

*First Congregational Church of
Wiscasset, UCC*



A Time for Thanksgiving!

*The
MEETING HOUSE CHIMES
November 2024*

*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 November 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 *Thanksgiving 2024*

"Let us give thanks in all circumstances." . . . 1 Thess. 5:18

Dear members and friends,

One Thanksgiving season a family was seated around their table, looking at the annual holiday bird. From the oldest to the youngest, every member of the family was to express their praise. When they came to the 5-year-old in the family, he began by looking at the turkey and expressing his thanks to the turkey, saying although he had not tasted it, he knew it would be good. After that rather novel expression of thanksgiving, he began with a more predictable line of credits, thanking his mother for cooking the turkey and his father for buying the turkey. But then he went beyond that. He joined together a whole hidden multitude of benefactors, linking them with cause and effect. He said, "I thank you for the checker at the grocery store who checked out the turkey." "I thank you for the grocery store people who put it on the shelf." "I thank you for the farmer who made it fat." "I thank you for the man who made the feed." "I thank you for those who brought the turkey to the store."

Using his Columbo-like little mind, he traced the turkey all the way from its origin to his plate. And then at the end he solemnly

said, "Did I leave anybody out?"

His 4-year-old brother, embarrassed by all those proceedings, said, "God."

Solemnly and without being flustered at all, the 5-year-old said, "I was about to get to Him."

But wait a minute! The 5-year-old did remember God – kind of. Who was the "you" he kept thanking, if not God? Isn't that the way it is for all of us sometimes? Sometimes we include God, but almost as an afterthought. Paul writes to the church at Rome saying, "for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to God, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened." (Romans 1:21)

A pastor says on the radio after his daily devotional, "Not a sermon, just a thought."

After all, I don't want any of you becoming "futile" or "senseless" this Thanksgiving season.

"Let us give thanks in all circumstances." . . . 1 Thess. 5:18

Remember the Giver,

David C. Myers, Interim Pastor

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

FROM THE GOVERNANCE TEAM:

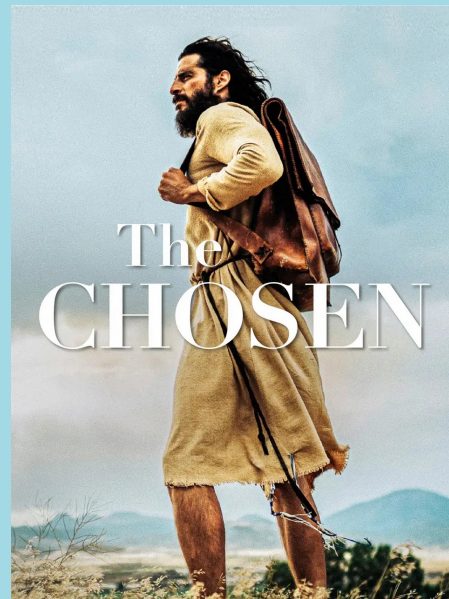
Thank you to everyone who gave us feedback on our ideas for rightsizing committee structure. At the recent listening sessions, we heard very little dissent about forming 5 teams to replace our existing committee structure and even some excitement! The main concerns have been making sure that all tasks are covered by at least one team and that we maintain institutional memory, so that "wheels don't need to be reinvented" when people change. These are not obstacles to making the change, just important items to remember. Another concern has been about team labels, which we can change.

Thus, the governance team will propose that the church council consider the possibility of amending the portion of our bylaws relating to committees for the coming year. If the council agrees, they will recommend to the congregation a vote of approval at the annual meeting scheduled in January. In

addition, we will also work with the council to provide for the congregation's vote a slate of officers and team co-chairs, people who agreed to serve in their respective positions for one year. Officers would include a president, a treasurer, a clerk, a secretary/vice-president; the rest of next year's council would be a pair of team co-chairs for each of the 5 teams. (Only one co-chair would be required to attend council meetings, although both would be welcome if they want!) If the congregation approves the change in committee structure and the slate of council members, then over the course of 2025 the governance team would continue to assess whether any other changes are needed to the by-laws and work towards presenting another revision for a vote in 2026. The pace may seem slow, but we want to be careful not to lose any of the features that make our church what it is today.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of us. We look forward to your input!

Cindy Clement, Becky Lenz, Beth Maxwell, Libby Mooney, Dave Myers, Martha Speed, Linda Wallace & Oscar Wallace



Join us on Sunday evenings at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall while we watch season 4 of "The Chosen".

