

THE TIMES NEWSLETTER

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

JANUARY 2022



INTRODUCING OUR BRIDGE MINISTER, THE REV. DR. PAUL A. DAY

The Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day has been engaged to serve as our Bridge Pastor during January and February 2022.

What is a Bridge Pastor? A Bridge Pastor is “a temporary pastor who steps in while a congregation is deciding what path they will take to fill a pastoral vacancy, or for reasons of timing before an intentional interim minister or settled minister can begin.” In our case it is a matter of timing between Pastor Fred Gagnon’s retirement and our interim minister beginning in March. *

Pastor Day is a native of Quincy, Massachusetts; he has degrees from Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy; North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago; and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He was ordained by the Evangelical Covenant Church in 1979, and holds dual standing in the United Church of Christ through the York Association.

Pastor Day served Covenant congregations in Michigan, Washington state and Massachusetts. In 1997 he moved to Portland to become the Executive Director of the Bible Society of Maine. In 2007 he returned to parish ministry serving as pastor of First Congregational Church, U.C.C., in North Berwick, Maine. He has also served as adjunct faculty in several settings, most recently at the University of New England. Pastor Day retired in May 2019. Since that time, he has served as a Bridge Pastor for Steven Ave. Congregational Church, Portland, and First Congregational Church, Gray; and as an instructor for the Maine School of Ministry.

Paul lives in Portland with his wife of 45 years, Diana, and their dog, Daisy, and cat, Fluffanutta—both rescues. Diana taught Special Education at Scarborough Middle School from 1998 to 2018. They have three daughters and five grandchildren. Paul loves baseball, history, mysteries, travel, photography, and gardening and yardwork.

Pastor Day looks forward to getting to know our congregation better in the next two months. He will be leading Sunday services and will be available for urgent pastoral care.

* <https://www.maineucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Vocabulary-for-Pastoral-Positions.pdf>

CHURCH TO OFFER HYBRID LIVE and ZOOM SERVICES IN JANUARY

In light of the “blizzard” of omicron/COVID cases, the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Care, in conjunction with Rev. Day and our Music Director, has decided to return to our hybrid model of Sunday services for the foreseeable future.

You are still welcome to attend live services in the Sanctuary, but we will also offer a ZOOM service if you wish to stay home. Call the church office for the current ZOOM link, if it has not been already sent to you.

Neighboring after church will be suspended in January.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 22

Discretion is the better part of valor. When the Women’s Fellowship meets again, on February 22, there will be a post-Fair discussion and presentation by Sandy Elder and Merry Roberts on “Dos and Don’ts for Traveling”. There will be no potluck.

NOTES FROM THE FCC SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are growing! We started the school year with one child, Sam, and soon added his brother Jack. Then came Annie, a cousin visiting from Saco. Recently Aisley and Kepler returned, after the long break due to COVID. And most recently, we enjoyed having visitors Charlie, Coco and Cate from New Hampshire! We would love to have more children join us at any time.

During the Advent season the children participated in many activities preparing for the birth of Jesus. We thought about some of the traditions families have around Christmas. We built gingerbread houses and decorated cookies. We wrote Christmas cards. We assembled cardboard crèche scenes, and built a stable and manger for the Holy family out of blocks. We prepared Christmas stockings for some of our food pantry recipients who may not have Santa visiting this year. The children became Santa’s elves, sharing things they brought from home and organizing the gifts for boys and girls of different ages, even wrapping the ones that wouldn’t fit in the stockings. Len Giambalvo, Sharon Haskell and Merry Roberts assisted with the activities—thank you so much!!

We look forward to Sunday school each week, and would love to include any adults who may wish to join us—just see me, Liane Giambalvo, or email liane.giam@icloud.com

On Sundays where there is no church school, there are quiet time bags for children located in the coat closet in the Narthex. If you happen to have coloring books, crayons or other small quiet time toys to donate, please leave them with me or at the church office! Thank you everyone, and special thanks to the parents and grandparents who bring the children to us. Liane Giambalvo.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REPORT ON THE 2021 CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our 2021 Christmas Fair was successful under the chairman of Merry Roberts! Roberta Brown helped organize with Marry and made the signs, which were a great need as we had changed things around this year to different buildings. Merry would agree it takes "many hands" to make this annual event happen!

Thank you to the Men's Group for selling coffee, cocoa and coffee cakes. Some men were out in the cold directing patrons to the two buildings, while others were inside selling coffee. Thank you to the Women's Fellowship members for donating their time and talents, members of the wonderful FCC and for everyone who came and enjoyed the fair!

Our total for the fair was \$6,310.61. Congratulations to all!

NEARER MY GOD TO THEE

The Men's Group and Ministry of Governing & Finance are "taking steps" to install a railing in the Sanctuary to make it easier ascend the steps to the altar. We do this so worshippers can participate safely in all aspects of the service, i.e. Scripture reading, candle lighting and other ceremonies.

OUR CHURCH'S INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If there was a significant storm on Saturday night or it is storming on Sunday morning, make sure you check to see if the service has been cancelled. The First Congregational Church of Scarborough is now registered with WCSH and WGME TV, and a cancellation notice will run on both of those stations by 7 a.m. You can also call the office at 883-2342 to find out if the parking lot has been plowed and safe to walk on and the church building is accessible. The Admin Assistant will either be in the office or leave a message on the answering machine by 7:30 a.m. if the service has been cancelled. If the answering machine message hasn't been changed, it means there will be a service of some kind (although it may be an abbreviated one). Please use discretion in deciding whether to come to church in bad weather.

