

# The Clapper

God  
is still  
speaking,

SECOND CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONAL  
United Church of Christ  
Pastor: The Rev. Brad Hirst

April 2011  
www.2ccucc.org  
(207)439-3903

## Holy Week SERVICES



- April 17      10 AM      Palm Sunday  
 April 21      6 PM        Maundy Thursday  
 April 22      7 PM        Good Friday  
                   at First Congregational Church, Eliot
- April 24      6 AM        Sunrise Service  
                   at First Congregational Church, Kittery Point
- 10 AM        Easter Family Worship

### Journey to Jerusalem

#### Wednesdays Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services

Hosted by the churches of the Kittery-Eliot Clergy Association. All services begin at 7:00 PM. Please join us on our *Journey to Jerusalem*.

- March 30      First Congregational, Kittery Point  
Fr. John Skehan, preaching
- April 6        Eliot United Methodist Church  
Rev. Gary Havener, preaching
- April 13       Second Christian Congregational  
Chaplain Chris Lanzara, preaching
- April 22       First Congregational, Eliot  
Good Friday Drama

### AMIGOS Potluck Supper & Brown Bag Auction Sunday, April 3 at 6:00 PM



The Going Out Ministry Team would like to invite you and your friends to a special Potluck Supper on Sunday, April 3, at 6:00 PM. There is a suggested donation of \$3 to help defray the costs of the AMIGOS Bucket program.

We will also be having a Brown Bag Auction to raise funds for AMIGOS. Please bring an item in a brown bag for the auction. It can be something old, something new, something silly, something nice, be creative as long as it fits into a brown bag! And then take a chance and bid on these mysterious prizes!

AMIGOS Shopping Lists and Buckets are available in the vestry. Ask friends, neighbors or family members to help. Make it into a scavenger hunt for a good cause! In addition to the cost of items to fill the bucket, the total cost to obtain the bucket, lid and label, and shipping fees is \$12.00/bucket. Please return your packed bucket by Sunday, April 10, so that we have time to label and deliver them to the Association's coordinator. For more information, please speak to Priscilla deRochemont.

#### *"The Jesus Diaries: Who Jesus Is to Me"*

All are welcome to join us on Tuesday, March 29, April 5 & 19 at 6:30 PM for Bible Study. We will be discussing "*The Jesus Diaries: Who Jesus Is to Me*," a collection of reflections from the Stillspeaking Writers' Group.



Dear Friends,

Why go to church? The following explanation has been making its way around the internet, so you may have already heard it, but I share it with you anyway.

A church-goer wrote a Letter to the Editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons [now, you might, along with me, wonder about his math, or his church, because that's 100 sermons a year!]. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting their time.

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

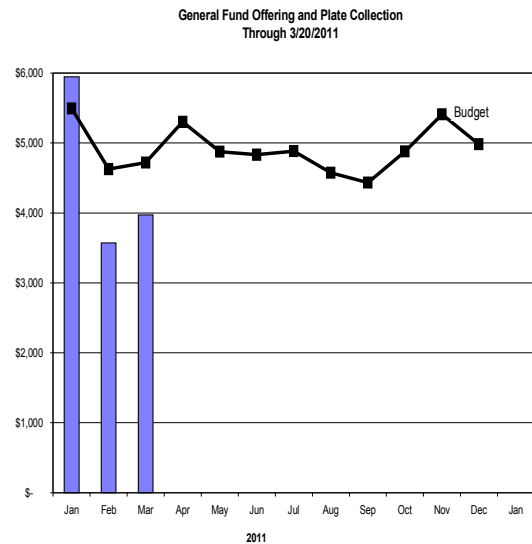
So why *do* we go to church (or not)? I know this is a question many of us wrestle with. When I was growing up, there was no question, no discussion, no debate. We went to church. But life is different today; I think we are busier today, and often Sunday morning is the only day we can actually relax. Maybe it's the only day we have for family. And there always seems to be a project on the To-Do List that just can't wait. Life is full of choices.

Did you know that, on average, people who attend worship regularly live longer, healthier, and happier lives? It's true! They've proven it! It's good for you, and it's good for the kids, and it's good for everyone else who comes together here on Sunday morning. When *you* are with us, we are a fuller, more joyful, more complete gathering of the people of God. And that's good for all of us. Besides, when you are not here, *you* are missed.

