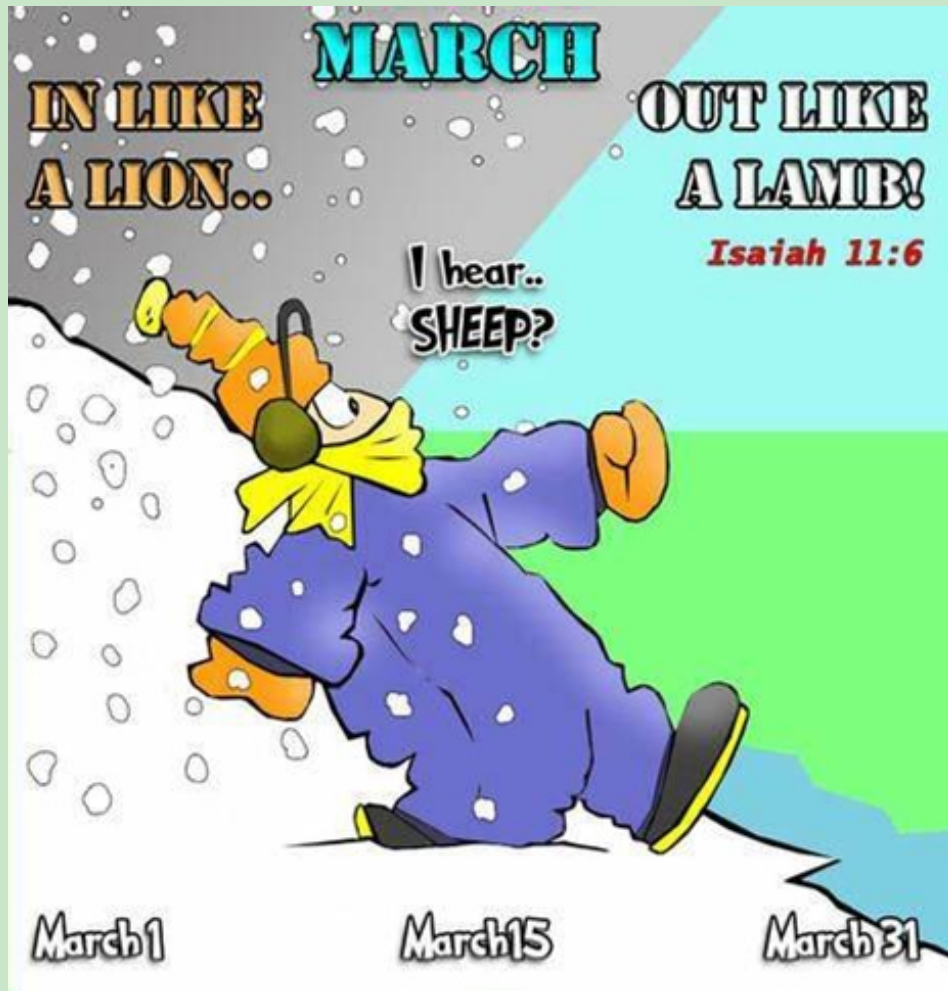


*First Congregational Church of
Wiscasset, UCC*



*The
MEETING HOUSE CHIMES
March 2025*

*First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC
28 High Street, Wiscasset, ME 04578
(207) 882-7544*

VISION: We are on a journey to reflect God's love, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of all.

MISSION: Together we strive to praise God, grow in faith, cultivate

love, spread joy, care for all people and God's creation, promote peace, and do justice.

Welcome to the March edition of the Chimes!

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." *...Jeremiah 29:11*



Myers' Musings

March 2025

The Liturgical Season of Lent

Dear church family,

Several years ago, a schoolteacher was assigned to visit children in a large city hospital. She received a phone call – seemingly a routine request to go visit a child. The teacher said, “we’re studying nouns and adverbs in his class now. I’d be grateful if you could help him with his homework, so he doesn’t fall too far behind the others.

It wasn’t until the visiting teacher got outside the boy’s room that she realized she was in the hospital’s burn unit. No one had prepared her to find a young boy horribly burned and in great pain. She felt that she couldn’t just turn around and walk out, so she awkwardly stammered, “I’m the hospital teacher, and your schoolteacher sent me to help you with nouns and adverbs.”

