

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

REV. DR. BETH HOFFMAN, PASTOR

LISA MARSHALL, MUSIC DIRECTOR

THE ECHO

*First Congregational Church of Eliot
United Church of Christ*

1361 State Road, Eliot Maine 03903 eliotucc.org



PASSION and PALMS

Pastor Beth Hoffman and Lisa Marshall, music director, are in search of people to bring Palm Sunday to life in word and song.

Would you like to lend your voice in acting, singing or the costume and set design?

Then April 5th is your Sunday to help bring the story of God to life as we enter into Holy Week.

There are speaking parts, and singing parts to be had.

Come be a part of something amazing.

Be sure to tell Beth you are interested in something special.

Mark your calendar now!

This Sunday is always a powerful worship service.

LENTEN WATERMELON

When I think of Lent, I think of watermelon. Yes I said watermelon. When my daughter Lydia was about 4 she would enjoy going up with her pastor to hear the children's message. That year he told the kids that among other things, that he was giving up watermelon for Lent. Lydia was fascinated by this gigantic sacrifice and had no notion he was being humorous. She took his sacrifice very seriously and counted down the weeks of Lent until her pastor could have watermelon again. Of course she didn't realize that it was a summer food and not a lenten sacrifice.

The following Lent, she marched right up and asked if he would be giving up watermelon again. He had made a connection with her and she had made a connection to Lent. Ritual, practice and expectation of a familiar story, that Lenten watermelon and the story of its sacrifice came to be something she expected each year.

Now she is a adult and has long known that it is no big deal to give up the summer fruit in the deep of winter, but still she wonders out loud if her childhood pastor is talking about it once again. Ritually living into the season of Lent, even if it is through the memory of a children's story, gives her a sense of the season and it's timing in the church life. She has been imprinted with watermelon and her faith is fuller for it. Of course I think of other things too when I ponder the season of Lent.

. I know lots of things from lots of books but it is the "watermelon moments" that really sink me deep into the beautiful shadows of the Lenten journey. it is the feel of the ashes on my forehead to the special purple cloth on the pulpit, the waving of the palms or the dark shadows of Good Friday worship, I have been imprinted with those deep images of this season that includes sacrifice, repentance and journey. Perhaps our faith has a kind of muscle memory. We respond and grow through the practices we are taught even before we know we are doing important exercises. Many of these we experience for the first time as adults: a striking new hymn, a love of a new banner, a devotional book.. I love the ivy that we place in our sanctuary during Lent. I see that ivy and I feel more deeply the wandering growth that is our Lenten walk.

Like Lydia and her watermelon, we also have some deep imprints from childhood. The black cloth on the cross is a particularly powerful one for me, as I would sit next to my father and we would imagine that we Jesus on Good Friday. .

How about you? What are your imprinting memories of Lent? Are they old and deep or fresh and new? Are you leaning into Lent with all that you have and absorbing the season? Are you guiding young ones to have their own watermelon moments? Come share your thoughts with me and please come experience Lent and Holy Week through the many worship experiences offered: ritual, practice and expectation.

Come challenge yourself, even as you are comforted by the familiar story in this season of journeying to Jerusalem

. See you in church and on The Way

Beth

"Show me your hands. Do they have scars from giving? Show me your feet. Are they wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have you left a place for divine love?"

-Fulton Sheen





MAKE ONE TAKE ONE

Pastor Beth is hosting a monthly craft night for all who are interested (men and women). Come with 5 dollars for the materials and then make one to take home and make one to store away for Christmas Fair 2020. Let's begin now and give new life and spark to the well valued tradition of the fair. Good fellowship and good fun! Make one and take one on **Tuesday March 10 6PM**

The first house meeting is Sunday, March 8 at 3PM at the Pastor's home in Rochester NH

HOUSE MEETINGS START

Pastor Beth is looking for people to volunteer their home for one time for two hours. ideally this would be a wide variety of locations and time of day. She is hopeful to have some at night, some in the day on both weekday and weekend. We advertise the house gatherings, time and location and you choose one and go! RSVP to the first one on March 8th with Pastor Beth at her house.

