

THE TIMES NEWSLETTER

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

NOVEMBER 2022



Glad to Be Here!

I am so happy to have joined your church community as your Interim Pastor. Thank you so much for the warm reception on my first Sunday, November 6th. And “thank you” also, to those who worked so hard cleaning and sprucing up the pastor’s office with a fresh coat of paint, brighter lighting, window curtains, and a new desk and chair. It looks great! You have made me feel very welcome.

Let me tell you a little about myself. I am an ordained minister for the United Church of Christ with standing in the New Hampshire Conference. My primary home is in Milford

New Hampshire. My husband and I also spend a lot of time in Wells Maine at our condominium, which makes my commute to Scarborough a little easier!

I have served churches in the Massachusetts and New Hampshire Conferences as Pastor and Interim Pastor for many years. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from Notre Dame College, and a Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School (now Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity). I also have received formal training for Intentional Interim Ministry from the Interim Ministry Network.

I am the proud mother of three adult sons and two daughters-in-law, all of whom I love very much! The other important people in my life are my husband Dennis, my cat Lucy (who thinks she is a person), and my mom...who as you know just passed away a couple of weeks ago. Your care and compassion for me through this difficult time has been greatly appreciated! Thank you.

As a person of faith, I am always amazed by how God connects people in the church in helping ways for the good, and I trust that my time in Scarborough is just that kind of connection. As your Interim Pastor, I will be here for you - as your pastor, and as your guide through this “time in-between” settled pastors. I look forward to getting to know you all, so much better. I want to hear your stories. Let us do the work God has opened our hearts to do in this time and in this place.

May God bless us in our new beginning.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Linda Hey

Thanksgiving - A Time for Sharing

Thanksgiving is swiftly approaching. November 20 is the last Sunday to leave food donations in the basket at the altar. We are asking you to help fill the basket to assist the Food Pantry with Thanksgiving Baskets for those who need help this year. Please bring vegetable items such as squash, hardy varieties, potatoes, onions, turnip, carrots, and non perishable canned, cranberry sauce, fruit, vegetables, and boxed items stuffing, potatoes of various flavors. They will be used by the Scarborough Food Pantry to create boxes of Thanksgiving dinners. You may also bring items to the office or directly to the Food Pantry on Tuesday, November 22, between 1:30 and 4:00 pm. Your gifts are much appreciated. Thank you!!!

Thank you Lerline Santos

FCC recently received a generous contribution from the estate of Lerline Santos through a bequest Lerline included in her will. We are very grateful to Lerline for including FCC in her legacy. Her kindness and generosity will not be forgotten.

Planned Giving

There are several methods available that offer the opportunity to make a financial contribution to the future of FCC through planned giving and bequests. Your financial planner can share information on these methods.

One of the recommendations in our Long-Range Plan is to make available to members and friends of FCC information regarding planned giving. Our research has begun, and helpful information will be shared in the coming months.

First Trunk or Treat a Resounding Success

Kudos to Terri Brown for organizing the church's first Trunk or Treat event to draw families with children to our church. On Saturday, October 29, thirteen of our Church members and friends gathered in the parking lot with cars festooned with Halloween decorations and candy to distribute. We estimate that nearly 200 people turned out for the event, which lasted from 5:00—6:00 pm. There were areas decorated so parents could take pictures of their costumed children and a fire pit featuring s'mores (and hand warming as the evening grew chilly). There was so much enthusiasm we are already planning next year's event!

Libby Family Reunion takes place after a 3 year hiatus

After a break due to the COVID pandemic, the John Libby Family Association returned to the Parish Hall to hold their annual reunion on September 24. After passing the hat, the Association raised \$809.00 which was donated to the church.

Be a Part of Helping the Homeless

Greetings to you all from the Ministry of Stewardship and Outreach. As we enter the holiday period, our Ministry of Outreach looks at various charities to receive our Special Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings. This year's Special Thanksgiving Offering is being direct to Elena's Way in Portland.

Elena's Way is a new shelter for the homeless located where the Preble Street Resource Center was. "For 27 years, 5 Portland Street served as the Preble Street Resource Center where thousands of people found support and a hand up when they needed it most. Now, at this new Wellness Shelter, people will continue to find opportunity and hope."