The boy was in such pain he barely responded. She stumbled through his English lesson, ashamed at putting him through such a senseless exercise while he was in such great pain and suffering. The next morning the nurse on the burn unit asked her, “What did you do to that boy? Before she could finish a profusion of apologies, the nurse interrupted her: “You don’t understand. We’ve been very worried about him. But ever since you were here

yesterday, his whole attitude has changed. He's fighting back, responding to treatment – it's as though he's decided to live!" The boy later explained that he had completely given up hope until he saw that teacher come into his room. It all changed when he came to a simple realization. With joyful tears, he expressed it this way: "They wouldn't send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy, would they?"

I think of this story every Lent. It's harder for me to muster hope during Lent than at any other time of the year. The very nature of the season of Lent calls us to look closely at our own weaknesses and sins. It's a time when I look back over the past year and count my losses.

When I seem to see around me is woundedness and pain, this story invites me to celebrate the gift of life! It shows me again that on the other side of pain is resurrection. It reminds me of what is possible when there is hope.

May God's Grace and Peace be with you!

Dave Myers

(See the "Sermons and Scriptures" section below for the upcoming Sermons)

Lenten Potluck and Bible Study on people of the Bible Sunday Evenings (March 9 – April 23) 5:30 – 7:00pm

Overview: This Lenten Series, led by Rev. Myers and all who participate, is designed for us to be able to better understand some of the important figures in the Bible. This in turn will help us have a new and better understanding of what human faithfulness means even though we are all people with flaws.

Please bring your favorite foods to share and be ready to eat at 5:30 pm.

Preliminary Discussion on what the Bible and its stories and teachings can do for us.

March 9:

Rahab.

Suggested Readings: Joshua 2:6 – 25, Hebrews 11:31 and Matthew 1:5

March 16:

Ruth.

Suggested readings: The Book of Ruth and Matthew 1:5

March 23:

David.

Suggested readings: I Samuel chapters 16 and 17; II Samuel chapters 11 and 12;

Chapter 23:1 – 7; and Psalms 23 and 121

March 30:

Job.

Suggested readings: Job, chapters 1 – 2, 38 – 41, and 42.

April 6:

Mary Magdelene.

Suggested Readings: Luke 8:1 – 3; Matthew 27:55– 61; Matthew 28:1 – 10.

April 13:

Paul (Saul).

Suggested Readings: Acts 9:1 – 30; Acts 17 – 18:1: Acts 25

Chair Yoga with Samantha Main

Class Details

- Day: Wednesdays
- Time: 12:00 PM

Overview

Chair Yoga with Samantha is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting on a chair or standing using a chair for support. This class is perfect for those who want to enjoy the benefits of yoga but have limitations with traditional mat-based poses.

Benefits of Chair Yoga

- Improved Flexibility: Increases range of motion in joints.
- Enhanced Balance: Helps in maintaining balance and preventing falls.
- Stress Reduction: Promotes relaxation and mental clarity.
- Accessibility: Suitable for all ages and fitness levels, including those with mobility issues.

What to Expect

During the session, Samantha will guide you through a series of movements and breathing exercises designed to promote physical and mental well-being. Each class is structured to accommodate various abilities, ensuring everyone can participate comfortably.

How to Prepare

- Wear Comfortable Clothing: opt for something that allows free movement.
- Hydrate: Drink water before and after the session.
- Find Your Space: Choose a quiet, comfortable area with a sturdy chair.

Join Samantha for a rejuvenating experience that brings the benefits of yoga to everyone, right from the comfort of a chair!

*Sam is a Registered Yoga Teacher with over 200 hours and is a Personal Trainer.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The UCC asks pastoral search committees and their congregations to make **FIVE COMMITMENTS**.

A Faith Commitment . . .we suspect you know what this means!

A Time Commitment . . . we remember Dave's sermon on "God's Time".

A Commitment to Openness . . . we pledge a genuine consideration of all candidates.

