

FEBRUARY 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



Deacons Day

Please read this even if you are not a serving deacon.

Pastor Beth is inviting all acting deacons, retired deacons and those who have the heart of a deacon to Deacons Day. You are called to care. In an effort to care for and serve all our homebound and hospitalized people of our congregation, please meet our pastor at the church on **February 15th at 8:30AM**.

We will celebrate communion together. Then in pairs, you will take the blessed elements to one person who is homebound or hospitalized along with a short visit and some support.

The gospel is filled with descriptions of Jesus' of care in a variety of settings and forms. This care was physical (such as healing and feeding others) but Jesus' care and concern was for the wellbeing of the whole person. The disciples of Jesus inherited this ministry. We at FCCE are called to this ministry. This could be a very powerful morning. Please come be a part of this important day.

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. —John 13:34-35,

SOMETHING NEW, I MEAN OLD, I MEAN NEW...

ACTS 5:42 AND DAILY IN THE TEMPLE, AND IN EVERY HOUSE, THEY DID NOT CEASE TEACHING AND PREACHING

When the words of Acts were written the church had just formed and great grace was upon the believers (Acts 4:33). The church was led by fishermen like Peter and John and also grew exponentially. They came together in the houses of the believers for fellowship and for nourishing their faith into action. We see fellowship is something that sustained the church then and I think it does now as well. The believers loved one another and they were together very often. Acts 2:42 tells us "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." They steadfastly continued in fellowship. Now in 2020 we have church buildings where we gather each Sunday and a small percentage of the congregation gathers on one of the weekdays too. Sometimes I think the early church had the right idea. I want us to grow in faith, in fellowship and in numbers. We are called to grow and be strong like the early church, and to give action to our faith. Fellowship with one another in the breaking of bread, in prayers and in conversation is something I think we need to do more than once a week on Sunday morning.

Let's try something new, I mean old!

I'll mean new!

I am embarking on a home tour! As a means to increase our fellowship I am taking a page from the early disciples' playbook and asking us to be in one another's home sharing the love of God, the bread of communion and the vision and hopes we have for 2020. I want each one of you to have an opportunity to share your dreams and your fears with me, your pastor. Meeting in homes strengthened the believers then, I pray it will strengthen us now.

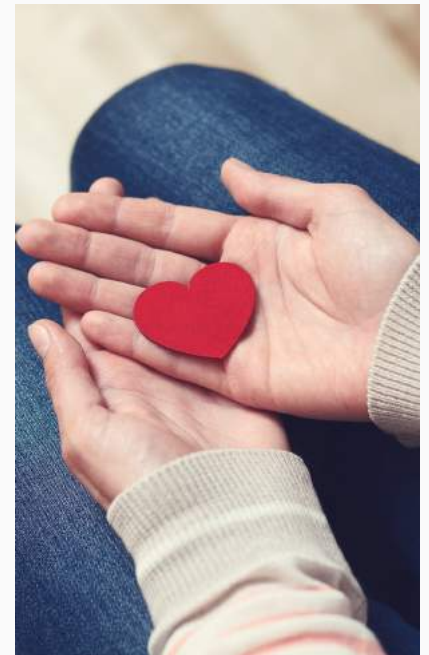
HOW IT WORKS...

I will need people to volunteer their home for one time for two hours. Ideally this would be a wide variety of locations and time of day. I am hopeful to have some at night, some in the day on both weekday and weekend. It would be a dream to have 10 families volunteer to serve as hosts but I would be thrilled to have 5. Then we advertise the house gatherings, time and location and you choose one and go!

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 me as your pastor, each other as disciples of faith and perhaps, with yourself in new spiritual ways. I hope 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.

Pastor Beth

**The first house meeting
Sunday, March 8 at 3PM
at the Pastor's home
5 Hemlock Street Rochester NH**



"Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart." — Mahatma Gandhi



LADIES CIRCLE

Because I had to cancel our January meeting, I will make my soup for our February 5th meeting. You do not need to bring a sandwich like it says in our program, We will meet at 11:30 and dessert and devotion will be provided by Nancy Hoyt and Janice Bowden.

