

***Our Mission***  
***By God's Grace, West Parish Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ, is committed to Nurturing and  
Celebrating God's Love in our lives, in the Church Family,  
in the Community and in the world***

## **July/August 2021 newsletter**

### **Steeple View**

### **West Parish Congregational Church**

### **United Church of Christ**



#### **Pastor's Perspective**

#### **July/August**



Grace and peace to each of you and I hope that you are enjoying early summer and all that it has in store in our neck of the woods! After a pandemic-muted summer last year, it's nice to be able to engage more fully with the many gifts of summer in Maine. Blessings on all of your family reunions and any trips that you may be taking in the months to come.

I will be working at the church through August 15<sup>th</sup> (except for the weekend of July 23-25 when Mary and I will be camping in Vermont with friends for her 50th birthday). Between August 16<sup>th</sup> and August 31st I'll be on vacation visiting with family members and preparing for travel to Europe. Then, my Sabbatical will begin on September 1st. The theme of the Sabbatical will be pilgrimage walks to Celtic Christian sacred sites. I am also planning activities to learn more about Celtic Christianity and spirituality.

Mary will be joining me for the entire month of September. We will begin the trip by flying to Glasgow, Scotland and then traveling by train or bus, then ferry, to Iona Abbey. This part of the trip is all dependent on what COVID travel restrictions are in place at that time. The plan is to live with the Iona Community there for a week, following their schedules for worship, work, and communal life. This is something that I've wanted to do since I began my ministry as I've always loved the worship resources and way of life of that community.

We will then spend about 9 days based in Dublin, Ireland, visiting our son Ben and his girlfriend, Jess. We hope to see the Book of Kells (an illustrated version of the gospels created by monks at Iona Abbey) at the Trinity Library, visit Croagh Patrick (the mountain where St. Patrick sojourned), and Glendalough (an ancient monastic settlement) among other sacred sites. We are also looking forward to meeting Jess' parents and family in Cavan and possibly traveling to Northern Ireland.

Then, towards the end of September, Mary and I will be doing a 9 day self-guided walk around the Dingle Peninsula in the southwest of Ireland through a wilderness excursion company. The walk includes what is known as “The Kerry Camino” and it is a place that I first visited when I was in college. I was struck by the incredible beauty of the place, its mystic quality, and how it felt like a “thin place” between heaven and earth (as all of Ireland did to me).

Following the walk, we will return to Dublin and Mary will fly back to the US. I will then be flying to A Coruna, Spain, to walk the “Camino Ingles.” This is one of the famous Camino routes and I will be traveling the way that many ancient pilgrims from the UK and Ireland traveled to get to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, where the cathedral that houses the remains of the apostle St. Stephen is located. This is a shorter, 5-day walk than some of the other Caminos which can take 3-4 weeks or more. I expect to come back having lost a lot of weight from all of the walking!

I will fly back to Boston around the 6th of October and then hope to go to Montreat, North Carolina retreat center later in October to attend the “School of Earth and Soul” with John Philip Newell, the Celtic Christianity scholar and historian.

The rest of the Sabbatical will be spent processing the trip, spending time with family, and finding rest and renewal close to home.

The Sabbatical is something that I’ve been looking forward to for a long time, and I really feel the need for it right now. I am very thankful for the Sabbatical sub-committee’s work in providing pastoral leadership while I’m away. I know the church will be in very good hands while I’m away and God will be at work in creative and inspiring ways.

Have a wonderful summer in all of your endeavors.

Tim

## **Worship and Masks - Council decides to continue mask policy**

There are two major concerns about lifting the masking requirement. First, being a tourist town our church welcomes folks from all over the country to our church.

The second and most important concern is in regard to our families. At this point all children under the age of 12 are not vaccinated. Young families are an energizing and vital part of our church family. Parents have expressed that they would not be comfortable coming to church if folks were unmasked.



June was Pride month and our flag flies in support

The Council members felt that a top priority was to have a safe and welcoming place for our families.

The Council decided that in respect for our children and families we would follow the same Sunday protocols for the immediate future including being masked. The COVID situation is constantly changing and the council will continue to review the protocols for in person worship.

Regarding small groups using the church, if all participants are fully vaccinated and everyone is comfortable, masks may be removed and food may be shared.

The church has air purifiers, which should be used in all settings inside the church. They are easily moveable and have a timer so the filters can run for two hours after each gathering.

There will always be unique situations and requests to use the church. These will be evaluated by the Council. Folks on the Council realize that many are mask-weary or find difficulties wearing masks. For the good of the whole church family, let's hold on for a bit longer. Clinical trials are ongoing regarding dosage and efficacy for children between 6 and 12.



### **Christian Education - Summer is here!**

Youth Sunday was held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, and was a beautiful service. Thanks to all the children who read parts of it, and thanks to Tom Davis for accompanying our many songs! Big thanks to all on the CE Committee for their hard work during this challenging year.

