



The Clapper



**SECOND CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Pastor: The Rev. Brad Hirst

September 2019
www.2ccucc.org
(207)439-3903



Gonna ring out Justice, Gonna Ring out Freedom!

Along with churches across the country, we rang our bell on August 25 in recognition of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to English-speaking North America. Did you hear them ring?

The sound of bells around the Piscataqua River at 3:47pm every September 5 is the symbolic celebration of *Portsmouth Peace Treaty Day*, an official New Hampshire observance since 2010.

This reenactment of the bell ringing that occurred on September 5, 1905 at 3:47 pm to celebrate the news that the Russo-Japanese War was officially over recognizes the active role local citizens played in helping to achieve that peace.

The bell ringing tradition recognizes the importance of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty and our citizen diplomacy that helped President Theodore Roosevelt earn his Nobel Peace Prize.

Did you know that during the treaty negotiations members of the Japanese delegation worshiped right here at Second Christian? This year the Runey's will once again ring the bell here at Second Christian. You are invited to join them, or just listen for the tolling, and say a prayer for peace in our world:

Dona nobis pacem...

Homecoming Sunday! September 8

September 8 marks the beginning of another circle of *Welcoming, Learning and Going Out* together!

Join us for this special Second Sunday Jazz Family Worship Service, when we will extend an extravagant welcome to all who have been traveling, away at camp, or "on holiday" for the summer, as we gather around the Table that has a place for all!

