



The Clapper



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

Summer 2020
www.2ccucc.org
(207)439-3903

MAINE CONFERENCE NEWS

We were very sorry to receive the news that the Rev. Deborah Blood's ministry with us as our Maine Conference Minister is coming to an end. Deborah has served the churches of our Maine Conference with courage and faithfulness through a very turbulent time of transition. We remain grateful for her ministry and thankful that she has walked this journey with us for the past 5 years. Deb will continue to serve us until August 31. As the next part of your ministry unfolds, we wish Deborah Godspeed!

The Maine Conference board of directors has announced that the Rev. Jonna Jensen will serve as our interim Conference Minister beginning September 1. A local church pastor at heart, Jonna comes to us from Iowa, where she has served as Associate Conference Minister first in the Iowa Conference, and now in the Tri-Conference Ministries (Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota) for the last 12 years. We look forward to having Jonna in Maine to share her gifts with us for the next 18-24 months as we make our way forward in this time of transition and growth for our Maine Conference. Welcome Jonna!



ONLINE WORSHIP

Every Sunday at 10:00am

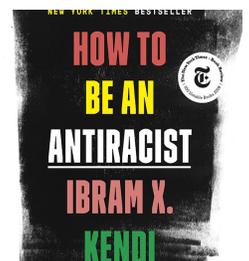
This issue of the Clapper would normally let you know when we would be worshipping at Fort Foster this month... But as we all know, these are anything but normal times! Through the summer we will continue to team up with our friends at First Parish Federated Church of South Berwick and their fabulous pastor Rev. Linda Hirst, to bring us together for worship every Sunday morning live from the Pastors' Porch at Parson's Gulch!

You can join us every Sunday morning at 10:00 – but you'll probably want to check in a few minutes early to get a good seat and hear the Gathering Music – right from our [Facebook page](#). If you “don't do” Facebook, you can find the recording of Sunday's service on our YouTube page – just click on the [Worship Archive](#) button on our website.

To have of this information automatically sent to your inbox every week just subscribe at info@2ccucc.org.

Summer Book Study!

Beginning on **Wednesday, July 15 at 7:00pm**, we'll be hosting a 6-week community read of ***How to Be an Antiracist***, by Ibram X. Kendi.



It's described as “an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.” We have a limited number of copies available now.

[Contact Brad](#) to register or for more information. All are welcome, so invite a friend!



From the
Pastor

Dear Friends,

The Greek language has at least two words that we translate in English to *time*.

Chronos – the word from

which we get our word *chronology* – refers to “clock time” or “calendar time.” Things governed by *chronos* are predictable and sequential – since we can see it on our calendars we can schedule things governed by *chronos*. But there's another Greek word for time that has a very different meaning, and that's *kairos*.

While *chronos* is *quantitative*, *kairos* is *qualitative*. *Kairos time* tells us when everything is just right for something to happen. When someone is expecting a baby, the doctors can tell us the date (*chronos*) when they think the baby will be born. But as we all know, the baby will come when it good and ready, when the time is right – in *kairos time*. Of course, it's difficult to predict the timing of many things in life.

But in these days we are all wondering when. When will we be delivered from this time of exile from our places of worship? When will we be able to gather together? When will we be able to join together to hear the words and pray the prayers and sing the hymns that bind us one to another? When will we reopen the church? When will we be going back to *normal*? When? September? Yes... sure, September. Maybe... but maybe not.

First of all, a couple of clarifications: Second Christian Church is not closed – our building may be closed, but the church is not – we are out in the world and very much open and at work. The Church has just left the building! And a second thing is that I hope that we are not going back to *normal*! Not that there was anything particularly wrong with normal, but I just don't want us to go *back*. I want us to go forward, and I think this is a great moment for that. A *Kairos* moment! I don't know when that will happen or what that's going to look like – but I think our “time away” is revealing that day by day.

May we continue this journey together with courage and patience, with compassion faithfulness, with joy and love.

See you along the Way,

Faith Promises and Offerings...



The vertical bars represent the *actual* gifts and offerings received through June 30, 2020.