We will once again put together Valentine's Day bags for women at Footprints. Bring in small items to be put into the bags. Such as lotion, shampoo, candy, etc. We can still bring in canned soup and crackers for Footprints.

March 4 we will go to Norma's in York for lunch. The next Monday Night Craft Group meeting will be March 2 for a Pot Luck Supper at 6 PM. Come with comments about the fair and new ideas for next year. Craft Group meeting will be March 2 for a Pot Luck Supper at 6 PM. Come with comments about the fair and new ideas for next year.

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, February 12th** in the fellowship hall.. RSVP to Pastor Beth or Lisa Marshall.

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 February 11 6PM

SOUPER BOWL MONTH EXTENDED!

We team up with the Ladies Circle as they coach us to alleviate some of the community hunger and use the January month run up to the Super Bowl to collect at least 200 cans of soup. Can we do it? The challenge continues.



ECCUMENICAL LENTEN WORSHIP IS ON SABBATH

The Clergy Association of Kittery, Eliot and South Berwick(CAKES)will not be offering the midweek Lenten worship series. Instead we can look forward to shared Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services. There may also be a Saturday gathering opportunity. Stay tuned for places and times.

LENT 2020





Tuesday
February 25
5-6:30pm

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

**“Cakes” with
all the fixins’!**

All proceeds
go to the ministries of
the church.
\$5 suggested donation
at the door



First Congregational Church of Eliot, UCC
1361 State Road, Eliot, ME 03903
FMI: 207-439-1105

Sponsored by the Fundraising Team

SUNDAY SERVANTS

2

Liturgist : Pastor Beth
Sunday School: Super Sub Making with Lydia
Ushers: Peggy Gray and Robin Wheeler
Fellowship Hour: Linda Downey and Laurie Troy

9

Liturgist: Sonya Quinn
Sunday School: Joey and Holly Cresta
Ushers: Rob and Sonya Quinn
Fellowship Hour: Jeff and Julie Pelkey

16

Liturgist: Richard Donhauser
Sunday School: Joey and Holly Cresta
Ushers: Linda Gove and Dick McKenney
Fellowship Hour: Shelby Grondin-Bushe and Jen Swanson

23

Liturgist: Dave Caswell
Sunday School :Joey and Holly Cresta
Ushers: Lauren Cultrera and Haley Lonergan
Fellowship Hour: Joan Pelkey and Diane Burbank

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

BIRTHDAYS

02/02 Ann Bailey
02/13 Donna Collins
02/13 Faith Follum
02/13 Sylvia Walcott
02/17 Ellie Sanborn
02/18 Nancy Hundley
02/19 Andy Wormwood
02/21 Heidi Roberge
02/25 Lois Widi



No matter
who you are,
you are
welcome here.



First Congregational Church of Eliot, UCC

February 2020

Worship 10:00 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
www.eliotucc.org 207-439-1105 firstconchurch@aol.com						1
2 <i>Choir 8:30</i> Worship <i>Holy Communion</i>	3	4	5 Ladies Circle 11:30am Banjo Lessons Weekly 1-7 ***	6 Exercise 8am Bluegrass Weekly 4-7 ***	7 Exercise 8am	8
9 CE 9am Worship CE Penny Collection Missions 11:30	10	11 Craft Night with Pastor Beth at 6pm	12 Sr. Citizens 11:30am Property Bd 5:30pm Women/Well 6pm ***	13 Exercise 8am Garden Club 11-3:30pm Table/Plenty 3:30 *** CHOIR 6:30	14 Exercise 8am ECHO ITEMS DUE	15 DEACONS DAY 8:30AM SEE ARTICLE FOR DETAILS
16 <i>Choir 8:30</i> Worship Finance 11:30	17	18 Council 6pm	19 ***	20 Exercise 8am *** CHOIR 6:30pm	21 Exercise 8am	22
23 Worship	24	25 Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-6:30pm	26 Ash Wednesday	27 Exercise 8am ***	28	