With the Holy Spirit pouring the love of God into our hearts - we can share in some snacks for our body and spiritual food for our souls. This will be a time of sharing our joys and our concerns for the church and for the future of FCCE. It will be a casual, relaxed environment for you to connect with your pastor, each other as disciples of faith and perhaps, with yourself in new spiritual ways. Pastor Beth hopes to make more intimate connections with all of you, hear your stories and collect your ideas. In our tenth year together, let us come together and encourage one another.

LADIES CIRCLE

On February 5th, fourteen ladies met at 11:30 for hot soup and dessert of delicious brownies and ice cream provided by Nancy Hoyt and Janice Bowden. Many small items and candy was brought in by the ladies and we again put together 27 Valentine's Day bags for women at Footprints. Our next meeting will be on March 4 when we will go to Norma's in York for lunch. We will meet at the church at 11:00 to carpool. The next Monday Night Craft Group meeting will be March 9 for a Pot Luck Supper at 6 PM. Come with comments about the fair and new ideas.

For our April 1st meeting we will be bringing in Paper Products for Footprints. Our hostesses will be Doris Grover and Joan Pelkey.

THRIFT SHOP

There will be no Thrift Shop this year. PLEASE do not leave anything in the area. Because of lack of help, it was decided we would not open this year. If volunteer help becomes available we will consider opening again next spring.

CLEAN UP DAY

In February a hearty band of dedicated members and friends tackled the dust, the dirt, the grime and the leftovers of life in the fellowship hall and the results are amazing! It is now shiny bright and the spaces look spectacular.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Next, we take on the sanctuary in time for Easter! Come volunteer a few hours and let us celebrate the cleanliness is next to godliness!

SANCTUARY SHINE DAY
Coming Soon!
Stay tuned.

WOMEN AT THE WELL

FCCE has two vibrant women's fellowship groups and you are always invited to both. Women at the Well will meet at **6 pm on Wednesday, March 11th** in the fellowship hall.. RSVP to Pastor Beth or Lisa Marshall. Each gathering is meaningful and deeply supportive.

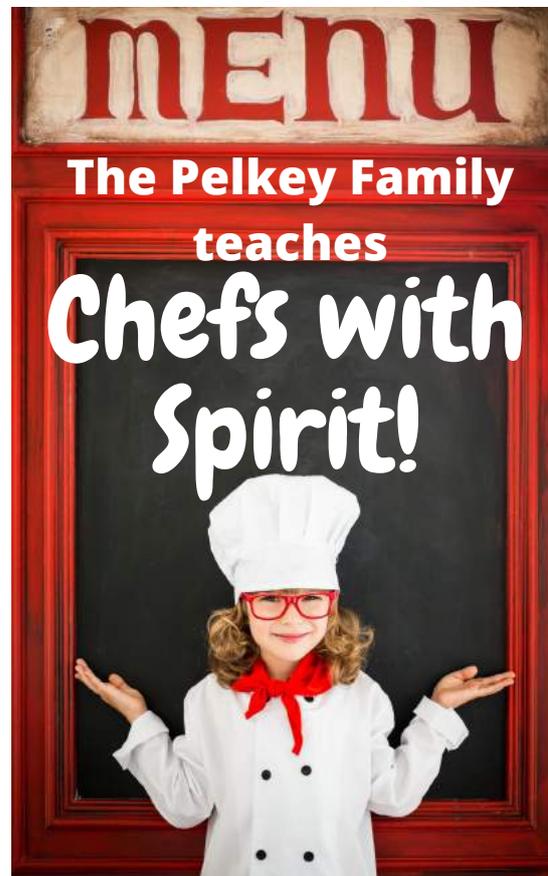
MISSION IN MARCH



Socks and Blankets

This month we are supporting the Community Warming Centers and the incredible need for blankets and socks. Blankets should be new or gently used on good shape. Socks should be new. Did you know that socks can be used on the street for all sorts of needs in addition to covering cold feet? Please fill the sanctuary laundry basket with socks and decorate the chancel rail with the blankets. All people should have the chance to be warm in the winter. Can you use your warm heart to make sure we can support the warming centers? Please and thank you. We can do this!