A Commitment to Consensus . . .we discuss concerns and listen

intentionally to what each member says. When we decide on a candidate to present to the church, we do not simply vote with a majority making the decision. We all have to agree as one body that this candidate will or will not be presented to the church. That said, no one committee member has veto power; instead, we agree to work through concerns as best as we can.

A Commitment to Confidentiality . . . we know you want to know where we are in the process, especially if we are getting close to finding a settled minister. Please remember what candidates expect from us and recognize that we could lose someone if we breach their trust in us. Many who currently serve congregations have not said that they are looking for a new position. Here's what the conference guidelines say about this last commitment.

“Committee members must not talk about the content of their work. That is to say, the sharing of names of individuals under consideration is a serious breach of process. Even to speak in generalities about location or experience or gender can risk folk guessing who the committee is considering.

The congregation must be kept informed at every step of the process. Sharing where the Search Committee is in the process is critical. However, until a final candidate is presented, all conversation about any candidate is closely guarded.”

So, where are we now? We are updating the church profile and working with the conference's associate conference minister, John Fiscus, to improve the interview questions we will pose to any new candidates that come our way. We have faith that God will send the right person to us at the right time. **Meanwhile**, we are grateful to Rev. Dave Myers for all that he does!

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

A copy of the latest Church Council meeting minutes and a copy of the latest Treasurer's Report will now be available monthly on a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We are hoping this will help the lines of open communications .

Thank you,
Becky

Outreach Team

The Outreach Team held their first meeting after worship on Sunday, February 2. We first discussed the name of our Team and agreed to call it simply "Outreach".

We then began to identify activities which we felt were Outreach subgroups and volunteers willing to work on these subgroups as follows:

1. CWS Kit Program: Sally Howe, Joan Shea, Anne Harris, & Nancy Roby
2. "Conversation" (& seasonal appropriate beverage): Linda Wallace & Deb Myers
3. For Her: Organ Society
4. Art Walks: Martha Speed, Angie Eddy, & Youth Group
5. Fundraising: this task is listed under all the Teams in the Governance model. We scheduled a joint meeting of all Teams & open to all the Congregation on Sunday, February 16 following worship. ***This was cancelled due to bad weather and rescheduled for Sunday, March 2.
6. Feed Our Scholars: Beth Maxwell, Deb Myers, Anne Harris, & Nancy Roby
7. U.C.C. Special Offerings: Beth Maxwell, Deb Myers, & Linda Wallace
8. Food Pantry: Beth Maxwell
 - Discussed asking for food items to be brought in the same Sunday as the Noisy Offering
 - Volunteers are needed at the Food Pantry at St. Philip's Tuesday, Wednesday, &/or Thursdays
9. Peace & Justice Issues: Deb Myers, Linda Wallace, Laurie LeBar
 - Bulletin Board
 - Letter writing
 - Speakers
 - Ecumenical Meetings

We agreed it would be beneficial to meet as an entire group quarterly to report back and check in with each other.

The former CWS bulletin board, now marked Outreach, has listings of all these subgroups. If you are interested in being a part of any of these areas, please add your name or contact the people listed. REMEMBER, there is an all church meeting to begin brainstorming fundraising ideas will be held after worship on Sunday, March 2.

Congregational Care

The recently created Congregational Care Team welcomes your participation. We are entrusted with supporting the well-being of the congregation and your input is critically important. When you are aware of anyone in need, please contact any one of the Team members: Lisa Hargreaves, Anne Harris, Jane Junkert, Ron Sanchez and co team leaders, Judith Sutter and Susan Zimmerman.

Anne Harris is the Congregational Care Team's contact with Rev. Dave Myers. Anne supports the minister by keeping him informed of areas needing attention, prayer requests, pastoral visits and all aspects of Congregational Care.

Fellowship hour is up and running with Ron Sanchez at the helm, setting up coffee pots and the refreshment table each week. Ron provides fabulous monthly theme decorations as the February Valentine's Day display enjoyed by all. We are truly grateful for his skills and generous donation of time and talents. We can only imagine what he has planned for March. A reminder that there is always a need for assistance in plating donations prior to church, serving coffee and helping with clean-up. Please check the March clipboard.