The building has been renovated and repurposed as a shelter for 40 people who are homeless and who have complex health and behavioral issues calling for a new form of shelter. Elena's Way will provide housing, warmth and safety, meals, medical and counseling services, all of this in one location. Occupants of the shelter will not have to wait outside for entry each night or leave in the morning. They will not have to carry all their belongings around with them during the day. It is a place that offers an opportunity "to heal, and to work toward their goals of housing, healthcare, and employment."

This is a place not just for folks to sleep overnight. It is a bright, clean, warm space, decorated with art by clients. It is a place where community can be built, opportunity acted upon, and hope for a peaceful future. Please take a few minutes and visit the web site, www.preblestreet.org/elenas-way, view the video and listen to the full description of what the intent is for Elena's Way. And prayerfully consider a donation to the Thanksgiving Offering in support of this much needed, and well thought out adjunct to Preble Street. Thank you for considering this chance to help the homeless.

Please look for the Special Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes in the pew racks. If you are writing a check for any special offering please put the name of that special offering in the notation line of your check or on the envelope. This helps those who count the offering to identify where a check or special envelope goes as far as bookkeeping is concerned.

The sale of the parsonage is completed!

The sale of the parsonage is a strategic recommendation included in FCC's long-range plan, and approved by the congregation in December, to better align the congregation with its core mission, current membership levels and future church financial needs and abilities.

The parsonage was listed on May 20th at \$475,000, with offers requested by May 24th. The Ministry Governing and Finances accepted the best offer of \$555,000 (\$80,000 over asking price) and closing occurred on June 29.

After pre-sale expenses (new septic system, patio and back stairs rebuild, boundary survey) and post-sale expenses (realtor commissions, title & transfer fees), net proceeds from the sale are \$508,806.38.

The net proceeds are currently in a cash account at the church's investment management firm. It is hoped that these proceeds will help improve the church's financial operating expense gap and help achieve long-range plan objectives. The church council and church ministries should consult the long-range plan in developing specific proposals that may require funding to be incorporated into the annual budgeting process or special meeting approval.

Shortly before closing, a land survey completed by St.Clair Associates showed the parsonage garage to be too close to church property lines (non-conforming lot). To avoid closing delays and to reduce the risk of negating the sale, G&F made the decision to transfer a small 2,175 sq. ft. slice of land to make the Parsonage 'conforming' with set-back requirements. The buyer is responsible for updating deeds and related legal work.

The sale of the parsonage was a team effort – many thanks to all involved!

Men's Fellowship, final home improvements and cleaning of the parsonage
Elaine Sederlund, assistance with coordinating access to the parsonage by the multiple people working on the property throughout the process of prepping the parsonage for sale

Our realtor, John Harmon from Team Harmon & Carrol Real Estate, part of the Bean Group. John did a fantastic job guiding us through the prep and sale process, as well as discounting his fees.

Kathy Ross, for answering our call for assistance in running point on identifying and selecting a realtor. Helping to coordinate the installation of the parsonage's new septic system, and any other task we needed help with.

Everyone on the Ministry of Gov & Finances, with special recognition for Cliff Colville who served as project lead. He put in countless hours from the start of the sales process to the end doing a great job working with all involved.

If you have questions or would like further details, please contact a member of Governing & Finances directly or through the church office.

Women's Fellowship Meets on Tuesday, November 22 at 2:00 PM

in the basement of the church Susan Hilton and Allison Curry are the hostesses. We will be gathering baskets and items to fill them, putting them together and wrapping the various themed baskets for the Fair. We are looking for small to medium sized baskets and the paper filler that can cushion items. It was suggested that you work with a partner in this. Come up with a theme and then gather some appropriate items for a smallish basket. Come and we'll all help up them together.

The Food Pantry donation for November is paper items, napkins, tissues, toilet paper, etc. for our Food Pantry to distribute.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

We are trying a new rehearsal schedule in hopes of encouraging more people to sing with the choir through this Advent season. Beginning December 1st, we will be rehearsing from 7-8:15PM Thursday evening on the **first Thursday of every month only**. We will also be meeting **every Sunday morning at 8AM** for an extended rehearsal and warm up prior to the morning service.

