

THRIFT SHOP

OPEN

Thursday June 7 and June 21

3 PM – 6 PM

Saturday June 9 and 23 9:00-Noon.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

*Donate items for "Care Packages"
sent to our troops!*

Pease Greeters are a group of volunteers that meet troop flights returning from and going to the Middle East at Pease. In addition to greeting flights, they also coordinate sending care packages to troops overseas. Packages are sent monthly and items are collected throughout the year. During the month of June, we will be collecting small items. In the past few years we have averaged over 300 items plus cash.

Some of the suggested items include:

Toiletry items, 8 oz or travel size. No aerosol cans.

Chapsticks, Hand sanitizer, deodorant, aspirin, Tylenol, razors, eye drops, bug wipes, Inner soles, foot powder, sunscreen, Handi wipes, Flip flops, shave Gel in tubes, White socks(mid calf or boot), Sanitary items,mouthwash.

Food Items, individually packed to share:

Hard candy, Dried fruit, raisins, granola bars, Slim Jims, Crystal Light (On the go drink size), cookies, nuts, Microwave Popcorn, Gum, Beef Jerky, Pop Tarts.

FUN STUFF:

Yo-Yo's, Playing cards, baseballs, Dice, Frisbees,



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8am Exercise	2
3 8:30 Choir Worship 10am Communion	4 7pm Craft Group	5	6 12:30pm Ladies Circle 6pm <i>Women at the Well</i> 1-7pm Banjo Lessons	7 8am Exercise Thrift Shop 3-6pm 4-7 Bluegrass	8 8am Exercise (last one for summer)	9 Thrift Shop 9am-Noon
10 8:30 Choir Worship 10am 11:15 <i>Congre- gational Meeting</i>	11 7pm Craft Group	12 6pm Brown Bag Auction and Potluck supper	13 10-2 Senior Citizens 1-7pm Banjo Lessons	14 12-3:30 Garden Club 4-7 Bluegrass	15	16
17 Worship 10am Finance 11:30	18 7pm Craft Group	19 6pm Council	20 1-7pm Banjo Lessons	21  Thrift Shop 3-6pm 4-7 Bluegrass	22	23 Thrift Shop 9am-Noon
24 8:30 Choir Worship 10am C.E. 11:30	25 7pm Craft Group	26	27 1-7pm Banjo Lessons	28 4-7 Bluegrass	29	30



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

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.

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

Please feel free to invite 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.

NEXT DATE at the WELL: JUNE 6



FEATURE DEACON



SHELBY GRONDIN-BUSHE

Even though I was born in Concord and raised in Rochester, New Hampshire, my ties to Eliot, Maine have been lifelong, as my father (Rodney Grondin) taught music at Marshwood High School from 1962 to 1993. I would spend April vacations with him there – Sally Hartford taught me how to type!

I have been so blessed by my FCCE family. You welcomed me with warm, open arms, and finally after almost three years, I am getting to know more and more of you. I am honored to serve as one of your Deacons, sing in your choir, teach in your Sunday school, and most recently join the Women at the Well group. In three short years, FCCE has strengthened my relationship with God and with myself. I truly believe it has helped me to become a better person. I have never felt this way about a Church, and I have been to a few. I am so grateful!

Pastor Beth invited me to take this opportunity to let you get to know me better, so here goes ... I am a lucky woman – I have two jobs that I truly love. I am a full-time Paralegal at sklawyers in Stratham, New Hampshire, and I am also an author. I have always loved to read and it naturally progressed into writing. I took

a writing class in 2013, and my first assignment was to write the first five pages of a novel I've always wanted to write. Those five pages are the first five pages of "Lost and Found," a historical fiction novel about a Holocaust survivor in present-day. Elizabeth came to America and started a new life, blocking out her past overseas. After the recent death of her husband, William, everything is a trigger, and eventually the secret she has kept from her family is revealed. The book is about a reunion, guilt, forgiveness and acceptance and most importantly, family.

After writing about that heavy subject, I wrote a children's book called "My New Home," which is the story about my dog Isabel's journey from Tennessee to New Hampshire. That is the first book of a series, the second book is with the illustrator so she can do her magic. Newly released "Patchwork" is a collection of 22 short stories. The first story is called "Behind the Glass" which is about an execution. To make the story more authentic, I became a pen pal with a death row inmate, Daniel Irish, at Angola in Louisiana.

The story is not about Daniel, but he was instrumental in helping me describe the facility, the schedule and what it's like to be on death row. The stories are about social issues that I have always been interested in and put a fictional twist on them. Another story, "Finding Him," is about a man's renewed relationship with God, and "Not What I Expected" is actually a true story about my journey with Bipolar Disorder. My latest book, "Wildflowers" is the sequel to "Lost and Found," and should be in print by the end of the summer. As you can see, I am very passionate about my writing!