SAFETY ON EXITING OUR PARKING LOT

We recommend using Woodside Drive (the side street east of the church) to exit our Parking lot. There is less traffic and better visibility to enter Black Point Road.

NOTES FROM THE SCARBOROUGH FOOD PANTRY November/December 2021

Fall and winter are busy times for our little food pantry. Many people start to feel the financial pinch once the heating bills come due. And this year there are extra expenses with food and gas prices going up. Fortunately, we have many generous donors and volunteers making sure no one goes away hungry. I cannot possibly list all the wonderful individuals and groups who bless us time and again, but just to give you an idea I will put a few names out there. (Please do forgive me if I have overlooked the other 100 or so!)

Gary Tapley brings a truckload of goods about once a month from the Hannford warehouse, or maybe fruits or veggies from a store closing for the season; Lynn Roberge brought items from the marina; Bob and Nancy Hall are always on the lookout at the Christmas Tree Shop where their son works; the Grottons can be counted on to provide a large carton of paper goods, always in demand; the Piper Shores van stops in at least once a week with a collection from the residents there; Rotary, Kiwanis, Project GRACE, Community Services, Ba'hai Faith group, Blue Point Church, West Scarborough Methodist and St. Nick's stop in from time to time with a collection; the local banks and credit union, and a variety of local businesses sponsor food drives or make monetary donations. This community is truly amazing!



Then there are the local food agencies—Wayside in Portland and Good Shepherd in Lewiston providing government and other donated food items. The grocery stores help too. Hannaford is especially generous, helping raise money so we can purchase many more items, and Shaw's helps with ordering items on sale for good savings (we are pretty frugal shoppers!). Closer to home we have the FCC Women's Fellowship, providing monetary assistance and other goods left from the church fair so our customers can shop for gifts for friends and family.

This Christmas season, Terri and Roberta Brown shopped and packaged gifts for our families (over 100 families this year); each family received a pretty red gift bag with a kitchen utensil, muffin tin, muffin mix, potholders and dishcloths. You should see the faces light up when they receive a gift from us! The children at Pied Piper nursery school made Santa Teddie bears to decorate coffee mugs filled with tea bags or coffee so our tea and coffee drinkers got a special gift too.

Oops! Don't forget all the volunteers—Elaine often bring items left at the Annex, like food or gift cards people drop off; Don Darling is always going above and beyond for us, anything we ask of him; Ellen, our fearless leader, and husband John when he's off the ship; Karen Pierce writing a bazillion thank you notes; Gene and Kathy Hollis from the Rick Church; Carl Ross; Len and Liane Giambalvo; and Terri Brown! Whew! That's a lot of people!

And if this isn't enough (remember this is just a sampling of all the generous donors!), Bryce and Merry Roberts donated many books and stuffed animals and other gifts so the children in the Sunday school could fill Christmas stockings for some of our customers. The children had a great time being Santa's helpers! And the stockings and gifts were readily received by some of our customers—one family was headed to a funeral the next day for a niece, a young woman. There would be 4 young children present and this aunt was so glad to have some books and puzzles to take to them. Some of the stockings went to a family that wasn't going to have a Christmas this year—a car repair had used up all their funds. Other stockings and “stuffies” went to grandparents getting by on Social Security and who could not afford any gifts for the grandchildren. The Bible tells us that humankind does not live by bread alone. We find this to be so true each and every day that the food pantry is open. Thank you all and bless you every one for all you do to serve others, here and everywhere. Liane Giambalvo

SAD NEWS OF JOHN VELTRI'S PASSING

John Veltri succumbed to leukemia and died on January 10 at Maine Medical Center. There is no funeral. Family will post an obituary.

HERB HUGHES HOME FROM MMC

Herb Hughes is back home after having suffered a near fatal heart attack earlier this month. The Men's Fellowship has rallied to help his transition. Please pray for Herb's recovery.

THANK YOU FROM THE LORANO FAMILY

For the prayers of comfort and encouragement, as well as the cards and visits during Donna's illness. Thank you to the Women's Fellowship for the wonderful luncheon following a beautiful celebration of Donna's life.

HAPPY 103rd BIRTHDAY TO IRVINE DOE, mother of Ruth Anne Doe

HONORABLE MENTION:

Let's applaud Steven Brown of Fogg Road (Joanne's son). Steven is the first to respond to the church Sunday morning after a storm with shovel, sand and salt. He turns on the electric heat to the front stairs to make sure all get in safely.

FROM THE OFFICE:

Thanks to Rob Willey for purchasing 2 high volume/heavy duty staplers for the office. Also Cliff Colville for donating a Keurig coffee maker that is for all to use.

Your administrative assistant has been isolating since a positive COVID test on January 8, but has resumed normal office hours of 9 to Noon. Please mask up (in all church buildings).

INTERIM PASTOR REV. DAVID HUGHES TO START MARCH 1.

The Ministries of Worship and Spiritual Care and Governing and Finance have engaged the Rev. David Hughes to be our Interim Pastor while we engage in a search for our "Settled" Pastor to replace Rev. Gagnon. We feel fortunate to have been sent excellent leaders in our Bridge Minister and Interim Pastor during these sometime trying times. We will share more from and about Rev. Hughes next month.

