

# THE TIMES NEWSLETTER

*A publication of the First Congregational Church  
of Scarborough, Maine 04074*

*MID SUMMER 2021*



## MINISTER'S CORNER

As we bask in the warmth of summer, we have much to be thankful for.

The worst of the COVID 19 pandemic appears to be over. The level of fear and uncertainty we had been experiencing has dropped considerably.

We have been worshipping in the sanctuary for about two months now, and we are starting to feel like a church community again.

Families are able to gather to laugh, hug, share meals, go to the lake or the beach and enjoy other summer activities together. We can do many of the things we have been prevented from doing for over a year.

On a personal note, I have something to be thankful for.

As I write this it has been about a month since my father passed away, and I wanted to let you know how grateful Penny and I are for your thoughts and prayers, sympathy cards, words of support and meals you offered us. Your expressions of kindness and compassion mean a lot. It was wonderful to know that I didn't grieve my loss alone, but had your support and love to help me through. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I pray that the summer will be filled with much happiness and many blessings. Rest, relax, have fun with your families and friends, and take a vacation or a set aside a few days to recharge your batteries, because that's what summer is for. And in between all that enjoyment, don't be a stranger. The doors of our church are open, and I hope to see you walking through them on Sunday mornings.

Finally, my friends, know that you are in my prayers, as I have been in yours.

Peace.

Fred

## GOD'S DESIRE FOR US

Do more than touch . . . feel.

Do more than hear . . . listen.

Do more than learn . . . absorb.

Do more than think . . . understand.

Do more than exist . . . live.

J.H. Rhoades

## LOVE

There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer; no disease that enough love will not heal, no door that enough love will not open, no gulf that enough love will not bridge, no wall that enough love will not throw down, no sin that enough love will not redeem. It makes no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble, how hopeless the outlook, how muddled the tangle, how great the mistake—a sufficient realization of love will dissolve it all. If only you could love enough, you would be the happiest and most powerful person in the world.

Emmet Fox

## WELCOMING CHURCH

These lines are inscribed on the porch of a parish church outside of London:

To all who are weary and seek rest;  
To all who mourn and long for comfort;  
To all who struggle and desire victory;  
To all who sin and need a Saviour;  
To all who are idle and look for service;  
To all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
To all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
And to whomsoever will come:

This church has opened wide her doors and, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, says to all of you  
– Welcome!

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

The three children of a lawyer, a doctor and a minister, respectively, were talking about how much money their parents earned. The lawyer's son said, "My father goes into court on a case and he often comes home with more than ten thousand dollars."

The doctor's son said, "My mother is a surgeon, and when she performs an operation she earns as much as fifty thousand dollars for it."

The minister's daughter said, my father preaches for just fifteen minutes on Sunday morning and it takes four people to carry the money."

## TIME OUT FOR PRAYER

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous;  
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;  
To give and not count the cost,  
To fight and not heed the wounds,  
To toil and not seek for rest,  
To labor and not seek reward,  
Except that of knowing I do your will.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, 1491-1556

## A LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL CARE

Dear members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Scarborough:

After over a year, it was a joyous occasion when the doors of our little white church were re-opened and we all gathered together to worship in person again! Some in the congregation have asked why we didn't reopen sooner. We want you to know that during the time our church was closed, the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Care met monthly to discuss COVID-19 and how it was affecting our church family. Throughout those months of prayerful conversation, we kept an eye on the number of coronavirus infections and deaths in Maine, listened to the recommendations of the CDC and other experts, and reviewed State guidelines. All of those things guided our judgment and led us to believe that it was God's will and in the best interest of our congregation to keep people safe by remaining closed.

This was a very difficult decision to make, and the Ministry did not take it lightly. While Rev. Gagnon was at our meetings and he agreed that it would be for the best, he did not make the decision to remain closed on his own. In fact, he mentioned more than once that he did not want to make such an important decision by himself and needed the input of the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Care. On a couple of occasions during the pandemic he polled people who attended Zoom worship services about whether or not to reopen, and he also brought the issue before the Ministry of Governing and Finances. Almost everyone he asked told him it was best that we remain closed for the time being and continue to monitor the situation regularly.

After what felt like an eternity to all of us, in April of this year the Ministry felt that, with most people being vaccinated and COVID-19 cases on the decline, it was safe to resume in-person services; and in May our doors were opened wide to welcome everyone back to church. While things still aren't the way they used to be, the Ministry is continuing to work towards getting our services back to "normal" as quickly as possible.

The Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Care would like to thank the congregation for their patience, understanding and support during these past months. Now it is time for us to come together and build up our church. With the help of the Holy Spirit and our members and friends, we will grow healthy and strong once more. We hope you will join us as we work to make the First Congregational Church of Scarborough thrive again.

Sincerely,

Terri Brown, Chairman; Elaine Sederlund; Rev. Allison Curry; Elizabeth Deal; Susan Fielding; Kate Sawdon; Penny Gagnon; Liane Giambalvo; Pauline Kenniston

**.SAVE THE DATE ... FOR THE  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021: MOE'S FAMOUS BBQ FUNDRAISER**

Men's Fellowship, in cooperation with Women's Fellowship, will again conduct this annual fundraiser.