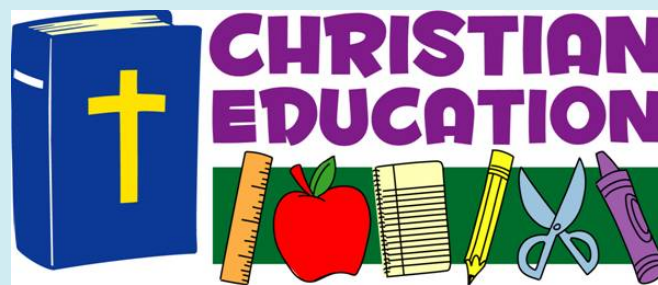
The series will run for 8 weeks starting on September 29th at 5:30pm with a potluck Supper in Fellowship Hall. After each episode there will be discussion.

Season 4 covers significant biblical events. Threatened by the reality of Jesus' growing influence, religious leaders do the unthinkable to attempt to silence Jesus. As the seeds of the leader's betrayal are planted, and opposition to Jesus' message turns violent, Jesus demands his followers rise up. Clashing kingdoms. Rival rulers. The enemies of Jesus close in while His followers struggle to keep up, leaving Him to carry the burdens alone.

Season 4 ends with the triumphal entry of Holy Week.

Everyone is welcome to join from teenagers to retirees! Come and enjoy fellowship with us!

We hope to see you there and to enjoy some wonderful food!



Fall is here and the girls are ready to get back to work!

The Youth Group has had a nursing home visit planned for Saturday November 2nd. They will host an art activity and spend some time with the residents. Please be on the lookout for pictures to follow next month.

Also, the youth group will be part of the stewardship message in November and will have a poster board of their activities on display in Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to enjoy their pictures from Pilgrim Lodge camp and other acts of service they completed throughout the year.

"The Chosen" finishes up this month. We have had a wonderful time sharing in the life of Jesus and enjoyed wonderful food together.

If you would like to join us for season 5 in the spring, you can watch all the seasons so far of The Chosen online for free.

If you are interested in helping out with the youth group or joining us this year, as we look for more ways to give back, please reach out to Angela Eddy.



Stewardship:

At the end of October, we will begin our usual Pledge Campaign, BUT this year things will be a little different than in the past two or three years.

Watch for more details to come! In the meanwhile, know that your presence, your participation, and your prayers are just as important as your pledge.

(We hope you like alliteration as much as we do!)



News From the Pastoral Search Committee:

Sadly, we have not received any new profiles to consider since the end of August.

We have asked our new associate conference minister to help us figure out if it might be possible to work with a "Member in Discernment" and sponsor a practicum where this person would work part time with a local congregation as part of their training to become a minister.

Our own Sarah Whitfield is currently serving Boothbay Harbor

church in this capacity, and we think it might be a good idea for FCCW.

Stay tuned as we learn more about this possibility!

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!

A blue rectangular graphic with a blurred background of people. The text "Church Live streaming" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. "Church" is on the top line and "Live streaming" is on the bottom line.

Church
Live streaming

Streaming Sunday Services

Are you good with Audio/Visual equipment? If not, would you like to learn?

The church needs a few more people to step up and stream our services on Sundays. Tom Clement, Dewey Harris, Chris Sieracki and Sarah Whitfield have made an enormous commitment to be responsible for streaming our services each Sunday.

Please contact any of our current "stream team" or Libby Mooney if you would like to become part of the team!



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?

Please sign up for two weeks in a row if you'd like. Cut flowers are always welcome too!

News from the Hospitality Committee



We appreciate everyone's efforts this month as we worked on Coffee Hour together (especially as there is not a Men's Group at this time).

The hosts for November are the members of Church World Service.

Please let Jan Whitfield know if you wish to be reimbursed for half-and-half.

SUMMERFEST

On October 13th, the following organizations received donations from our 2024 Summerfest Committee:

Tedford Housing, Habitat for Humanity, Feed Our Scholars, New Hope Midcoast, Healthy Kids, Cooper-DiPerri Scholarships, Lincoln County Dental, Mobius, Midcoast Humane Society

We also presented checks to Church World Service and Special Needs.

Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talent to make the fair a great success!

Jan Whitfield
Chair of Summerfest 2024

Church World Service

The Church World Service committee would like to thank the Summerfest Committee for their donation to help us continue our Mission activities.

We will be meeting on November 3rd to decide where our

contributions for 2024 will be donated.

Thank you so much for all your support of CWS.

= SOS = SHOP ORGAN SOCIETY



The First Sunday of each month the Organ Society will set up Shop in Fellowship Hall, offering seasonal handmade items for sale.