After worship our celebration continues with great food and fellowship at an extra special coffee hour. And... *we're having ICE CREAM!*



~~~~~

## **Second Sunday Jazz!**

Rally Day also marks the return of our Second Sunday Jazz Trio (+ 1)! Matt Langley, Jim Rudolf, and Mike Effenberger, will be joined this month by the talented Rob Gerry on bass. They will be continuing with the "women in jazz" series by featuring the music of Tracy McMullen.

Tracy McMullen is a saxophonist, composer, and Associate Professor of American Vernacular Music at Bowdoin College. Her 2019 book, *Hauthenticity: Musical Replay and the Fear of the Real* (Wesleyan Univ. Press) contextualizes live musical reenactments (pop tribute bands, jazz revivals) within postmodern conceptions and fears about identity and difference. No doubt coming to a book group near you! She is currently conducting research on jazz pedagogy and inclusivity for her second book project.



Dear Friends:

Many of you know that last month I participated in the New Hampshire Council of Churches' *Solidarity Walk for Immigrant Justice*. It was the second year for this walk which took them from Concord to the Strafford County Detention Center where upwards of 100 undocumented immigrants from all over New England are detained at any given time pending deportation hearings. The walk expresses our support for the immigrant community and protests our unjust immigration system.

Our group of 24 set out from South Berwick early in the morning, and though we started out closest, we actually walked the longest single day leg at nearly 16 miles! This year delegations from Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont joined in, merging into one at the *Maranatha Indonesian UCC* in Madbury where we were welcomed warmly, fed generously, and sent on our way prayerfully. When we finally got to the jail, there were nearly 500 of us joining our voices together in prayer and song and lament and tears.

As you might expect, we were not allowed anywhere close to the building. A tall chain-link fence topped with razor wire stood between us and the actual jail, maybe 50 yards away. I couldn't make out anything in the windows, didn't know what was going on inside the facility. But we were there, and it was powerful.

I didn't learn until just today that we were indeed seen and heard by the immigrants held inside. Today I learned that they knew we were there, that they knew they were cared about, that they were not forgotten. Today I learned that they heard us and saw us and joined us in prayer and song, in lament and tears. We stepped out in faith, we raised our voices, and we were seen and we were heard. And maybe we made a difference...

Part of the preparation our Maine contingent did for the walk was to read (or re-read) Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. If you have not read it (and even if you have) I commend it to you ([click here](#)). While it was written to white clergy some 56 years ago after King was arrested for participating in nonviolent demonstrations against segregation – his words speak prophetically to the church today, urging us to action with courage and conviction in the cause of justice for all God's people. It is our call.

See you (and hear you) on the Way,

*Brad*

### Faith Promises & Offerings:



The vertical bars represent the *actual* offerings received through August 25, 2019.

### SEMIANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with the Bylaws and Constitution of Second Christian Congregational United Church of Christ, the Semiannual Meeting of said body will convene following the worship service **Sunday, September 29**, for the purpose of hearing reports from officers and teams, electing officers for the following year, and conducting other such business as might properly come before the membership of the church.

So, Officers & Ministry Team Liaisons

#### **It's Annual Report time!**

All reports for the FY2019 Annual Report are due in the office ([church@2ccucc.org](mailto:church@2ccucc.org)) no later than Friday morning, September 20. And that means you too, Pastor Brad!

Thank you in advance!

### **Maine Conference News**

The 2019 Maine Conference Annual Meeting will be held at First Parish Church in Saco on Saturday October 26, with the Pre-Annual Meeting Retreat being held on Friday October 25. This years' annual meeting will include opportunities for us to meet new friends and explore ways to welcome Maine's newer residents. Let's gather as thankful people! If you are interested in attending annual meeting as a delegate, please see Pastor Brad.

**Church Council Highlights**

A meeting of the Church Council was held at 6:30 pm on September 3, 2019 at the church with the following in attendance: Tom Baran, John Marzinzik (by video teleconference), Charlie Donnell, Don Tirabassi, Kathy Maloney, Ernie Wiswell, Alan Robinson and Pastor Brad. Kathy Runey, was also present. Excused were Priscilla deRochemont, Linda Baran, Dawn Boyer and Laurie Rowan.

The meeting was called to order with Pastor Brad offering an opening prayer. The minutes of the May 28, meeting were accepted as published.

The Treasurer presented a detailed end of fiscal year report of the financial condition of the church, including its operating budget and investments. Tom noted that this was a very good financial year for the church and thanked Charlie for his dedicated efforts as treasurer. The Treasurer's report was accepted and placed on file for audit.

Unfinished business: Tom reported on the work of the Church Safety Team. He reminded the Council that there is an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) inside the front entrance of the church and that the team was working on scheduling training on this life saving device for the near future.

Alan Robinson reported that a detailed proposal and cost estimate has been received from a local contractor interested in renovating the church kitchen and that the Kitchen Renovation Committee would be meeting to discuss the proposal.

John Marzinzik reported that the stewardship campaign is well underway with outstanding participation this year. He indicated that we are within \$1,200 of reaching our goal of \$75,000 in pledges.

Pastor Brad reported that through the generosity of members and friends of the church, we were able to help feed children in Honduras through the Amigos project again this year, and that we did so with a donation of \$1,110 to the organization Daisy's Children. He also noted that the Amigos program is in transition and that there are numerous worthy mission projects in the Caribbean.

New Business: Tom announced that the semiannual meeting of the Church will be held on September 29, 2019 following the worship service. Written reports from all ministry teams and church groups need to be submitted to the church office by September 20. Pastor Brad suggested that this would be a good time to propose an amendment to the church bylaws in order to update our mission with our newly adopted Open and Affirming stance. The Council agreed.

A "Reaching New People" workshop will be held on November 8-9 in South Portland, lead by Paul Nickerson. Pastor Brad and Alan Robinson would be participating and that there is room for two more from our church family.

Following several very successful projects over the last few years, Pastor Brad noted that we need to now focus on *what's next*. We will be looking to plan a Leadership Retreat sometime this winter.

**Ministry Team Updates:**

- A Fall Clean-up will be held on Saturday morning, November 2 at 9:00 am at the church.
  - Several facility projects have been completed this summer including painting of the Parsonage trim and the installation of a new mailbox styled after the church building.
  - The Stewardship team is reviewing officer and team liaison assignments to ensure all positions are filled.
- Tom lead a unison reading of the Church mission statement and then closed the meeting at 7:45 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Alan Robinson, Scribe pro-tem

