

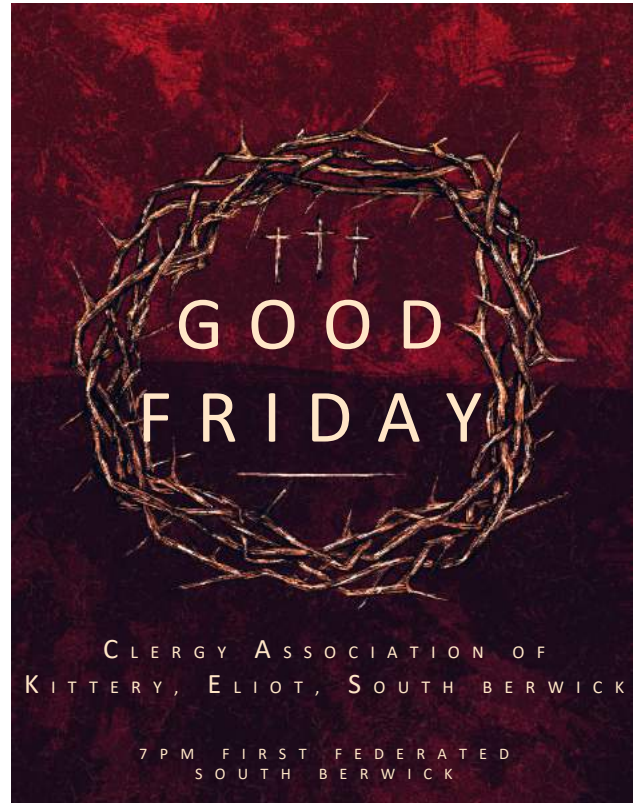
THE ECHO

First Congregational Church of Eliot
United Church of Christ



APRIL 18 6:30PM SANCTUARY

Maundy —THURSDAY—



Pastor's Page

The sacred is in the ordinary...it is to be found in one's daily life, in one's neighbors, friends, and family, in one's own backyard...travel may be a flight from confronting the scared--this lesson can be easily lost. To be looking elsewhere for miracles is to me a sure sign of ignorance that everything is miraculous."

— Abraham Maslow

Some might say that as a pastor, a chaplain and as a student of scripture that I have a job that works with the sacred stuff. You might be thinking of the Bible, the bread and the cup of Holy Communion. Or you might be saying that the baptismal font and the paraments and cloths of the sanctuary are the sacred things. You would be right of course but there is more. Oh, so much more.

And recently when I came into the fellowship hall and saw the tables set up for hospitality hour for after our Ash Wednesday service taking place in a few hours and I was transfixed. There was the sacred.

The space seemed perfect in its set up. Familiar and yet new. Just tables and yet...

They were angled and covered in gray and purple. Chairs were tucked and at the center of the six long rectangles, a circle table. My eye and my heart were equally caught up in the symmetry and the care that had been given to set the scene of welcome. It all seemed holy. It gave me such joy and a little bit of a shiver. That is the sacred stuff.

The little details that bring joy, that bring comfort, that blanket the hard and bring sparkle to the sorrowful things. That is the sacred too. Not just the oils of anointing, or the hymns of our grandmother but also the hug of recognition, the little one who sings in the church bathroom while washing his hands, the mittens knitted for the fair, the muffins secretly left on the pew for someone else. These are the sacred things too.

A raindrop on a leaf, an owl in the tree near the sanctuary, the rocking chair in the church for the nursing mother, the dog who sits quietly by the piano and brings a smile to a new visitor or an old member, these are the sacred things.

So many small details that we are gifted each day and the art of turning a table and building a welcoming space with colors of the season was a sacred thing. The care and craft in which the scene of hospitality was set, took my breath away.

And that is a most sacred thing as well. What takes your breath away?

Everything is miraculous. Come sit at that intentionally turned table with me. You sit with me.

And I will sit with you.

And we will recognize the sacred together!

Love and grace,

Beth

Ladies Circle

For our February 6 meeting at 11:30. each one brought a sandwich for their lunch and dessert was provided by Nancy Hundley. Ladies brought in small items for the 26 Valentine's Day gift bags that were put together for ladies at Footprints. A letter of appreciation has been received. On March 6th 15 ladies went to lunch at Norma's in York. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday April 3 at 12:30. We will be bringing in paper products for Footprints. Helen Searles and Alice Tobey will have refreshments and devotions.

The Monday Night Craft Group met on March 11th at 6 p.m. with 9 members for a Pot Luck Supper and discussion about the fair both past and future.

