



First Congregational Church of Eliot  
United Church of Christ  
Rev. Dr. Beth Hoffman, Pastor

# The Echo

May 2019

## From Pastor Beth

**If you want to be reminded of the Love of God, just watch the sunrise.**

This year Easter Sunrise was super, extra early and I found myself leaving my home at 4AM and thinking about all of you and how you are the thing I would get up at a godly hour for. My very favorite thing. And as I drove over the General Sullivan Bridge and made my way to the cemetery in Kittery Point and raced to the story of the empty tomb, I thought about how everything that has ever had me up at this sunrise godly hour. All really intense stuff happens when I am awake to race the sun.

- The 4 O'clock feeding of my new born children.
- To tuck the kids back into bed after an early morning nightmare.
- To be with a family in need in the emergency room.
- To catch a plane for an exciting vacation to a new land.
- To answer a first responders call as chaplain for a structure fire.
- To write down an unexpected sermon idea that shows up at dawn.
- To drive to the hospital in Boston to wait for my father as he gets the mechanics for a new and working heart.
- To answer the phone when one of you call with a broken heart and in need of prayer.
- To race to the tomb and see that Christ has Risen, indeed.

Please, call any godly hour (that's all of them), you all are my favorite, and if you want company when watching the sunrise, I'm your girl

*Pastor Beth*

## COMING UP at FCCE

- May 1** Ladies Circle
- May 5** Church Camp Celebration
- May 12** Sacrament of Baptism
- May 15** Women at the Well
- May 18** Plant Sale
- May 19** Children's Sunday
- May 24-26** Pilgrim Lodge Retreat
- June 9** Affirmation Celebration and Graduation Sunday and All Church Birthday Cake Day!
- June 13** Bread and Bowl Luncheon



## Where Will I Sit?

*Janice Bowden (church member)*

On Sunday morning, at an early hour,  
It's time to rise and shine.  
And get yourself together,  
To be at the church on time.

Most folks seen real happy,  
As we meet and say, "Hello."  
When you enter through the first door.  
We all know where we'll go.

Most everyone sits in the same spot,  
Week in and week out.  
But, if someone else sits there,  
We certainly shouldn't pout.

Why are we creatures of habit?  
To sit in the same pew all the time.  
If we sat somewhere else would it really  
be a crime?

Of course we know it wouldn't,  
So just begin your day.  
Come, sit down wherever,  
The main thing is to PRAY.



## The Face of Ministry

On the occasion of celebrating our veterans, Pastor Beth gave dove pins to all who served and who worked so hard for peace. The dove being a symbol of peace in many cultures, was for each of the servicemen and women to affix to their lapels, like a medal. Our young children partnered with the vets of our church and awarded them this honor with our thanks and appreciation. Barb Sullivan along with her beloved, George Seward, took that moment and turned it into a whole discipleship ministry of recognition and appreciation in the wider community.

This is a look at that good work, in their own words here.

"The white dove pin was introduced as a "wish for peace" and I guess you know that got Barb and George thinking. So I said to Pastor Beth, "May I have a few of those?" George and I have coffee clicque with the area veterens every Tuesday morning at Dunkin Donuts, and now there are many veterens sporting the white dove of peace. Every one we give comes with a little speech, saying "This is from Barb, George, Pastor Beth and the Congregational Church of Eliot. The vets are mosrt appreciative and wear them everyday. I had to ask the pastor for more white doves! The third Tuesday of every month a veteran luncheon is held at a dfferent place with different resterauntsserving food. Everything is free and served by volunteers. Vets are bused in and there is beautiful music with dancing and singing. At a recent luncheon, I saw a female veteran and I told her about the white dove ritual. She asked, " I am Catholic, does that make a diefference?" We had a great laugh.Our church gives to all. At the fish fry at the Elks club, I gave two more doves to servicemen who were 98 and 100 years old! I sure need more white doves for next time!

-Barb Sullivan

\*If you would like to donate to the white dove ministry, Pastor Beth orders them for George and Barb and will accept support for that purchase anytime.

## LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST LEFTOVERS

April 13, 2019

Present: Lydia Hoffman, Mark Hoffman, George Salzer, Anne Salzer, Jeffrey Pelkey, Jan McMullen, Jane Spinney, Dayle Shiverick, Shelby Grondin-Bushe, Linda Gove, Lisa Marshall, Kristina Goodwin, Jean Paulantonio and Pastor Beth

**Group Discussion** of what words describe our church community: Welcoming, diverse, hopeful, a mini congregation of kids, creative, never boring, brave, smart, “Our old people are not old!” inclusive, respectful, inviting, mission focused, healing, and intergenerational were a few of the words.

### The Life of the Church

**Out of the Shadows Update:** The board has reconstituted and is now moving forward with good things. The upstairs classroom space will be updated and transformed into a space for both learning and healing. The focus of OOTS will now be mental health and healing related to substance use disorder prevention and suicide prevention and survivors. Sheri Anderson-Wormwood is leading us in this design of space. An early winter conference is being imagined to support faith communities in becoming more invested and supportive in mental health awareness and healing.

**Parsonage Sale Update:** *See next page*

**Capital Campaign:** We need to begin! The buildings won't hold out much longer. 60K per building is needed for sure. We should work with a consulting group and choose church leaders for this effort.

**Open and Affirming Plus:** There was a powerful discussion of how so many people are being hurt by churches and the actions of exclusion. The latest struggle with the Methodist churches has led a lot of people to call our church and ask if we invited and included LGBTQ people. Of course we do! And we also have wonderful people of this community leading our community. We are already Open and Affirming in so many ways, we just haven't created a formal statement saying so. Lydia Hofman spoke up and said we need shepherds to lead us through the process and volunteered to be a part of that good work. We also agreed that ONA also needed to include invitation of diverse ability, political point of view, race and theology. George S, Dayle S. Shelby G, and Kenzie G also volunteered. Others are encouraged to reach out to Lydia to be a shepherd as we educate, celebrate and advocate!



# We Need You!

### What is a Capital Campaign?

A capital campaign is part of the financial trinity of financial support by church members and friends to the ministries and mission of the church. The other two sources of support are annual pledges and planned giving. The purpose of a capital campaign is generally very specific and typically building related, though capital campaigns have been conducted to support specific mission projects, to fund endowments and for other church projects. More often mission and other purposes will be added onto a campaign initially launched for a building-related purpose. Capital campaigns combine giving from both the accumulated assets and the annual income of church members and friends. A capital campaign is a major event in the life of a church, often of historic significance. A capital campaign is a faith defining moment in the life of the congregation. The questions “who are we?” “what are we about?” and “what is our purpose?” are raised and answered. The project becomes understood in the context of how it advances the mission of the church. Monetary gifts may be pledges, estate giving, portfolio sharing or one time large contributions.

# PROPERTY AND PARSONAGE

We have accepted an offer for \$220,000 cash and the closing is expected this summer. Prayers of appreciation for all that are working on this and prayers of hope that all goes well.

Lisa Marshall is working on the buff and shine of the Fellowship Hall with Jeffrey Pelkey.

Additional thanks to Jeff Pelkey for his donation and energy in getting upper parking lot and the walkway paved and looking amazing!

Mark Hoffman recently replaced lights in the upstairs and downstairs back hallways in the sanctuary building.

## THRIFT SHOP OPEN

MAY 2 & 4  
May 16 & 18

Please NO large appliances, TVs, Baby Furniture. If any questions ask Jane Spinney 439-2790

## LADIES CIRCLE

On Wednesday April 3, 13 ladies met for our monthly meeting. They brought in lots of paper products for Footprints. Helen Searles and Alice Tobey had refreshments and devotions.

For our May 1st meeting the Ladies will be bringing in small items for the Mother's Day gift bags that we will be putting together for ladies at Footprints. They are always very appreciated. Dot Edson and Nancy Hoyt will have devotions and refreshments.