The families and many other church members enjoyed an inter-generational book-sharing activity on one Sunday in June and a Bird-Trail walk on another. We are having simple Sunday School lessons this summer, sometimes outside. The children are continuing to explore The Lord's Prayer this summer, discussing each phrase and then expressing what it means to them through art, prayer, and poetry. We are creating a mural as the summer goes along – when you are in the Chapel take a look at their expressions.

We plan to have outdoor family gatherings twice a month this summer, with one being a full-church day trip to Pilgrim Lodge, where we can safely engage in the traditional activities of our Conference's beloved summer church camp, and also introduce a new generation of children and families to this wonderful place. Here is the schedule of family gatherings for July and August:

Sunday, July 11 – summer fun on the lake, at the Chandler's house on North Pond – 4 p.m,  
Sunday, July 25 – movie at the Gem (we will have our own theatre) - time TBD

Sunday, Aug 8 – Parable/Story Walk at Valentine Farm – 4 p.m.

Saturday, Aug 14 – FULL-CHURCH day at Pilgrim Lodge

As always, if there is any way that you'd like to help with Christian Education, send an email to either myself at [PboyleWight@gmail.com](mailto:PboyleWight@gmail.com), or the co-chairs of the CE Committee, Jim Chandler at [Chandler@megalink.net](mailto:Chandler@megalink.net) or Deb Lewis at [FineArts.DeborahLewis@gmail.com](mailto:FineArts.DeborahLewis@gmail.com) with your thoughts or ideas.

May the Spirit of the Risen Christ, and of new life and opportunities, be each and every one of you!

~ Patricia

## Love Bowl for July and August

The Love Bowl for July is the Emergency Food Boxes. This vital service to feed families in the Bethel area continues. The Bethel Health Center and the school district are the primary recipients for these food boxes. Currently Jan Whitworth and Deb Lewis purchase the food and fill and deliver the boxes. Food insecurity is real and this tangible effort to provide food is very useful. The funds have been depleted and need your support.



The Love Bowl for August is school supplies. These financial donations make it possible for young people to get needed items to participate in school in the fall. Please consider the needs of our young people with the August Love Bowl.

## Church Calendar for July and August

Thursday, July 1 – American Red Cross blood drive at the church 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, July 4 – Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Worship with communion at 10 a.m. (in person and YouTube Live).

Tuesday, July 6 - Prayer Group at 8:45 a.m. on ZOOM

Wednesday, July 7 - Men's Breakfast at Church and on ZOOM, 8 a.m.

Saturday, July 10 - Memorial Service for Walter Hatch at 1 p.m. (also on YouTube Live), followed by outdoor reception on Park St. lawn

Sunday, July 11 - Worship at 10 a.m. (in person and on YouTube Live); Family Gathering at Chandlers' house, 4 p.m.

Sunday, July 11 - Virtual UCC General Synod begins

(Patricia Boyle-Wight is Oxford Union Association delegate)

Tuesday, July 13 - Prayer Group at 8:45 a.m. on ZOOM

Thursday, July 15 - World Service Committee at 3 p.m. at Church and on ZOOM

Sunday, July 18 - Worship at 10 a.m. (in person and on YouTubeLive)

Tuesday, July 20 - Prayer Group at 8:45 a.m. on ZOOM

Friday, July 23 through Sunday, July 25 - **Rev. Tim is on Vacation**

Sunday, July 25 - Worship at 10 a.m. (in person and on YouTube Live), Patricia Boyle-Wight leading/preaching;

Sunday, July 25 – Family Gathering--movie at The GEM (time to be announced)

Tuesday, July 27 - Prayer Group at 8:45 a.m. on ZOOM

Saturday, July 31 - Family Memorial Service for Ginny Gamble in the Memorial Garden, 1 p.m.

Sunday, August 1 - Worship with Communion at 10 a.m. (in person and on YouTube Live)

Tuesday, August 3 - Prayer Group at 8:45 a.m. on ZOOM;

Trustees at 6:30 p.m. on ZOOM;

Book Group at 7 p.m. at Church and on ZOOM

Wednesday, August 4 - Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. at Church and on ZOOM

Sunday, August 8 - Worship at 10 a.m. (in person and on YouTube Live);

Family Gathering - Parable Walk at Valentine Farm, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, August 10 - Prayer Group at 8:45 a.m. on ZOOM;

Deacons at 10 a.m. at Church and on ZOOM

Wednesday, August 11 - Stewardship at 11 a.m. at Church;

Church Council at 6:45 p.m. on ZOOM

Thursday, August 12 - Music Committee at 11 a.m. on ZOOM

Saturday, August 14 - Church Families at Pilgrim Lodge (all invited!)