Sunday November 3rd, we will have Fresh Homemade Pies. Apple, Blueberry and more!! Yum!!! \$18.00ea.

Worship Information, November 2024

November 3:

All Saints Sunday, The Sacrament of Communion: **Sermon: "The Foundation of the Saints"** based on Selections from Hebrews, Chapters 11 and 12.

This morning, we will remember the saints by ringing a chime when

their name is read. These persons have been, in some way, affiliated with this church who have died in the past year. But we also will take note that in many ways we all are saints. William Willimon defined a saint this way: "A person is properly designated a saint, not when that person succeeds in living a strenuously virtuous life, but whenever God commandeers that's person life, whenever that person embodies, at least to some degree, what God really wants for that person's life, here, now."

November 10:

Sermon: "From Arithmetic to Love" based on: Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 8 and Mark 14:3 – 9.

Things can get confusing when trying to be faithful following Jesus. On the one hand he tells a scribe to sell all he has and give it to the poor, and today in Mark's story he praises a woman who comes in with the most expensive perfume and anoints him with it. What a seeming waste of money? But, like in the book of Ecclesiastes maybe there is a time for everything. For sometimes Jesus lifts us clear out arithmetic and into love!

November 17:

Sermon: "What?!? Me Worry?!?" based on: Matthew 6:24 – 33.

Many of you will remember Alfred E. Newman from **Mad Magazine** that was meant to be satirical commentary on our culture. He was the deadbeat hippie, who acted as if he didn't have a care in the world. Let's take a look at Jesus' admonition not to worry, and see if it can help us in our daily stresses of life.

November 24

Thanksgiving Sunday: Sermon: "Can Rotting Broccoli Ever Be Holy?" based on: Habakkuk 3: 17 – 19a.

Thanksgiving is close. And while it is an opportunity for us all to "count our blessings," I know that for some of you are having a tough time this year when hardship, death and loss has overwhelmed your life. Let us remember that the first Thanksgiving in Plimouth, MA came out of gratitude that half of original 101 "pilgrims" (would they be called illegal aliens today?) were still surviving after a very difficult winter.

We will also celebrate receiving your faithful pledges of your "Prayers," "Presence," "Gifts," and "Service."

December 1:

First Sunday of Advent. Communion. Sermon: "Preparing" based on Mark 13:24 – 27 and Mark 4:30 –32.

Advent is the Church season of the year that begins a new cycle of covering the life and seasons of Jesus. And like expectant parents, we have some time to prepare. But for what? In the Hebrew tradition you would only know that the Messiah had come by seeing the "signs of the Messiah". What are those signs? When John the Baptist was imprisoned before being beheaded wanted to know if indeed Jesus had come; and Jesus told his disciples to go and tell John: "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them."

TRUSTEES UPDATE November 2024

With the holidays rapidly approaching and our attention being focused on the many activities that accompany them, I would like to give you a progress report on the accomplishments of your trustees so far this year. There is always a lot to do and to date we have:

- Had all the carpets, except the Sanctuary, cleaned.
- Had the gutters cleaned out and repaired.
- Installed several new thermostats.
- Performed a financial audit.
- Sanded and painted a new non-skid surface on all ramps.
- Entered into a new and lower cost copier contract.
- Repaired carpet at side entrance.
- Had the elevator inspected.
- Repaired stains on Sunday School ceiling.
- Replaced the basement windows.
- Repaired basement entry door.
- Coordinated at all Church briefing from our investment advisor.
- Repaired siding and painted failing paint on the Courthouse side of the Church.
- Had the chimney rebuilt and a new cap installed.
- Fixed a dangerous hole at the side entry ramp.
- Purchased and installed a new walk-around mic for the Sanctuary.
- Touched up paint in the Sanctuary.
- Managed our endowment and received and trained a newtreasurer.
- Produced a budget for 2025.

There are more projects in work for 2025. Let any trustee know if you see something that needs attention.

Thanks,

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, in which you put your returnable bottles and cans, are available in the church office. The tags that must be put on these bags are in Fellowship Hall tacked on the CIS bulletin board near the kitchen; there are also pre-tagged bags there.

Take the tagged filled bags (no more than 20 pounds) to any local Hannaford CLYNK station or bring it to church and notify Beth Maxwell who will take the bag to Hannaford. There is a bag in the kitchen if you want to bring in bottles and cans and deposit them there instead of collecting them at home.

The money collected by using these bags is used to support the Feed Our Scholars program.

Many thanks for participating in this effort.





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 Cletmet
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 2024 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 November issue of *The Chimes*!*

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

[>> Click here for the October 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*



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