The Congregational Care Team continues to connect with parishioners and friends to let them know their church friends are thinking of them in their time of need. Please call Judith Sutter at 882-7230 or Susan Zimmerman at 504-6507 or any member of the team. The white board next to Rev. Myer's office is an option for sharing thoughts and prayers publicly.

Lisa Hargreaves coordinates and provides transportation for members and friends to church. If you would like to help with driving, need a ride or know of someone who would appreciate a ride to church or appointments, please call Lisa at 315-0802.

Team member Jane Junkert is available during the winter months to help the Congregational Care Team in their commitment to caring for the Church's congregation. We look forward to working with Jane.

A March meeting is not currently scheduled. We are committed to open lines of communication and are available to meet as necessary.

Drivers Anyone?

If you would like to provide an occasional ride to and from church on Sunday mornings for those unable to drive themselves, please call Lisa Hargreaves at 207-315-0802. Thank you!

Would you like to bring in flowers to grace our sanctuary?

Bringing in your favorite houseplant to share would be wonderful! Would you be willing to leave your beautiful offering for more than one week?



HELP WANTED

Help Wanted for Property and Finance, someone to learn to program the almost a dozen thermostats as a backup resource. Contact Beth Maxwell at emaxwell@myfairpoint.net or 882-6180.

Food Pantry Cart: The Outreach Team has relocated the food pantry cart from the Narthex to Fellowship Hall, so it is more available. Food items will go to the Help Yourself Shelf at the Food Pantry at St. Philip's. A monthly "wish list" will be posted on the box and in the monthly Chimes.

Help Wanted: To help fill our sand buckets with sand from the transfer station. Please contact Beth Maxwell.

Worship themes and Sermons for March 2025 The Liturgical Season of Lent

March 2:

Transfiguration Sunday.

Communion: Sermon: "Just Trying to Get Away From It All" based

on Exodus 34:29 – 35 and Luke 9:28 – 36. The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus happened on a mountain in front of Peter, James and John. We are told that Moses and Elijah also made an appearance, and afterward they disappeared a cloud “overtook them . . . and a voice came out of the cloud said: “This is My Son, the Chosen; listen to Him!” Sometimes I wish things could be made so clear to me, but I like Peter, James and John tried their best.

March 5:

Ash Wednesday Service. 7:00 pm.

A quiet contemplative service using Taizé Music. Ashes will be imposed for those who so wish.

March 9:

First Sunday of Lent.

Sermon: “Hens and Brooding” based on Luke 13:31 – 35. The scene is Jesus coming to Jerusalem and he is outside the walls on the hillside and weeping over the city because they have lost sight of the faith and turned the most Holy Day into a marketplace. His prayer: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, How I have want to gather you under my arms like a mother hen gathers her chicks, “but you were not willing.” Do we ever consider that instead of God not answering our prayers, we might need to look at ourselves and see if we are willing to listen to God?

Reminder: Set clocks ahead one hour on Saturday evening.

March 16:

Sermon: “Prayer When Bad Things Happen” based on Luke 13:1 – 5 and Luke 18:1 – 8. We all have had bad, tragic things happen to us at some point in our lives. How do we pray, especially when bad things happen? Today’s scriptures suggest that prayer is not so much an attempt to influence God, much less to get God to change God’s mind; rather it is an act of opening oneself to God Who is already present.

March 23:

Sermon: “A Little Help from My Friends” based on Isaiah 43:18 – 25 and Mark 2:1 – 12. Mrs. Thelma Scott was my 3rd grade Sunday School teacher in Orono, Maine. One of my favorite stories she taught us was Jesus healing the paralytic man who had been lowered through the roof, because the crowd was so big it wouldn’t allow him to get close otherwise. A question: are we the crowd that

keeps people from Jesus, or the four friends that helped the paralytic get to Jesus to be healed?

March 30:

Sermon: “Sweeping Away the Past” based on Isaiah 43:16 – 21 and Philippians 3:4b – 14. Isaiah and Paul both had transformations – drastic transformations! They wanted to move on from their past beliefs. People of deep faith recognize that there are times when God’s people need to change course. Are we at one of those times?