June is when start collecting items for the Care packages that we send to the Pease Greeters. We will be asking the church as a whole to help us as we have done in the past. The Monday Night Craft Group continues to meet every Monday night at 7 P.M.

## PILGRIM LODGE WEEKEND

Our annual retreat to Pilgrim Lodge will again be on Memorial Day weekend, May 24, 25 and 26,. The weekend is a great time, with canoeing, hiking, swimming, ping pong, singing, playing games, and our worship service at the lakeside Chapel and more. Extra excitement is connected with 2019 as we will have PL staff cooking all the meals and providing new and exciting programing that has never been available to us before.

### NEW!

For more information and to register go to [Pilgrimlodge.org](https://www.pilgrimlodge.org) and click on Homecoming Weekend I. <https://www.pilgrimlodge.org/camps/homecoming-weekend-1/>

**Pastor Beth is really hoping you will join her on the edge of the lake at in this incredibly divine place!**



## **SUNDAY SERVANTS for MAY**

### **FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:**

- 5 Joan Pelkey and Doris Grover
- 12 Ann Bailey and Jan McMullen
- 19 Laurie Troy and Loretta Downey
- 26 No fellowship hour on Memorial Weekend

### **USHERS:**

- 5 Dick McKenney and Duane Bateman
- 12 Richard and Joan Donhauser
- 19 Peggy Gray and Robin Wheeler
- 26 Brad and Jen Swanson

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS:**

- 5 Church Camp Sunday
- 12 Simon and Lydia
- 19 Children's Sunday
- 26 Pilgrim Lodge Retreat

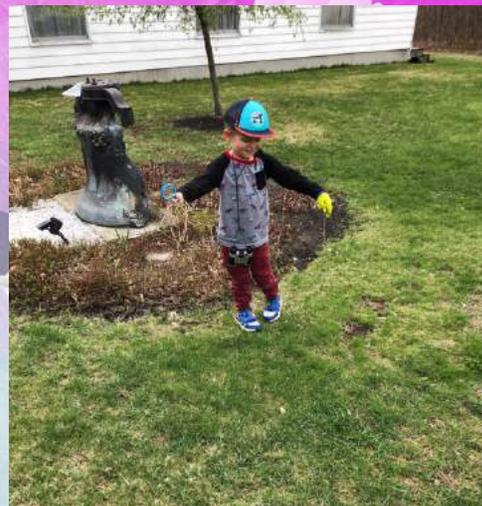
**DEACON OF THE MONTH:** Jeffrey Pelkey

### **LITURGISTS:**

- 5 Lydia Hoffman
- 12 Jeffrey Pelkey
- 19 The children and youth of the church
- 26 George Salzer and Lisa Marshall

**LEAD GREETER:** Doris Grover

**SANCTUARY STEWARD:** Linda Gove and Jan McMullen



*Thanks to Peggy Gray, Russ McMullen and Linda Downey who came out on Work Day. And Thanks to Logan (pictured) who came back on his own to clean up his church on Earth Day*

## **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



## Avengers, Assemble!

A recent box office hit of superheroes had a fun storyline that reminds us that working together as a team is everything good when trying to save the world. In our own way here at FCCE we are Avengers for good work in the world. Coming together is one of our best strengths. **On June 9<sup>th</sup> we will have a special affirmation Sunday for all those people who might like to join our church community in covenant.** Doubters and believers, both! This is also a special invitation to all our high schoolers and young adults. It's time to assemble Avengers! The future is counting on you! Please talk to the pastor if this is your time!

## Spring Plant Sale

Saturday,

May 18, 2019

8am-12pm

266 Bolt Hill Rd.

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

**Church Birthday Celebration Sunday on June 9!** Pastor Beth invites everyone to fellowship hour as we sing happy birthday to everyone. We all sit at the cake table of the month we belong to. Would you like to make a cake for one of the months? Talk to Beth. Creativity is encouraged and appreciated. Could the July cake be red, white and blue and November a turkey?

**May** 2019

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

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