It will again be ALL TAKE-OUT. There will not be tickets or reservations. Food will be provided to people in vehicles on a FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED basis as they arrive at the church ... until the food runs out. All boxed meals will be the same: pulled pork and BBQ sauce, baked beans, potato salad, and cornbread. Cost is \$12 per meal ... CASH ONLY on the day of the event. Meals will be delivered to vehicles starting at 5:00 p.m. Vehicles will be directed to enter and depart via Woodside Drive. There will be a station for paying and one for receiving the food packages. Please share this information with friends, family, co-workers, etc. and help us to make this another beneficial ... and fun ... fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information!

### **GOVERNING & FINANCES UPDATE**

As you may know the First Congregational Church's fiscal and budget year begins in July, so "Happy New Fiscal Year" to the Members and Friends of the church.

We finished up the 2020-2021 fiscal year in relatively good financial shape thanks to the continued financial support of the congregation during the Pandemic, including some unplanned gifting. Those of you who stayed after the Church service of August 8th heard us deliver our next Quarterly Financial Update in more detail.

Some unfortunate news is that the computer used by the Treasurer recently had a severe failure requiring several days to recover. It is working now, but the computers used by the Treasurer, Recording Treasurer and Pastor are all at least six years old with outdated operating systems and are having more frequent issues. We feel it is prudent to replace these computers as soon as possible which will require an unbudgeted expenditure of about \$2,800, which we hope to raise from donations. Would you be willing to contribute to this cause? If so, donations can be mailed or dropped off at the church office or placed in to the offering plate at service. Please make sure to note that your gift is specifically for "computer replacement" on checks or other correspondence..

### **NEWS FROM THE FLOWER COMMITTEE**

The Flower Committee is using Fleur de Lis in Cape Elizabeth to provide flowers for the altar on Sundays at a cost of \$35.00, If you would like to order Flowers for a particular date, please contact the Church office with the date and a dedication. You are always welcome to provide your own floral decoration, especially during the summer months. Kate Sawdon (Phone: 730-7101) is heading the Flower Committee until September.

**The Choir's are Coming!**  
**The Choir's are Coming!**

What a wonderful cheer to be able to shout!!!

According to the CDC, fully vaccinated adults are able to sing together again. So with that guidance in mind, here is the schedule for early fall.

Thursday, September 9, 7PM - Senior Choir Rehearsal in the sanctuary  
Sunday, September 12, 8:30 AM - Senior Choir Warm-Up in sanctuary and sing during the service

Thursday, September 16, 7PM - Memorial Handbell Choir Rehearsal in the sanctuary  
Sunday, September 19 - 8:30 AM - Senior Choir Warm-up in the sanctuary

Thursday, September 23 - 7PM - Senior Choir Rehearsal in the sanctuary  
Sunday, September 26 - 8:30 AM - Senior Choir Warm-Up in sanctuary and sing during the service

Thursday, September 30, 7PM - Memorial Handbell Choir Rehearsal in the sanctuary  
Sunday, October 3, 8:30 AM - Senior Choir Warm-Up in sanctuary and sing during the service

Thursday, October 7 - 7PM - Senior Choir Rehearsal in the sanctuary  
Sunday, October 10, 8:30 AM - Senior Choir Warm-Up in sanctuary and sing during the service

Thursday, October 14 - 7PM - Memorial Handbell Choir Rehearsal in the sanctuary  
Sunday, October 24 - Memorial Handbell Choir Warm-Up in sanctuary and ring during the service

Thursday, October 28 - 7PM - Senior Choir Rehearsal in the sanctuary  
Sunday, October 31, 8:30 AM - Senior Choir Warm-Up in sanctuary and sing during the service

We will most likely follow this schedule through December. If you are interested in joining either the Senior Choir or the Memorial Handbell Choir, please reach out to me. We would LOVE to have you join us!

Sincerely,  
Bethany Kirkpatrick  
FCC Scarborough Director of Music

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

For the last month we have welcomed a visitor who is the first to arrive for each Sunday Service. He told us that he works overnight as a caregiver in a group home, and appreciates being able to attend our 9:30 morning service after work.

We welcome some residents from The Enclave, an assisted living center at the top of Black Point Road near Route 1. They arrive each Sunday by bus and use the ramp to enter the Sanctuary.

There are CLYNK bags and labels, pledge envelopes for those who requested them, and a "Lost and Found" basket in the Narthex. IF you need any of these items, please speak to an usher who will assist you.

## STARTING UP IN SEPTEMBER

The Women's Fellowship will hold its next meeting in the Vestry on Thursday afternoon, September 28th at 3:00.

The Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts will resume their monthly meetings using our facilities. We welcome them back.

The Libby Family Reunion is returning to the Parish Hall the weekend of September 24th and 25th.

Brenda and Ray Birkner are bringing back Singers and Stringers, with the first get-together tentatively scheduled for Saturday morning, September 18th at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. This group may be larger than in years past, including residents of the Hillcrest and Pinecrest housing communities and anyone who wants to sing in a group. Check your e-mails from Brenda B. and look for more details in next month's newsletter.

As activities pick up this fall, please call the office to schedule meeting space and Building Use in advance to avoid scheduling conflicts

**CHURCH CONTACTS:**

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