April 6: 5th Sunday of Lent.

Communion. Sermon: “Managing God” based on John 11:1–45 (the story of Lazarus being raised from the dead). The remarkable thing about this story is how upset Lazarus’ sister Martha and Mary were angry at Jesus for allowing Lazarus to die. They were trying to “manage Jesus.” But our time is not always God’s time. As Jesus told them, “this was done for the glory of God.”

Faith Development (Christian Ed)

Monthly meeting will be March 3, 2025 @ 6:30pm.

The youth group will meet on the following Sundays; March 9th, 16th and 23rd and 30th at 11:45 am.

KINDNESS BAGS

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP THE HOMELESS

**WE WILL BE COLLECTING ITEMS TO
MAKE HOMELESS BAG KITS. ITEMS
CAN BE PLACED IN THE BASKET IN
FELLOWSHIP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

**OUR YOUTH GROUP WILL SORT AND
PACK BAGS FOR PEOPLE TO GRAB**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO TAKE A BAG
TO DISTRIBUTE TO ANYONE IN NEED**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO ANGELA EDDY
@ 207-607-2035.**

SUGGESTED ITEMS

SOCKS
UNDERWEAR
DEODORANT
DISPOSABLE RAZORS
TOOTHBRUSH
TOOTHPASTE
COMBS/BRUSH
GALLON SIZE BAGS
WET WIPES
HAND WARMERS
GLOVES
TISSUES
FEMININE PRODUCTS
HAND WARMERS
WASH CLOTHS

TRAVEL SIZE

SOAP/BODY WASH
LOTION
SHAMPOO
HAND SANITIZER

FOOD ITEMS

WATER BOTTLES
GRANOLA BARS
TRAIL MIX
SNACK ITEMS



4TH ANNUAL
**LOVE TO BUILD
ART AUCTION**
LOVE IS A FOUNDATION WE CAN BUILD ON



ON DISPLAY AT THE RESTORE: 3/4/25 — 3/28/25
LIVE ONLINE BIDDING: 3/17/25 — 3/28/25

Featuring dozens of original works from local artists and volunteers, rare donated art, and other unique items. All proceeds help build and repair homes for local families with limited incomes.
207-504-9334 — www.habitat7rivers.org



A Message from the Trustees:

Please practice of closing **all** doors when we're not in the building. Closed doors make a huge difference in the event of a fire.

Thank you,
Your Trustees

CLYNK Reminder

CLYNK bags are available for you to RECYCLE and help raise funds.



In Season in *March*



Bananas



Artichoke



Kohlrabi



Rhubarb



Radish



Mint



Guava



Asparagus



Leeks



Oranges



Lamb's Lettuce



Passion Fruit



Cress



Turnips



Parsnips



Napa Cabbage

eatsmarter.com/eat-healthy/seasonal-calendar-march

EatSmarter!

Pastoral Care

In case of a pastoral emergency please use Rev. Dave's cell phone

202-302-6903. Office hours are T, W, Th 9:00am – 12:00pm.
Please continue to use the church number (297-882-7544) for all
other church business.

Cindy Clemet
Church Council President

Directories!

**If you have moved, new phone number, new email address,
please let the office know so we can update the directory with
any changes.**

The 2025 directory are now available. Please pick one up in
Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex. If you are away, Ted is happy to
put one in the mail to you, or Email to it to you.

Please keep the office posted when phone numbers or addresses
change. It is easy to update the database so the next time the
directory is printed, your change will be included.



Thank you for reading the February issue of The Chimes!

If you have news, you'd like to share for the **April issue**, please send
in your article by **March 20th** to fccw@myfairpoint.com.

>> Click here for the February Chimes

*First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC
Mailing address: P.O. Box 350
www.uccwiscasset.org ~ fccw@myfairpoint.net
Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-12pm*

*Worship: Sunday 10 a.m.
Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. David C. Myers
Music Director: Joel Pierce
Office Administrator: Ted Gilbert
Sexton: Mary McKinney*



First Congregational Church, Wiscasset | 28 High Street P.O. Box 350 | Wiscasset, ME 04578
US

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