Hope to see you in Church!

*Brad*

### From the Treasurer:



The black line at the top of the chart represents the monthly target to meet budget. The vertical bars represent the actual offerings received each month, as of March 20.

## QUARTERLY MEETING Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

In accordance with the Bylaws and Constitution of Second Christian Congregational United Church of Christ, the Quarterly Meeting of said body will convene following the worship service on Sunday, May 1, for the purpose of hearing reports from officers and teams, and conduct other such business as might properly come before the membership of the church.

Please note the change in date due to Easter.

Do you have an e-mail account?  
Do you want to help your church save money  
on printing & postage?  
Would you like to receive your Clapper in full  
color...  
...and much earlier than the printed copy?  
Then sign up today for *Electronic Delivery*.  
It's easy! Just drop us an e-mail at [church@2ccucc.org](mailto:church@2ccucc.org)  
and include *Clapper* in the subject line.

We'll do the rest!

And thank you in advance!

### Church Council Highlights – March 6

Approval of 16 November 2010 minutes. It has been determined that the tanks are 275 gallons and the clogged line between the tanks has been cleared.

**Treasurer's Report:** Fuel is over budget by \$1000 for the month. This may be a reflection of the billing cycle, it is also noted that it has been cold. Income is higher than expected to date, taking care of the increase in expense for the month.

#### Unfinished Business

**Church Turnaround Boot Camp:** A two day training session in Massachusetts with Paul Nickerson. Nadine, Tom, Pam and Brad attended. We need to do more than wait for people to come through the door. We are looking to have small group sessions, inviting friends to come with us, to meet socially, before bringing them to church. The other side of the turnaround is to free up 20% of the Pastor's time. As we have a good core of people and concepts here in place already.

#### New Business

**Soup & Bread:** April 10 to have the liaison team leaders have a table during soup & bread after church, so that the congregation can hear what we are doing. This is also a good time to have people bring their ideas to the team leaders.

**AMIGOS:** April 3 potluck dinner and brown bag auction fundraiser. People invited to bring items in brown bag for others to bid on.

**Church Family Photos on Easter:** Pictures to be put on Facebook and website. To make these sites more alive and living. To share activities.

**Vestry Floor:** To be washed and waxed week of March 13. Volunteers needed.

**Parking Lot:** Janet Howe, from Tulsi, is moving to the Enoteca building. She requested a letter from us to the town stating that they can use 14 of our parking spaces. This would be after 5:00. We should follow up with our insurance carrier for any possible liability issues. Should a letter be given, it should be reviewed annually.

#### Ministry Team Updates:

**Stewardship:** Mike will prepare a report for time & talent to present to liaison leaders. July is not far away to start looking for new leaders.

**Trustee:** Keep in mind painting and heating still need to be addressed. Perhaps looking into what can be covered in aluminum to reduce maintenance cost. Could we borrow from ourselves, before a Capital Campaign to replace the furnace? We received a quote.

**Communications:** Tom would like to see some publicity on the Linus Project. Website has been updated again.

**Going Out:** Caps for newborns have been sent. Kittery Optometric filled 20 school kits.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patty Higgins, secretary pro tem

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### Deacons Meeting Highlights – March 8

#### Unfinished Business

**Turnaround Church** program initiated. Proposal from Paul Nickerson approved by Church Council. Overview of workshop in Framingham presented. Our next steps are to determine our “Mission Field,” initiate some Member/Guest events, and begin to reach out. We need to determine how we want to proceed. Freeing up 20% of the pastor's time for networking is a key component. Also looking into “Congregational Care Groups,” which would be gatherings of 8-10 members in people's homes for fellowship, check-in, and prayer.

**Unbinding the Gospel** books will be purchased for two new *Unbinding* groups to be formed. Pam to advise on expense line.

**New Member Sunday** was well-received. Eight new members joined and there are still a few more who may be interested in joining soon.

**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper** went well. There were 46 in the house and *bon temps* was had by all!