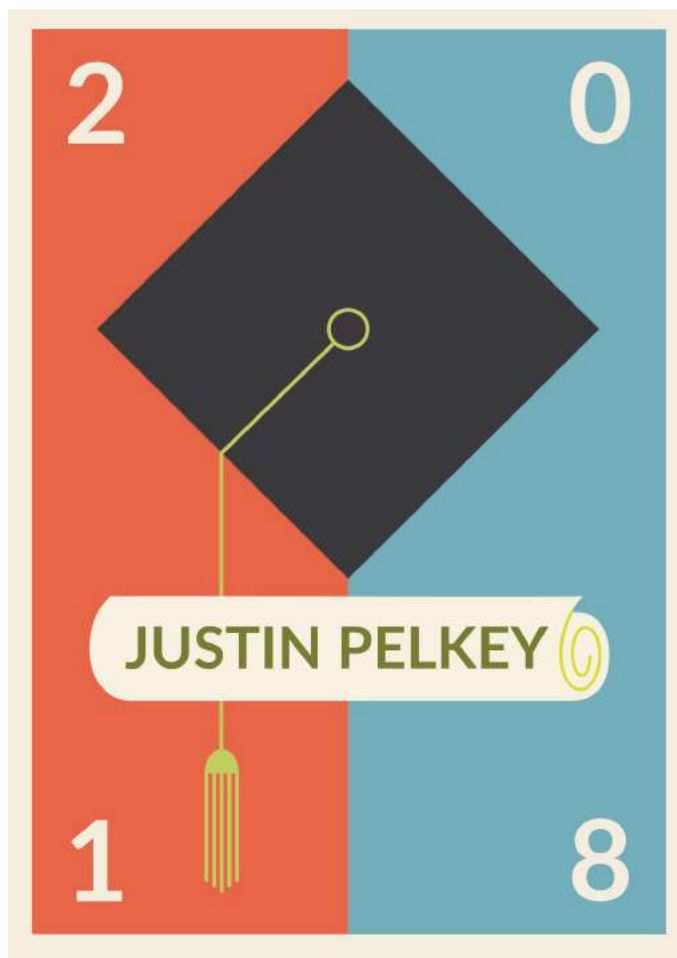
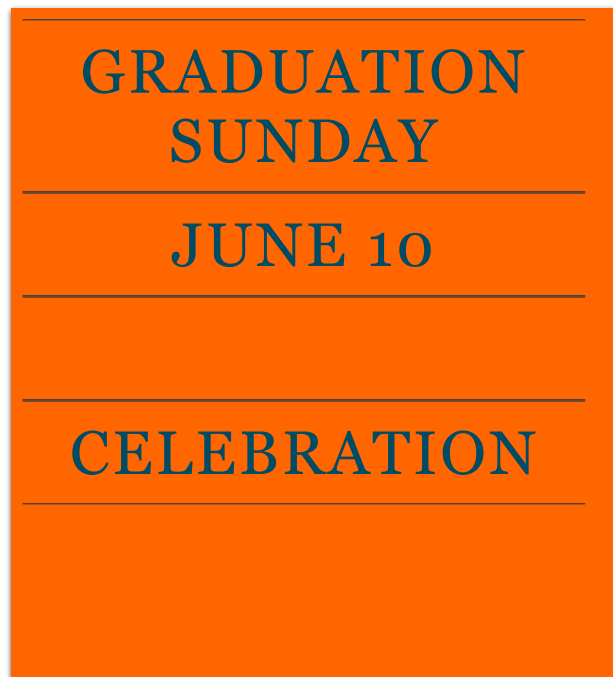
Most of you have met my beautiful and talented daughter, Emily, by far my greatest accomplishment. She is just about to turn 29, and she teaches middle school orchestra and Seacoast Charter School. She is a breath of

fresh air, she has a heart of gold, and I am so (Feature Deacon Continued) of her. She enjoys coming to FCCE and playing her violin and singing for you!

My husband, Rick has attended FCCE a couple of times, and he is a mail carrier in Rochester. Not an easy job by any means. I also have an older brother, Craig, who lives with his wife Blanca in Costa Rica. He comes home at Christmas every couple of years and we talk on the phone every week.

So that's me, in a nutshell. I look forward to getting to know you better as well, and again, thank you for your generous and inspirational spirits, I can't tell you how much it means to me to be a member of our Church family. I invite you to reach out to me if there is anything I can help you with as a Deacon, even if it's a simple prayer request. My email is violinmom68@gmail.com and my cell phone is

(603) 312-2634. Shelby Grondin-Bushe (pen name Shelby June)



Notice of Congregational Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the First Congregational Church of Eliot, UCC to discuss the physical condition of our church properties and to determine the future of our parsonage building.

Years of deferred maintenance have left the parsonage in a severe state of disrepair, and we are now at a crisis point. The exterior of the church and parish hall buildings are in need of significant attention as well.

Immediate action is required to address this situation. Several options are under consideration including, but not limited to, the following:

- Sale of the parsonage
- Equity loan on parsonage to fund repairs
- Equity loan on parsonage to rehab building into two units
- Sale of our house lot to generate funds for repairs
- Capital campaign
- Grant applications

The meeting will be held in the sanctuary at 1361 State Road in Eliot, ME on June 10th at 11AM following worship.

At the conclusion of the meeting a vote will be held to determine how we will proceed.

We ask that you make every attempt to attend this very important meeting.

Thank you,

Eliot Congregational Church Property Board