MARCH SUNDAY SCHOOL





Lent 2020
**BROKEN
AND
WHOLE**

**A SERMON SERIES
OF HEALING**

MARCH 1 WATERFALLS AND WILDERNESS

MARCH 8 GUT CHECK

MARCH 15 ANTIVENOM

MARCH 22 THE ROCKS IN OUR POCKETS

MARCH 29 JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

APRIL 5 A PLAY OF PASSION

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ELIOT
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

PREACHER: REV. DR. BETH HOFFMAN

SUNDAY SERVANTS

1
Liturgist : Pastor Beth
Sunday School: Lydia Hoffman
Ushers: Linda Downey and Laurie Troy
Fellowship Hour: Jane Spinney and Jean Paulantonio

8
Liturgist: Lisa Marshall
Sunday School: The Pelkey Family
Ushers: Richard and Joan Donhauser
Fellowship Hour: Cultrera Family

15
Liturgist:Laurie Troy
Sunday School: The Pelkey Family
Ushers: David and Paula Caswell
Fellowship Hour: Donhauser Family

22
Liturgist: Brad Swanson
Sunday School :The Pelkey Family
Ushers: Brad and Jen Swanson
Fellowship Hour:

29
Liturgist:Joey Cresta
Sunday School: The Pelkey Family
Ushers: Peggy Gray and Robin Wheeler
Fellowship Hour: Bobbie Gosselin Laura Shontag

Sanctuary Steward: Linda Gove
Lead Greeter: Doris Grover
Deacon of the Month: Linda Gove

BIRTHDAYS

6 - Jennifer Pelkey
7 - Rob Quinn
8 - Brian Sanborn
10 - Ann Emery
10 - Lisa Marshall
10 - David Wheeler
18 - Lydia Hoffman
23 - Allana Sanborn
25 - Richard Donhauser
27 - Susan Downey
28 - Kyle Cultrera
28 - Rachel Roberge
30 - Diane Hair
30 - Shawn Troy

ANNIVERSARY

25 - Vicki & Jeff Koch





March 2020

First Congregational Church of Eliot, UCC

www.eliotucc.org 207-439-1105



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Lent I <i>Worship 10am</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Parsonage Open House After worship</i>	2 Hall Reserved 6-9pm	3	4 11:00am Ladies Circle 1-7pm Banjo Lessons	5 8am Exercise 4-7 Bluegrass 6:30 Choir	6 8am Exercise	7  <i>Time to set your clocks ahead one hour at 2am</i>
8 Lent II <i>Choir 8:30 CE 9am</i> <i>Worship 10am</i> <i>CE Penny collection</i> <i>Missions 11:30am</i> <i>1st House Church Meeting at Pastor Beth's 3pm</i>	9 Ladies Crafts Potluck 6 pm	10 6pm Craft night with Pastor Beth	11 1-7pm Banjo Lessons 5:30 Property Board 6pm Women At the Well	12 8am Exercise 4-7 Bluegrass 6:30 Choir	13 8am Exercise	14
15 Lent III <i>Worship 10am</i> <i>Finance 11:30am</i>	16 Ladies Crafts 7pm	17 Council 6pm	18 11:30am Sr. Citizens 7pm Banjo Lessons	19 8am Exercise Garden Club 11:45 -3:30 4-7 Bluegrass 6:30 Choir	20 8am Exercise	21 ECHO ITEMS DUE
22 Lent IV <i>Choir 8:30</i> <i>Worship 10am</i>	23 Ladies Crafts 7pm	24	25 1-7pm Banjo Lessons	26 8am Exercise <i>Table of Plenty 3:30</i> 4-7 Bluegrass	27 8am Exercise	28
29 Lent V <i>Choir 8:30</i> <i>Worship 10am</i>	30 Ladies Crafts 7pm	31 Brown Bag Auction 5:30pm			 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ELIOT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST <i>For All The People</i>	

Brown 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 and could be a lot more.

HOW

Pick up an empty paper bag from organizers. Put something good inside 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 March 29. And come bid!!! Also bring something to share as we share a potluck meal!

WHEN

AUCTION - MARCH 31
Potluck supper at 5:30,
auction to follow

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