

THE TIMES NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2022



LENTEN AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

ECUMENICAL LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE ON APRIL 7

St Maximilian Kolbe Church, 11:00—11:45 AM

Scarborough Ecumenical Clergy Association will sponsor one Ecumenical Lenten Prayer this season. Rev. Marcia Charles will lead us in a forty-five minute Liturgy of the Word incorporating scripture, silence, reflection, and singing. All are invited to take a few minutes this Lent to reflect with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Unfortunately, this year we are unable to have the soup luncheon

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE ON APRIL 14 IN THE VESTRY

You are invited to a Tenebrae service, preceded by a simple dinner of soup and bread. The dinner starts at 6:00 on April 14 in the Vestry, followed by a worship service in the Vestry from 6:30—7:30. If you wish to contribute a crockpot of soup, please advise Elaine in the Church Office.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

There will be a Sunrise Service At Higgins Beach on Easter morning. If you need a ride or wish to carpool from the church parking lot, please notify the office. Right after the service the Ministry of Members, Friends and Church Life will offer coffee, muffins, bagels, fruit and juice in the Vestry of our church.

TRADITIONAL EASTER SERVICE AT 9:30 IN THE SANCTUARY

If you don't make it to the Sunrise service, there will be a worship service on Easter Sunday at 9:30 am, officiated by Rev. Barrie Shepherd, and followed by neighboring.

SUPPLY PASTORS FOR APRIL & MAY

April 3 - Rev. Gerry Scribner

April 10 - Rev. Cheryl Anderson

April 14 (Maundy Thursday) - Worship and Spiritual Care

April 17 (Easter Sunrise) - Rev. Allison Curry and Terri Brown

April 17 (Easter Service) - Rev. Barrie Shepherd

April 24 - Rev. Gerry Scribner

May 1 - Rev. Allison Curry

May 8 - Rev. Cheryl Anderson

May 15 - Rev. Cheryl Anderson

May 22 - Rev. Cheryl Anderson

The Special Easter Offering - to Help Feed the Ukrainian Refugees And Other News from the Ministry of Outreach and Stewardship

This year we discussed how we might help some organization that was going to be helping the Ukrainian refugees. The terrible war has created a huge tide of people fleeing Ukraine. They are going to places like Poland, Hungary, Moldova, and Romania.

This year we chose **World Central Kitchen** to receive our Special Easter Offering. We all can't go to cook and serve meals there, so this offering is in place of our bodily presence. And, this organization is in keeping with our theme of feeding people in need.

Within 24 hours of the initial attacks on February 24th, **World Central Kitchen** was serving fresh, hot, meals at a border crossing for refugees arriving on foot. They are now serving meals inside Ukraine and in the bordering countries, Poland, Moldova, Romania, and Hungary. They not only set up their own kitchens, but also partner with restaurants to provide nourishing meals. As the founder of **World Central Kitchen**, Chef José Andrés, says, "We don't just deliver raw ingredients and expect people to fend for themselves. And we don't just dump free food into a disaster zone: we source and hire locally wherever we can." "At times like these, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the scale of the challenges we face, and the speed of each new crisis. But many complex problems have simple solutions. Sometimes you just need to decide to do something. Sometimes you just have to show up with a sandwich or some warm rice and beans."

If you want to learn more about World Central Kitchen please follow this link to see what they are doing, <https://wck.org/relief>. Read about how they respond, watch the pictures, see these first responders. Then open your hearts and make a donation with our Special Easter Offering.

Please use the Easter Offering Envelopes in the pews or in the mailed newsletter for your Easter Offering. You can also note "Easter Offering" on the notation line of your check.

To further aid the victims of the aggression in Ukraine and surrounding countries, a donation has been made to Samaritan's Purse, an organization that responds to disasters such as that in the Ukraine. They have sent scores of disaster response specialists to Ukraine, Poland, Romania and Moldova and are operating an Emergency Field Hospital in Ukraine.

To quote Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse: "God calls us to go into crisis areas to help those most vulnerable. As the conflict in Ukraine escalates, our international disaster team with doctors, nurses and other specialists are equipped and ready to help people in Jesus' name. We want them to know that God loves them

and has not forgotten them.” To learn more about Samaritan’s Purse, you may go to samaritanspurse.org.

We would also like to send out our very sincere thanks for your responses so far to the 2022 Stewardship Campaign. If you have not yet returned your pledge intentions, it is not too late. Please remember that it is very helpful for the Ministry of Governing & Finance to anticipate income for the proposed budget for presentation at the Annual Meeting in May.

Those who sow sparingly will reap sparingly. Those who sow bountifully will reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have decided, not reluctantly or grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (Paraphrased)

Peace,
From the Ministry of Outreach and Stewardship,
Ruth, Gail, Lynn, Bryce, Susan and Vicki

A TIME TO BLOOM

I don't know about you, but waiting is not my best skill. For many of us, in today's world, we are accustomed to instant gratification. Covid-19 sure put a damper on our "now" culture! These last couple of weeks have really been a blessing to me. Masks are now optional at school and my school has been Covid-free for nearly a month. Wow. The stress of being in the school environment is truly improving for both my students and me. When we add to that the change in masking for the choir, and the return of some additional singers, joy has come back to my spirit. It felt so good to hear a full choir on Sunday. I hope you are feeling encouraged as well. As Spring regains a foothold in our world, I pray that Hope and Joy take a foothold in your life and your spirit can once again bloom.