**Fort Foster pavilion** has been reserved for worship on July 10. Thank you Edith Morgan.

#### New Business

**Visitations and care giving** discussed. This will continue to be an important item as we move through the church vitality initiative.

**“Building Bridges” Block Party** (June 18) to be held in neighborhood of Wallingford Square & Foreside. We will be looking to ways we can support this event.

**AARP Driver Safety Class** (June 8) hosted by church. Gini Barron is organizing.

**Lenten Service** here on April 13.

**Redesigned Website** has good reviews. Noted no worship times posted.

**Pastor's Report** Attended Rotary Club President-Elect Training seminar.

Respectfully Submitted, Brad Hirst



**Sharing Brings Joy  
To us.  
To Others.  
To God.**

**One Great Hour of Sharing  
APRIL 3**

During worship on April 3, we will be invited to help people in need around the world and in communities impacted by disasters in the United States through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. As the church, we are called to help one another, even through the sharing of our own resources.

Giving from our abundance helps build clean water and sewage facilities in villages devastated by poverty; nurtures self sufficiency through health care, education, and job training; and brings safety, shelter, and food after natural disaster or violent circumstances have made towns uninhabitable.

Sharing brings joy to us, to others, to God. Let sharing transform you as you help transform the world through One Great Hour of Sharing.

**Kittery Coffee House  
April 9, 6:30 – 9:30 PM**

An evening of live Blue Grass, Country, Folk and Rock, hosted by Shades of Grass. Any type of acoustic music is welcome. Please call 207-438-6087, 603-842-3818 or 207-676-9630 for more information. Suggested donation \$5 for a local charity.

Last month the standing room only crowd raised \$1,610 for Austin Hudson, a nine year old undergoing treatment for a brain tumor. Thank you!



**Footprints Food Pantry**

On Sunday, April 10, we will be collecting our monthly donations for Footprints Food Pantry. They are particularly low on healthy snacks for children including small boxes of raisins, nuts, and fruit cups. They can also use baked beans, mac & cheese, hash, peanut butter, hot cereal (oatmeal), dry pasta, and meals in a cup. Donations of toiletries and cleaning supplies are also welcome.

**Going Out Ministry News**

We have many opportunities to share our faith through several mission projects.

Many thanks to our knitters and crocheters, who made 62 caps for newborns, which were shipped to Save the Children on February 28.

A.M.I.G.O.S. buckets are now available. If you'd like to fill one, please record your name and the bucket number on the sheet by the buckets, and pick up a shopping list. A bucket of food will feed a child lunch at school in Honduras for three months. Our church's goal is seventy filled buckets this year. Filled buckets must be returned by April 10. Cost of shipping these buckets is \$12 per bucket.

We are continuing to collect Church World Service Kits, and so far have received many school kits and some hygiene kits. The closing date for this project is May 1, as the kits need to be packed in boxes and taken to Portland during the week of May 2.

Information about the kits is available on the table by the A.M.I.G.O.S. buckets in the vestry.

The next serving dates for our Table of Plenty team are March 31 and May 26.

Our Going Out ministry is always open to new ideas. If you have a mission project you'd like to become involved with, please see Laurie Rowan.

**Aggieman Event at EMS**

The Aggieman has been invited to take part in a two day club event at the [Eastern Mountain Sports store in Portsmouth, NH](#) on Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9. All registered race participants will enjoy

- 25% off regular price EMS brand products
- 20% off National brand products and all clearance products
- 2011 Felt bikes are excluded from the discount.

Simply bring a printed copy of your registration confirmation to qualify for these great discounts. This is a great opportunity to gear up for the race in June.

If you would like to help staff the registration table for a couple of hours either day, please speak to Brad or Ernie. Currently the race is halfway sold out with over 50 registrations!



### Project Linus

**April 16, 8 AM – 3 PM**

*What is Project Linus?* It is making fleece blankets for children who need love, a sense of security, and warmth. Some

of the children who receive blankets are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of the gift of a new handmade blanket lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.” Making these blankets becomes a rewarding and fun experience, so please join us on:

Saturday, April 16 at 8 AM – 3 PM

Cotton kits will be provided and all you need to do is show up with sharp scissors.

