

CALENDAR

- Nov. 28** **Thanksgiving Day**
Dec. 1 **1st Sunday of Advent**
Dec. 7 **Christmas Tree Expedition, 9 am (meet at the church)**
Dec. 8 **2nd Sunday of Advent**
Dec. 10 **Food Bank Staffing by DFCC, 4:30-7 pm**
Dec. 15 **3rd Sunday of Advent, Advent Lunch & Carol Sing, 11 am**
Dec. 22 **4th Sunday of Advent**
Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve, Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols, 5 pm**
Jan. 6 **Epiphany (Celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 5)**
Jan. 26 **DFCC Annual Meeting, 11:15 am (Snow Date: Feb. 2)**

Advent in Day's Ferry



Next month, we will celebrate Christmas in our traditional manner. There will be a tree expedition (Dec. 7), the Advent luncheon and carol sing (Dec. 15), and a moving candlelight service on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24). And, of course, the lighting of an Advent candle by members of our congregation each Sunday (beginning Dec. 1).

Christmas is also a time when we gather our resources to help others. The Outreach Committee has organized a program to provide holiday food and gifts for needy families in our community. Please look for the sign-up sheets in Johnson Hall.

BELONGING

FROM THE PASTOR

“Belonging” is the uniting principle of Congregationalism. We are a people gathered together and united to Christ and to each other by voluntary covenant. As a Congregational Church, we are free from imposed doctrines and free from “higher” ecclesiastical authority. But we must not think of ourselves as ...

“...a gathered conglomeration of free-thinking individuals bound together only by our conviction that we should be free... The freedom of the Congregational Way is freedom from the rule of others so that we can be more completely obedient to the rule of Christ.”

– A. Rouner, *The Congregational Way of Life*

We are **free in Christ**. This is the freedom to follow Christ, as we are led by the directive of the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit.

In this freedom we are **bound by love**. The covenant love of the Hebrew Scriptures and the *agape* love of the New Testament both convey the idea of binding ourselves to one another in the commitment of love. We become one in Christ as His covenant community.

Because we belong to one another, we are caring for one another. *Koinonia*, the New Testament word for “fellowship”, is a partnership and a shared participation in the life of the fellowship.

The implications of all this are great. One implication is that our freedom from any “higher” or regional authority telling us what we should believe or do, places the responsibility for our mission and work directly upon all of us. The Congregational Church is indeed “the Church of the Laity”. It also challenges us in a very positive and lively way to be involved in caring for each other – sisters and brothers in a covenant family. What a wonderful sense of belonging results from our mutual encouragement and support of one another!

The sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, as instituted by Christ himself, are outward and visible signs of our covenant relationship with Christ and to one another in the Body of Christ. We bind ourselves to Christ and to one another. What a wonderful sense of belonging!

Grace and Peace,
Jim Henry

OUTREACH EFFORTS

COLLECTION FOR REFUGEES

Over the summer, we collected three vehicle loads of clothes and kitchen items to be donated to support new immigrants to Maine. Outreach Chair Cyndi Zadai organized the effort. Linda Wood and Carol Knowles delivered the items to The Root Cellar in Portland and other refugee support organizations. We are exploring other ways to support new immigrants to Maine.



HOLIDAY FOOD & GIFTS

As we've done for many years, the congregation will be collecting Thanksgiving food for local needy families. Sign-up sheets are on the table in Johnson Hall. Later we will be collecting Christmas food and gifts for needy families. For more information, contact Jennifer Oddleifson.

BOTTLES FOR FOOD BANK

This past summer we supported Gavin Hanna's drive to raise \$1,500 for the Bath Area Food Bank. We are happy to report he exceeded his goal. Thanks to all who saved and donated to this effort. If you'd like to support the Bath Area Food Bank, take your bottles/cans to Don's Bath Redemption Center at 786 Middle St., across from the Food Bank. The Food Bank has an account at Don's. So just tell them you want the money to go to the Food Bank. If you have questions, please contact Howard Bliss.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

DFCC held its third blood drive of 2019 on October 19 and collected 11 units – an excellent turnout since it occurred during one of our recent multi-day power outages. DFCC hosts three drives a year and our location plugs a hole in the Red Cross coverage of the area. Our next drive is scheduled for Saturday, March 28.

FALL WORK DAY

Early November is when we get ready for winter at DFCC. More than a dozen members showed up on November 2 to help install storm windows, scrub the back deck, and detail the kitchen and restrooms.

Thanks to all who helped get us ready for winter, which arrived a little early this year!



OUR GARDEN GROWS . . .

Our vegetable garden was put to bed at the end of October. Although Maine's growing season got a late start, we managed to contribute \$200 worth of fresh, home-grown food to the Bath Area Food Bank. The garden did well with a sprinkler on a timer and hand-watering during the hot sunny days of summer. We produced onions, peas, pole beans, blueberries and over 100 tomatoes. Thanks to all who donated plants and flowers and worked on the garden. Planning has already begun for next year. If you'd like to help, please contact Michael Sinton.

CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

Clerk Sally Davis has put a container in Johnson Hall to collect your empty ink and toner cartridges. She will recycle them at Staples and use the rewards to buy office supplies for the church. Good for the church and good for the environment!



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The search committee passed a major milestone recently with the completion of all our “paperwork” to post our pastoral vacancy on the UCC website. In September, both our short (10-page) “prospectus” and our lengthy (40-page) “profile” were posted on the UCC website and available to candidates nationwide.

We have subsequently received several resumes and are beginning the process to review paperwork and interview prospective candidates for our position.

We have been informed that the candidate pool – particularly for a part-time position – is much smaller than in the past. But we are hopeful that we will attract a candidate that will fit our special congregation.

We want to thank the congregation for its support and patience through this process. Please contact any member of the committee with questions or Ideas.

BUDGET UPDATE

Treasurer Carl Bergquist reports that church finances are in good shape. As of the end of October, our annual offering is about \$2,000 (or 4%) below budget. Carl believes the congregation will respond and we will be close to budget by year end.

WINTER CANCELLATION POLICY

Winter storms are on the horizon. If the Sunday Worship Service is going to be cancelled, we will:

- Send an email to the congregation and call those without email. (If you want to be on the call list, please contact Sally Davis.)
- Post a message on the church website: www.daysferrycongregational.org
- Post the cancellation on Channels 6, 8 & 13.

When possible, we will make the decision on Saturday evening.

As always, please use your best judgment about driving in wintery conditions.

PHOTO GALLERY

Long-time Day's Ferry resident and church member Harvey Rudolph died on July 11. His memorial service was held at the church on Sept. 7.



"Rudy" had been a fireman in Massachusetts for many years. At his service, his uniforms were displayed and a special fireman's bell salute was made.

During the annual Chamberlain Day celebration in Brunswick this summer, the talented Althouse Family (Whitney, Paul, Roxane and Jeremy) presented a concert featuring songs of the Civil War era.



The concert was given in the Bowdoin College Chapel with many members of our church in attendance.



Linda Pappas gave a talk about her book, *The Perfect Child for Us*, at the Mustard Seed Bookstore in Bath on Sept. 26.



Maine State Rep. Allison Hepler (Woolwich) invited Roxane Althouse to sing the National Anthem at the State House recently.



In October, we celebrated Jim Henry's one-year anniversary as our Interim Pastor (with Marge and Andreas). Chocolate cake is his favorite!



Coffee Hour—A valued DFCC tradition

Please send newsletter input to Annie Miller at sienagreen@yahoo.com