**Deacons Meeting Highlights**

Twice a year we invite Deacons past, present and future to meet together for a less formal gathering to celebrate our service to this church. This years' summer semiannual "All Deacons" Meeting was convened on Friday August 2 at the Eliot home of Diana and John Marzinzik.

We shared some fabulous food and great conversation before engaging in a brief time of mutual reflection on where we are as a church. A rich conversation was enjoyed. Our grateful thanks go out to the Marzinzik's for hosting and to all in attendance!

**Hosts Needed!**

One of the many amazing gifts our church has been given is the gift of Hospitality! We demonstrate that every week as we welcome friends and guests. But every so often we have an opportunity to demonstrate extravagant hospitality with an extra special coffee hour.

Volunteers are needed to host our special after worship fellowship hours this fall:

- October 6 World Communion Day
- November 3 All Saints Sunday
- December 1 Hilda Fife Scholars Sunday

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Vestry.

### 3rd Annual Women's Retreat

Rev. Linda Hirst and Rev. Pat Smith invite all the women from Second Christian to gather with friends from First Parish Federated Church of South Berwick at the *Marie Joseph Spiritual Center* in Biddeford on the weekend of October 25-27.

The cost for the weekend is \$150.00, but we have some funds to help out so if you want to go and cost is the only thing stopping you, just let us know! This years' theme is

#### ***"Sisters On the Journey"***

The greast popularity of this event means that there is actually a wait list this year! But if you're interested in going, be sure to contact Linda at [lbhirst@comcast.net](mailto:lbhirst@comcast.net) to get your name on *The List* or to ask any questions. What you'll need and what to expect will be sent to you soon!

### Sign Up to Serve!

Did you know we have a special website for you to sign up to volunteer to help with our worship services? If you would like to volunteer to be a Greeter, Usher, or Liturgist you can easily sign-up for the Sunday that works best for you, using the Volunteer Code below. If your name is not on the list or you have other questions, or if you just don't want to fool with that computer sign-up thingy, we'll be happy to help get you right where you need to be. To sign-up to serve just go to [www.eventsat2ccucc.altervista.org](http://www.eventsat2ccucc.altervista.org)

Find your name in the drop-down for the date you want, and enter the *secret* Volunteer Code (2ccucc). You'll get an email reminder the week before you are scheduled to serve! Easy as that!

### Reaching New People!

It's been quite a few years since a group of us headed off to Worcester Mass for a workshop by Rev. Paul Nickerson called *Reaching New People*. It helped us learn how to be the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century because the old "attraction models" (have a special program, turn the lights on and open the doors) just doesn't work anymore! Today it's all about invitation!

Another session is scheduled for November 8 and 9 in South Portland. Speak to Pastor Brad or Alan Robinson if you are interested in attending.

### September Dates to Remember:

**Doorkeepers** – Thursday Sep. 5, 6:30pm. Doorkeepers meets most months on the first Thursday and is open to all women of the church, whether they are members or friends, and their guest(s).

**Hearts & Crafts** – Saturday Sept, 14, 9:00am Hearts & Crafts is open to all crafters (members & friends) and their guests. Yes, this includes any men who enjoy crafting and fellowship.

**Table of Plenty:** Our serving dates this fall are September 12 and October 31. We'll meet between 3:30 and 4:30 at St. Raphael's Church on Thursday, Sept. 12 to prep the meal and serve our guests. If you'd like to join us, please see Laurie Rowan. We have a really great time, providing a meal to all who come.

**As the Page Turns:** Our book club will meet on Thursday September 19, at 6:30pm to talk about "The Mother-in-law" by Sally Hepworth.

**Evergreen Festival:** It's not too early to start gathering used jewelry for the church fair. I will be getting it cleaned, sorted, and priced early in October. Many thanks!

**Night Kitchen:** Night Kitchen is conversation and community for adults in search of a fully progressive approach to Christian faith and practice. It's a gathering of folks within the church and without who might be looking for a different way to approach a life of faith. The first session of the fall season is set for Sunday September 15th at 7:00. Watch for the theme in next week's Weekly Peal. Sessions thereafter will fall on the *second Sunday* of the month.

### ***Welcome!***

On August 11 we were very blessed to receive 7 new Covenant Members – one of the largest "classes" in quite a while – into the fellowship of our church. Welcome to:

*Kathryn Davis, Kathy Runey, Tim Runey  
Linnea Schroeder, Cheri Sherman,  
Jim Swisher, and Linda Wentworth*

We are a more complete representation of the Body of Christ now that you are a part of it!

**REMEMBER...**

**WE RECIEVE DONATIONS FOR FOOTPRINTS FOOD PANTRY AND END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH. THIS MONTH IT'S SEPTEMBER 8!**

**Serving you in September:**

**DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Nadine Donnell & Linda Baran**

**Ushers:**

- 01 – Lucille Melhorn & Paulette Beers
- 08 – Ernie & Sharon Wiswell
- 15 – Dick & Judy Jumper
- 22 – Orville deRochemont & Tim Runey
- 29 – Charlie & Nadine Donnell

**Greeters:**

- 01 – Orville & Priscilla deRochemont
- 08 – Dick & Judy Jumper
- 15 – Lucille Melhorn
- 22 – Diane McDonough
- 29 – Sandy Raynes & Cheryl Beckert

**Liturgists:**

- 01 –
- 08 – Alan Robinson
- 15 – Nadine Donnell
- 22 – Your name here...
- 29 – Your name here...

**OUR PRAYER LIST**

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

- |                 |                   |               |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Bill Baran      | Molly Banville    | Aidan James   |
| Tootie LaClaire | Ann Grinnell      |               |
| Dotty Langton   | Mildred Leland    | Nita Mitchell |
| Matt            | Phil Roady        | Carol Cole    |
| Gwen Mossman    | Travis Belleville |               |

The Family and Friends of Caro Curtis

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

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| September 4  | Dawn Boyer       |
| September 9  | John Cole        |
| September 12 | Aidan Sullivan   |
| September 13 | Bradley Williams |
| September 14 | Dexter Fowles    |
|              | Francesca Ciani  |
| September 18 | Philip Seaward   |
| September 19 | Bill Wheeler     |
| September 26 | Andrew Hirst     |

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- |              |                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| September 12 | Judy & Dick Jumper                 |
| September 19 | Wilma & Bill Wheeler               |
| September 21 | Tammy & Tom Sullivan               |
|              | Mike Effenberger & Amanda Kowalski |

**Lectionary Readings for September  
Ordinary Time – Year B**

- Sept 01** Jer 2:4-13 and Ps 81:1,10-16 or Sirach 10:12-18 or Prov 25:6-7 and Ps 112, Heb 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1.7-14
- Sept. 8** Jer 18:1-11 and Ps 139:1-6,13-18 or Deut 30:15-20 and Ps 1, Philem 1:1-21, Luke 14:25-33
- Sept. 15** Jer 4:11-12, 22-28 and Ps 14 or Ex 32:7-14 and Ps 51:1-10, Tim 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10
- Sept. 22** Jer 8:18-9:1 or Amos 8:4-7 and Ps 113, I Tim 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13
- Sept. 29** Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15 and Ps 91:1-6, 14-16 or Amos 6:1a, 4-7 and Ps 146, I Tim 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31



Don't forget to visit our [ONLINE CALENDAR](#)