Items you can bring that are helpful include:

- Rotary cutters
- Sewing machine
- Cutting board
- Cotton material
- 1 ½ yards of fleece
- 1 ½ yards of fleece (solid for backing)

Snacks and refreshments will be served. There is a sign up sheet in the vestry. If you have any questions, please speak to Linda Baran (439-8815).



**If you would like a lily or a pot of tulips placed in the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of a loved one on Easter Sunday, please fill out an order**

**form available in the vestry and give it to Carrie Varney, along with your payment of \$8.50 per plant, by Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.**

We have special bulletin covers for Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, and Easter Sunrise services. If you would like to donate one in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please sign up in the vestry or contact the office.

**“Spring shows what God can do with a drab & dirty world.”**

**~ Virgil A. Kraft**

### Eat and Meet

**April 10**



Every wonder what all those Ministry Teams are really up to? Ever wonder how you might be able to contribute your talents to the cause? Ever wonder what to do with that really great idea you have? Well this is your chance! After worship on April 10, everyone is invited to stay for a delicious lunch featuring a fabulous variety of soups and breads.

After worship we'll come downstairs, grab a bowl of soup and a hunk of bread, and pick a table to enjoy our meal and hear what's going on. Each table will have a sign on it for one of our ministry teams – Trustee, Deacons, Welcoming, Learning, Going Out, maybe even a Music Ministry Team table. You get the idea.

We'll listen to what's going on, share ideas about things we'd like to see happen, and envision what will come next for us. And then we'll get up, get another bowl of soup and hunk of bread, and do it all over again at another table. It will be a great way for us all to hear about what's going on at Second Christian and to share our ideas about where we see God leading us.

Please try to be with us that day. And if you would like to contribute a pot of soup or a loaf or two of bread, please call Tom Baran (439-8815).

***In Your Easter Bonnet,  
with All the Frills Upon It!***

***You are invited to have your family photo snapped in front of the wonderful display of Easter lilies and tulips in our beautiful Sanctuary after the service on Easter Sunday!***

We would like to share these photos on our Facebook page and website. There's no catch! These will be taken by someone in our congregation, and not by a professional photographer. It will only cost you a smile, and a few minutes. It's just a fun way to let everyone know what 2ccucc is all about!



*Notes of Appreciation...*

My sincere thanks to everyone for your continuing prayers, good thoughts, cards, visits, flowers, and special treats. Many thanks to Pastor Brad for his visits and prayers. Your support and caring has been a big help over the past months. My thanks also to those who have filled in for me when I haven't been able to fulfill the jobs I had committed myself to do.

God bless you all, and peace be with you.