"There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
What it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season
something only God can see.

Sincerely,
Bethany Kirkpatrick
Director of Music

Save the Date - Saturday April 9, 2022
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM on Zoom
Maine School of Ministry Workshop on The Small Church Story Project:
A Workshop for Clergy and Laity

For church members from any size church!

The Maine Small Church Story Project: What Is Your Story Now?
Heartening Stories Before and During the Time of COVID
Vibrant Worship, Spirited Fellowship, Faithful Service: Small Congregations in the
Maine Conference Create New Ways of Being Church

About this Workshop: "A common narrative of our time is that churches are dying as membership drops, and church income becomes insufficient to retain full time pastors and to maintain church facilities. But there is a counter-narrative, that of churches, some quite small, and some following a time of brokenness, who are creating new ways of being church. In vibrant ways they celebrate their faith, care for one another, and reach beyond themselves to minister to the wider world in out-sized ways. We regard that vibrancy as coming not in spite of small size, but rather as a result of congregations taking advantage of their small size." -The Rev. Doug Dunlap

Workshop Presenters:

The Rev. Susie Craig

Susie Craig is a retired minister in the United Church of Christ, previously having served as Associate Conference Minister for the Maine Conference and as Interim Minister for the Wiscasset Church. Currently, she serves as part of the Pastoral Team for the Sheepscott Community Church. Susie lives with her husband, Brad, on a small farm in Jefferson with their black lab, Thacker. It is her joy to work with Doug Dunlap as they uncover and discover the wonderful stories of our small churches.

The Rev. Doug Dunlap

Doug Dunlap is a retired minister, ordained in the United Church of Christ. Doug and his wife, Mary, a Nurse Practitioner, have lived in Aroostook, Penobscot, and Franklin counties. Currently they reside on their farm, north of Farmington, in the settlement of Fairbanks. Doug is a member of the New Sharon UCC Church. He is a member of the Earth Care and Spirituality Resource Team of the Maine Conference, and Vice-Moderator of the Living Water Association.

Cost of the Workshop is \$10.00 due at the time of Registration. Scholarships are easily available by contacting the Rev. Dr. Ron Baard, Dean of MESOM at rbaard@maineucc.org

For more Information and to Register go to the Maine School of Ministry website: www.maineucc.org/ministries/mesom

STEWARDSHIP: IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY

As the Annual Stewardship Campaign wraps up and we plan for the Annual Meeting on May 1, we'd like to remind our members, friends and occasional visitors of the need for their TIME and TALENTS. Money pays the bills, but it is individuals, working alone or as part of our Ministries, who carry out the work and mission of the church.

If you have some extra time, please consider helping meet the needs of the church in the following areas:

Governing & Finance: There are currently four members of Governing & Finance, who work behind the scenes to manage our budget, staff and buildings. They are doing a great job, but their ranks are thin. Please consider joining this Important Ministry.



Worship & Spiritual Care: This Ministry has been busy arranging for Supply Pastors and finding an Interim Pastor, coordinating our special Lenten Services (Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunrise) and ushering. Imagine a Sunday service with no ushers.....it could happen if no one steps forward to volunteer. There are signup sheets in the Narthex and Vestry for anyone who wants to help out.

Christian Education: Liane Giambalvo is our angel who spends time with children on Sunday Mornings imparting Christian lessons. She also organized the Lenten Study taking place this and next month on Wednesday afternoons. Who else will step forward to spread the word? Please see Liane or a Member of Worship & Spiritual Care with your ideas.

Neighboring: If you do not feel comfortable "sponsoring" a neighboring, you can offer to bring one or two food items or recruit a few others and some of us who are in church prior to the service can help set-up.

Newsletter: Elaine would welcome your input to the Monthly Newsletter. Feel free to submit any news, reflections, poems or other inspirational items in addition to your suggestions to keep the Newsletter meaningful and timely.

TO CONTACT US

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2022 EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

Please help us prepare our sanctuary for the glorious celebration of Easter on April 17th. Flowers may be dedicated “**in memory of**” or “**in honor of**” loved ones. The dedications will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Please fill out the order form, then mail it or bring it to the church office at 161 Black Point Road with your check.

Any questions, please call Elaine at the church office@883-2342. You may also bring in your own Spring plant of any variety to the Vestry or church office by Friday, April 15th.

The deadline for ordering plants is Wednesday, April 6th.

Please indicate quantity of the item you wish to order.

___ Double Lily (8” pot)\$30.00

___ Tulips (6” pot)\$20.00

___ Hyacinths (6” pot)\$20.00

Dedication - *Please circle one* (in memory of / in honor of)

Given by _____

Phone number _____ **E-mail** _____

Bringing my own plant _____

PLEASE take your plants home after the Easter Sunday Service. Thank you.

www.maineucc.org/ministries/mesom

Newsletter Submission