Here is the schedule for the remainder of the year.

Sunday November 20 - 8: 15 AM

Sunday November 27 - no rehearsal, Singers and Stringers scheduled this Sunday

Thursday December 1 - 7-8:15PM

Sunday December 4 - 8AM

Sunday December 11 - 8AM

Sunday December 18 - 8AM

Saturday December 24 - Christmas Eve - TBA

Sunday December 25 - no choir, Wendy and Bethany only

Sunday January 1 - Wendy only

Hoping you will consider singing with us through this Advent Season.

Bethany Kirkpatrick

Director of Music

First Congregational Church of Scarborough

CHOIR DIRECTOR BETHANY KIRKPATRICK ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 26

After 18 years of dedicated service to our Church, Choir Director Bethany Kirkpatrick has announced her retirement. Not everyone knows that Bethany juggles being a full-time music teacher in the Portland public schools, offering private vocal music instruction in her home, and caring for her mother, Willa, in addition to crafting and other pursuits. Understandably, Bethany is tired!

Bethany will remain with us until February 26, 2023. A search has begun for her replacement. We all wish her much success and happiness in her future ventures.

Singers & Stringers News

Singers & Stringers are coming back! We have updated our binders and set the following dates (the 2nd Saturday of each month) to gather and sing, to have fun and fellowship!

Most of the time we will gather in the sanctuary, but if there is a funeral or a wedding or anything else that needs the sanctuary, we'll relocate for that day – probably in the big room of the Parish Hall (the building in back of the church).

Masks are not required, but if you feel more comfortable wearing one, please do.

2022

November 19

December 10

2023

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10

The gathering times are all at 10 am for about an hour.

Ray & I are excited to welcome “old timers” back and to welcome “new timers”. You only have to love to sing and have a good time! It's not required that you know how to read music because our mantra is: FEEL THE MUSIC.

We will sing at a church service occasionally – I'll give you plenty of notice.

Here are 2 dates for singing in church that I know of so far:

November 27th

January 8, 2023

We also put ourselves on the summer music schedule that Wendy organizes – if you're available to sing once a month for the months of June, July, and August.

Also, in the past, we've gone to Assisted Living facilities and Nursing Homes in Scarborough to either sing carols or at other times to do “generic” sing-a-longs. We can talk about that when we get together on those Saturday mornings.

It's a very moving and rewarding experience to go to those settings and sing!

We look forward to seeing you in November and beyond - to make beautiful music!

Please contact either Brenda or Ray with any questions or to just let us know that you'll be joining us.

Brenda & Ray Birkner 207-650-4514 (Brenda) – 207-650-5180 (Ray)

Grabirk94@gmail.com

'Tis the season...
(Offerings from yet another
year of grace.)



J. Barrie Shepherd

Yes, it's a bit early – Santas before turkeys almost! – but given the state of the USPS these days it's not too early to think about ordering copies of *'Tis the Season....* my 2022 Advent-Christmas poetry collection. This is the fifth year of these little chapbooks and they have proved quite popular raising some thousands of dollars for local food pantries and, I hope and pray, enriching the festive season for many readers. The book makes an attractive gift with its cover scene of our Piper Shores Xmas tree from the oceanside patio, (see above). Stuffed with 34 of my latest poems it might itself be a handy stocking stuffer. It costs only \$10 (plus \$5 postage), many readers will buy multiple copies for family and friends. All proceeds (beyond cost) are donated to food pantries here in Scarborough and on Chebeague Island. Order at barrieshep@aol.com, phone 207 510 1637 or 15 Piper Road – K325, Scarborough ME 04074. I'll even inscribe your copies with a personal greeting to whoever, or whomever you may desire. Deck the Halls... But not yet.

Barrie

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? — SEE BELOW

The Church continues to stream Sunday services using ZOOM. The link is below. We suggest you save the link in a specific folder so you can find it each week. The link is the SAME every week.

You can obtain a copy of the Order of Worship (Bulletin) by calling the church office before Sunday and we will e-mail it to you.