Sunday, August 15 - Worship at 10 a.m. (in person and on YouTube Live)

Monday, August 16 through Tuesday, August 31 - **Rev. Tim on Vacation**

Tuesday, August 17 - Prayer Group meets at 8:45 a.m. on ZOOM

Sunday, August 22 - \***Worship changes to 10:30 a.m.** (in person and on YouTube Live),

Linda Couture leading worship and preaching\*

Tuesday, August 24 - Prayer Group meets at 8:45 a.m. on ZOOM

Sunday, August 29 - **Worship at 10:30 AM** (in person and on YouTube Live),

Patricia Boyle-Wight leading worship and preaching

Tuesday, August 31 - Prayer Group meets at 8:45 a.m. on ZOOM;

American Red Cross Blood Drive, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Church

## Excellent Smile Fund Sale

The World Service Committee sponsored a very successful Smile Fund Yard Sale, raising over \$2,000 for the dentures program for adults in the SAD 44 region.

The World Service may have sponsored the sale but the whole church worked together for this community event. Without the help of everyone, the sale wouldn't have been such a great success. People loved coming together and visiting with each other (all were masked). Thank all of you for your contributions.

Jane Chandler.



## **Flowers for Sunday**

What a wonderful way to beautify the altar and celebrate being back in our beloved sanctuary! (no altar flowers on first/communion Sunday) Susan Herlihy coordinates this list. There are some open Sundays. Please contact her if you could help with a simple arrangement.

**July 11 -**

**July 18** – Art and Ellen Marshalls

**July 25** - Melinda Remington

**August 8** - Jane Chandler

**August 15** - Diane York

**August 22 -**

**August 29** - Linda Davis

**September 12 -**

**September 19** – Jan Whitwoth

**September 26** - Susan Herlihy

**October 10 -**

**October 17** – Andee Alford

**October 24** – Marilyn Sahlberg

**October 31** – Deb Lewis in memory of her mom

**November 14** – Steve Lovejoy

**November 21** – Melody Bonnema

**November 28** – Jane Chandler

**December** - poinsettias

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

### **July**

July 7 – Bethany Dunham

July 8 – Deborah Richmond

July 9 - Quinn Doyle

July 14 – Jim and Jane Chandler

July 19 – Deb Lewis

July 19 – Nyla Scott

July 20 – Bob Elliott

July 21 – Gretchen Motts

July 24 – Mary LeConey

July 25 – Lida and Bob Iles

July 26 – Tate Strugatskiv

### **August**

August 5 – Patricia and Eric Boyle-Wight

August 8 – Dean Walker

August 14 – Wendy Coffin

August 14 – Steve and Peggy Wight

August 14 – Sara Wight and Michael Valentine

August 18 – Neil and Mary Scanlon

August 19 – Ellen Marshall

August 23 – Evan LeConey

August 23 – Liz and Jonathan Smith

August 27 – Chaia Alford

August 31 – Paul and Gretchen Motts

## **Deacons Report**

The deacons reviewed plans for coverage when Tim is on vacation and on sabbatical. Linda Couture will lead worship while Tim is on sabbatical with Patricia covering a few weeks. Linda also leads worship in West Paris earlier on Sunday mornings. **Starting August 22 the church will move the time of worship to 10:30 am in order to allow Linda Couture traveling time.**

Our church has reserved space at **Pilgrim Lodge on August 14** so that all can enjoy this special place together. Swimming, boating, the labyrinth, and other camp facilities will be available for us to use and enjoy. Everyone is asked to bring their own picnic lunch. Tentative schedule is to meet there at 10 a.m. and stay as long as desired in the afternoon.

Add August 14 to your calendar so you won't miss this fun event.

## **General Synod 2021 – Rooted in Love**

This is the year to attend General Synod. General Synod held every other year. Delegates make decisions regarding recommendations to local churches and elect officers for the next two years. This year General Synod is July 11-18. The theme is Rooted in Love.

It is virtual this year and open for guests as well as delegates. Worship is always spectacular, with very talented musicians and dynamic worship leaders.

And there are more than 50 workshops, geared for both lay leaders and ministers. The workshops reflect the diversity of the UCC as we continue to live into our discipleship with Christ. All 50 workshops are available to registered participants. Cost to register is \$100 for visitors.

## **Coffee Order Due July 11**

West Parish Congregational Church supports Equal Exchange coffee growers around the world. Each cup of coffee is a cup promoting justice for the local coffee grower.

Our next order is due July 11. Let Jane Chandler know your coffee wishes.

For a full list of items go to <https://equalexchange.coop>

## **Book Group**

Book Group is meeting in person at the church on Tuesday, July 6 at 7 p.m. The group will discuss Hemmingway. Members are encouraged to read any book by Ernest Hemmingway and share thoughts about his writing.

The Council just met and said small groups that are fully vaccinated can gather in the church without masking and are allowed to share food. So we will have the discussion with food on July 6. People can bring what food item they choose.

The August 2<sup>nd</sup> book is *Burglers Can't be Choosers* by Lawrence Block.