In March there was a day of cleaning and arranging of racks and tables in the Thrift Shop. We are now meeting every Monday morning at 9 a.m. to sort the things that have come in. Helpers are always appreciated.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop opening is (April 20).We are now looking for items to sell.

Such as:Men, Women and children clothing
Curtains, drapes, tablecloths
Sheets, pillowcases, blankets and quilts
Books, small toys and games,
Kitchen items, etc. frames and pictures
Shoes in excellent condition.
Please NO large appliances, TVs,
Baby Furniture

If any questions ask Jane Spinney
439-2790

Leadership Breakfast

WHO: Anyone who identifies themselves as a leader in our congregation or wants to take a role in leadership going forward. Includes board and committee and team leaders but is not exclusive. Please come if you feel called.

WHY: A chance to come together and share information and ideas that move the church always forward in discipleship and devotion to God. We all work in our own circles here at FCCE. This is a chance to make a big circle, together. Communication is critical.

WHEN: 9-10:30AM SATURDAY April 13 in the fellowship hall. YOU MUST RSVP with Pastor Beth if you plan to attend. This is so there is a plate and a place for you.

WHAT: Breakfast will be an assigned potluck and conversation will be facilitated by our pastor. We will end promptly at 10:30AM , even if we are in mid sentence.

HOW: With God's grace and with your commitment!

RSVP to bhoffman@metrocast.net or text 603-620-5348 and make a suggestion as to what you might bring to the table.



Thank You

To The Congregation,

All the volunteers at Footprints would like to thank you for the very generous donation of Soup from “Souper Sunday”. This is a wonderful idea to encourage folks to contribute to a need that continues to persist in our community- food insecurity. We currently serve 103-108 families each week, with many small children. Soup is a simple, yet warming gift to many on a cold day. And January is the perfect time of year to be able to offer a wide variety of soup. At Footprints, each and every donation has a positive impact on the lives of our recipients and of our community.

Footprints is a non-profit food pantry run entirely by volunteers. It is a caring community, such as yours, that enable us to keep serving those needing a helping hand. Please accept our very warm appreciation for your thoughtful support.

I love this idea! I have never heard of “Souper Sunday”. Thank you so much for thinking of us.

Sincerely,
Karen Brown
Executive Director
Footprints Food Pantry

Christian Education

Hey Friends!

March was great with Laurie Troy, Diane Hair, Rachel Roberge, Mark and Gabe Hoffman teaching our adventure classes. Now we are starting to think and talk about Pilgrim Lodge and at the end of May we will go back for our Church retreat. Sign up to sign up to come and your friends are welcome! Pilgrimlodge.org

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. Pastor Beth invites all kids to stay in worship and play quietly and to participate in the celebration of our faith. We are already planning the 2019- 2020 Adventure units of learning. We are looking for leaders but also unit theme ideas. Give me a shout! No idea too wacky or weird. In the mean time, mark your calendar for May 19th as that 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! We are getting close to having the pastor kiss a goat!

Big thanks to Simon Roberson for making the year extra fun.

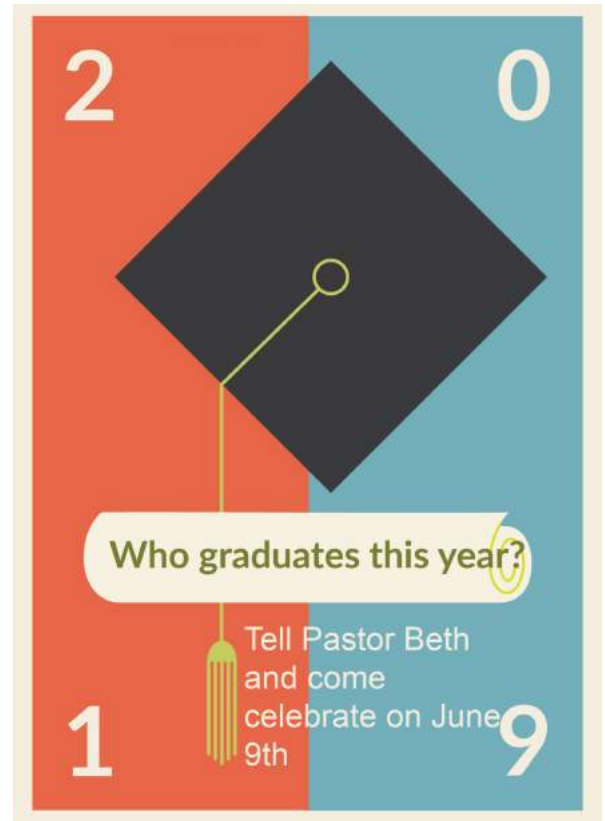
**Keep Learning, Church!- Lydia Hoffman,
Director of Education**