If you have a Prayer Request, whether of celebration, concern or sorrow, please send it to the church office (e-mail) and the Congregation will pray with and for you. Our email is: fcchurch@fccscarborough.com

LINK TO CHURCH SERVICE STREAMING

Topic: FCC Recorded Service

Time: 09:25 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Sun,

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://uso6web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAtfuitpj4uGNZUjBwXiyYT5sMulgNM-iGF/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGsrjlrHgyQtBuFRpwlAor4d-_xiCVbjY1nqRXnFBhaezrCY_FvJ5t4PvWd

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/84091585422?pwd=dXEzVStBZVNVT1U5QXBnbC9wYzFDZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 9158 5422

Passcode: 389691

One tap mobile

+14702509358,,84091585422#,,,,*389691# US (Atlanta)

+14703812552,,84091585422#,,,,*389691# US (Atlanta)

Dial by your location

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+1 470 381 2552 US (Atlanta)

+1 646 518 9805 US (New York)

+1 206 337 9723 US (Seattle)

+1 213 338 8477 US (Los Angeles)

+1 602 753 0140 US (Phoenix)

Meeting ID: 840 9158 5422

Passcode: 389691

Find your local number: <https://uso6web.zoom.us/u/kdrUge3FbS>

The year is rushing by and the **Ladies Fellowship Yuletide Fair** is fast approaching on **December 3, 2022 from 8:30 am to noon.**

Just a bit of history about the fair.....

The Ladies Fellowship was started in 1956. They held their first fair on December 7, 1956 in the church vestry. Their hard work netted them \$605.03 which today is about \$6300. What a great start to our yearly tradition!

This is a call out to our church family for assistance! The fair has grown and become extremely well known - we can't do it all by ourselves anymore. If you are willing and able, we are looking for the following items:

FOOD TABLE

Jams and jellies; Pickles and Relishes; Salsa; Baked Beans; Pies; Cakes; Breads; Whoopie pies
Be sure canned items have a permanent label affixed to the jar with contents and year written on it. Also, label what all items are and specifically note if there are nuts included, or if they are sugar and/or gluten free. This is for food safety purposes (allergies, etc.). All baked items need to be wrapped or bagged.

CANDY TABLE

Needhams; Fudge; Any other candy you are famous for!

These items should be pre-bagged with at least 2 items per bag.

COOKIE WALK

Dozens of cookies!

This is a very popular table at the fair and we almost always sell out. Cookies must be pre-bagged with 2 cookies per bag.

JEWELRY TABLE

Any unwanted or no longer worn costume jewelry in good condition. A box has been placed in the narthex of the church for donations. Donations can also be given to either Sandy Elder, Mary Ellen Bossom or Barbara Grotton.

CRAFT TABLE

If you are crafty , we are always looking for ornaments, knit goods, fleece hats and scarves, etc.

CHRISTMAS TABLE

Have you been cleaning out your Christmas decorations to get rid of those you no longer use? We can use them! Please be sure they are clean and unbroken. We will also take ribbon and wrapping paper, Christmas plates and mugs, string lights in working order.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE DROPPED OFF AT THE CHURCH BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2022. THIS WILL GIVE THE LADIES TIME TO PRICE AND DISPLAY THE ITEMS FOR THE FAIR ON SATURDAY. Any questions, please contact the church Office, or Terri or Roberta Brown,

Hope to see you at the fair!!!!!!

Roberta Brown

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.

tion. This is the fifth year of these little chapbooks and they have proved quite popular raising some thousands of dollars for local food pantries and, I hope and pray, enriching the festive season for many readers. The book makes an attractive gift with its cover scene of our Piper Shores Xmas tree from the Ocean-side patio, (see above). Stuffed with 34 of my latest poems it might itself be a handy stocking stuffer. It costs only \$10 (plus \$5 postage), many readers will buy multiple copies for family and friends. All proceeds (beyond cost) are donated to food pantries here in Scarborough and on Chebeague Island. Order at barrieshep@aol.com, phone 207 510 1637 or 15 Piper Road – K325, Scarborough ME 04074. I'll even inscribe your copies with a personal greeting to whoever, or whomever you may desire. Deck the Halls... But not yet.

Barrie