Lezlye Shea

~~~~~  
Thank you George Fecteau and your apprentice Mark Fecteau for doing some electrical work around the church, especially for the new receptacle in the office!

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Thank you so very much for your three donations to Footprints on January 4, February 3 and 20 for a total of \$209.22. Also thank you so much for all the food collected and delivered to Footprints.

It has been a very snowy and cold weather start for 2011. After all the snow and cold weather in February we ended up with a total of 349 adults and 138 children getting 777 bags of food. March still hasn't warmed up much and snow just doesn't seem to want to stop yet. On March 2 we served 100 adults and 48 children with 235 bags of food. We are still getting new clients and returns from past years.

Again please accept our sincere thanks for your continued support of Footprints. We are a non-profit pantry run by volunteers only, and it is *wonderful and caring people* like you that helps us keep serving those that need a helping hand in our community. It is so good to have the funds to purchase food when needed. We have the best community around; everyone comes together to help those with a need.

Sincerely,

Barbara Fernald

Executive Director, Footprints Food Pantry

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***Save the Date!***

***Wednesday, June 8 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM***

***AARP Driver Safety Class***

***Details to be announced in the May Clapper***

***An Invitation to our Pastors and Lay Leaders to General Synod***

**Imagine What's Possible** with 3,500 of your UCC friends in Tampa, Florida! Come to the Twenty-eighth General Synod, July 1-5.

Here are some important things that you and your congregation should know as we approach our time together in Tampa.

**Suncoast Saturday:** Saturday, July 2, will be a day full of inspirational speakers and workshops, as we "imagine what's possible" for the UCC and our local churches. We will begin the morning with a keynote address by Leonard Pitts Jr., the Pulitzer-prize winning syndicated columnist, interspersed with music by Nuttin' But Stringz, a finalist and crowd favorite from America's Got Talent. The rest of the day will feature diverse and dynamic inspirational speakers and workshops to help you "imagine what's possible" in worship and spirituality, technology, justice, finance, leadership, health and wellness, youth, and the arts. Speakers will provide practical applications to help inspire possibilities-focused ideas for your congregation. Here's the [complete lineup](#) for you to review and share with others.

For a fuller picture of the Twenty-eighth General Synod, including information on how to register and get housing, go to [ucc.org/synod](http://ucc.org/synod).

See you in Tampa, where together we will celebrate how "imagining what's possible" is the first step to making it so.

Edith Guffey

Associate General Minister

Administrator of the Twenty-eighth General Synod

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**Efficiency Maine**

Efficiency Maine is a statewide effort to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine residents and businesses reduce energy costs, and improve Maine's environment. Efficiency Maine is funded by electricity consumers.

Efficiency Maine's residential program helps Mainers save money and energy. To find out about CFLs, federal tax credits, and getting expert home energy advice, go to [www.energymaine.com](http://www.energymaine.com). Or call 866-376-2463.

**Reminder: FOOD FOR FOOTPRINTS EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (April 10<sup>th</sup>)**

**DEACON OF THE MONTH: Charlie Donnell**

**ALTERNATE: Linda Baran**

**April Ushers:**

03 Edith Morgan & Wanda Syphers  
 10 Priscilla deRochemont & Laurie Rowan  
 17 Charlie & Nadine Donnell  
 21 Lucille Melhorn & Wilma Wheeler  
 24 Tim & Kathy Runey  
 Mike & Jean Badger

**April Greeters:**

03 Ernie & Sharon Wiswell  
 10 The Runey Family  
 17 Edith Morgan  
 21 Lucille Melhorn  
 24 Lezlye Shea

**April Liturgists:**

03 Edith Morgan  
 10 Mike Badger  
 17 Edie Niles  
 21 TBA  
 24 Malcolm Heal

**OUR PRAYER LIST**

*Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:*

Kathy Bales	Molly Banville	Bill Baran	Taylor Baran	Gini Barron
Lynda Buckinger	Carl Burbank	Betty Chapman	Greg Chapman	Jim Cole
Carolyn Consaga	Charles Curtis	Betty Farr	Sandi Folmar	Hilda Hoffstetter
Helen Kiehl	Sam Legasse	Susie Legasse	Mildred Leland	Anna Lesswing
Priscilla Reuter	Lezlye Shea	Richard Syphers	Collin Trefethen	

*If you are aware of anyone who should be added to or taken off our prayer list, please contact the [church office](#).*

**April Birthdays**

April 3 Lila Furbish  
 April 4 Nate Hirst  
 April 11 Karin Nightingale  
 April 12 Thomas Brochu  
 April 13 Robert Hill  
 April 14 Jayce Perry  
 Mia Donatello  
 April 17 Molly Seaward  
 April 21 Karen Wiswell  
 April 25 Bradyn Syphers  
 April 27 Ryley Sullivan  
 Vick Contella  
 April 28 Chris LaMontagne  
 Stephanie Millett

**Lectionary Readings for April**

April 3	1 Sam 16:1-13, Ps 2 3, Eph 5:8-14, John 9:1-41
April 10	Ezek 37:1-14, Ps 130, Rom 8:6-11, John 11:1-45
April 17	Ps 118:1-2, 19-29, Matt 21:1-11, Isa 50:4-9a, Ps 31:9-16, Phil 2:5-11, Matt 26:14-27, Matt 27:11-54
April 21	Ex 12:1-4, 5-10, 11-14, Ps 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Cor 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35
April 22	Isa 52:13-53: 12, Ps 22, Heb 10:16-25, Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9, John 18:1-19,42
April 24	Acts 10:34-43, Jer 31:1-6, Ps 118:1-2, 14-24, Col 3:1-4, Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18, Matt 28:1-10

Don't forget to visit our online calendar [click here](#)