Looking Ahead

- April 28** Jeffrey Pelkey preaches
May 5 Pilgrim Lodge Camp Sunday
Holy Communion
May 11- Spring Plant Sale
May 12 The Sacrament of Baptism
May 19- Children's Sunday
May 26- Church Retreat at Pilgrim Lodge
June 9 Graduation Sunday
Affirmation Celebration
Holy Communion

July and August: Summer worship begins at 9:30 and each Sunday is intergenerational as our Adventure program ends at Memorial Day and resumes in September,



Spring Plant Sale



**Just in time for
Mother's Day!**

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2019

Hours: 9:00am to 12:00pm

**Location: 266 Bolt Hill Road,
Eliot, Maine**

**Sponsored by: the First Congregational
Church of Eliot, UCC**

**(All proceeds go to the ministries
of the church)**

For more info: 207-439-1105

SUNDAY SERVANTS

April

Fellowship Hosts

Fellowship Coordinator -Jane Spinney

7 Nancy Hoyt

14 Peggy Gray and Robin Wheeler

21 The Deacons

28 Jen Swanson and Sonya Quinn

Ushers

7 Sonya and Rob Quinn

14 Palm Sunday! Lauren Cultrera Small and Hailey Lonergan

21 EASTER! Jeff and Julie Pelkey, Justin Pelkey and Mark Hoffman

28 Linda Downey and Laurie Troy

Liturgists

7 Sandy Norris, Member in Discernment

14 Pastor Beth

21 George Salzer

28 Jeffrey Pelkey

Sunday School Leaders

Theme: *Church Camp is Crazy Cool!*

7 Simon Roberson and Lydia Hoffman

14 Family Worship- Palm Sunday

21 Family Worship- Palm Sunday

28 Simon Roberson and Lydia Hoffman

Deacon of the Month

George Salzer

Lead Greeter

Doris Grover

Sanctuary Steward

Linda Gove and Jan McMullen



BIRTHDAYS

April 3	-	Nancy Hoyt
April 6	-	Rod Follum
April 7	-	Jessica Christian
April 8	-	Sally Hartford
April 10	-	John Downey
April 11	-	Carole Shirk
April 12	-	Norma Marshall
April 16	-	John Marshall
April 22	-	Marilyn Hamm-Bland
April 23	-	Chris Gray
April 24	-	Silas Bersin
April 28	-	Nancy Cultrera
April 30	-	Eleanor DeWildt

ANNIVERSARIES

April 14 - Dick and Dot Edson

**Don't forget to wear
your Easter bonnet to
worship on the 21st**



April 2019

First Congregational Church of Eliot, UCC
www.eliotucc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7pm Craft Group	2	3 12:30am Ladies Circle 1-7pm Banjo Lessons <i>7pm Lenten Service at 2nd Christian Kittery</i>	4 8am Exercise 4-7 Bluegrass 6:30 CHOIR	5 8am Exercise	6 <i>Hall Reserved 12-5</i>
7 <i>Lent V</i> 8:30am Choir Worship 10am <i>Holy Communion</i>	8 7pm Craft Group	9	10 11:30am Sr. Citizens 1-7pm Banjo Lessons <i>7pm Lenten Service at Eliot Methodist</i>	11 8am Exercise 11-3:30 Garden Club 4-7 Bluegrass	12 8am Exercise	13 <i>Leadership Breakfast 9-1030am</i>
14 <i>Palm Sunday Lent VI</i> 8:30am Choir Worship 10am	15 ECHO ITEMS DUE 7pm Craft Group	16 6pm Council	17 1-7pm Banjo Lessons 6:30 CHOIR	18 8am Exercise 4-7 Bluegrass Maundy Thursday	19 8am Exercise <i>Good Friday Service at SB Federated Church 7pm</i>	20 <i>Thrift Shop Opening Day & Bake Sale 9-Noon</i>
21 EASTER <i>6am Sunrise Service at Kittery Point UCC</i> 10am Family 5:30am Sunrise	22 7pm Craft Group	23	24 1-7pm Banjo Lessons	25 6:30 pm 8am Exercise 4-7 Bluegrass	26 8am Exercise	27
28 Worship 10am	29 7pm Craft Group	30				