GIVING WHEN WE ARE APART

As you can see from the chart above, we did a pretty good job keeping up with our *extravagant generosity* even in the face of a global pandemic. For the second year in a row, we did not have to supplement our operating budget by withdrawing from our invested funds even though we budgeted to do so. Considering we haven't been together in the sanctuary for almost 4 months, we are doing very well financially, but we still need all of us working together faithfully to keep things going strong and moving forward.

The Church Council voted to adopt a FY2021 budget identical to the budget year just ended. Our hope is that our Faith Promises and Offerings will also remain the same. If your income allows in these unusual and uncertain times, please do your best to continue to meet your Faith Promises or make your weekly offerings to support the vital ministries of our church as we serve this community and our world. We stop by the office a few times a week to check the mail, so feel free to use your offering envelope to drop a check in the mail. And thank you all for each and every gift. They all make a difference!

And maybe this is a good time for you to explore online giving. Many of our members are finding this is a great way to make a regular gift to the church, and be able to keep track of your giving. If you have any questions about online giving, contact our Treasurer, Charlie Donnell at charles.donnell13@gmail.com

DEACONS MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS**May 12, 2020 -**

Our Facebook worship services are helping to reach new people and those who were unable to attend church due to health issues.

Monday Meals delivery is going well. Meals will be delivered May 18 and then we will take a week off to evaluate the program.

Covid-19 is changing how we communicate. Talked about increasing communication like sending a weekly bulletin for people to have a document in hand.

Perhaps send printed version of Weekly Peal or send out bulletin after the fact. Diana suggested each Deacon could adopt people and deliver a bulletin, paying attention to location of various recipients. Hard copy directory will be reviewed and distributed. Discussed how to safely celebrate milestones for church members

Discussed how, what, where and when to upgrade electronic capabilities for Sunday services.

Talked about a banner on the church giving dial in instructions for services. Banner would be colorful with brief instructions.

Council recommended continuing with Facebook worship until Sept. 1

It was voted to continue online worship through August and reevaluate for September.

Several ideas were suggested for church activities: A field to tailgate and worship in our cars; a drive by church at a specified time to enjoy a modified communion; Pavilion reserved for July 12 for a service – we will know more by June as to what might work.

June 9, 2020 -

Visitations were discussed as well as the delivery of meals and efforts to keep our church community connected.

We are still working to develop a Safety Plan, which we hope to have in place when we are able to return to worship in the sanctuary.

More discussion about communication – specifically how do we reach folks who aren't on the internet, as well as celebrating milestones in the lives of members of our church community.

Diana suggested having a “virtual dinner” via Zoom. The Deacons may try to do a “test meal” to see how this might work.

Possible dates were discussed for a return to the sanctuary and we are still looking to September. We will continue to evaluate as the way unfolds.

Brad is strongly reconsidering his planned sabbatical originally set for September.

Our online worship was discussed with ways to enhance the live stream.

COUNCIL MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS**March 24, 2020 -**

Beginning on March 24 meetings have been via Zoom. Each month we review the Treasurers report. After discussion it is approved for audit.

Worship will continue being live-streamed for the foreseeable future, at least until after Easter.

We voted to close the Church building to all outside groups until further notice.

The Church was asked to renegotiate our contract with Verizon, reducing our monthly income. After consulting our attorney we voted to keep our current contract.

May 5, 2020 -

The Treasurers report was presented. The Payroll Protection loan that we received will be deposited to use as needed. Due to the Covid-19, Charlie alone has been reconciling the bank statements and when it is safe again, Sandy Raynes and he will work together.

We are doing well in our giving.

We will continue to stream worship along with FPFC of South Berwick. There have been many positive reactions to our doing this.

The code on the key pad has been changed.

We discussed plans for “re-opening” the Church. It is anticipated that it will be at least Sept. 1 before we will return.

Alan said that the contractor is ready to move forward on the kitchen. Still need to get the final bid and then have a Church wide vote on how to proceed and fund. The annual mission trip has been canceled by Maine Seacoast Mission.

May 28, 2020 -

Financial report was reviewed.

It was voted to postpone any final decision on kitchen renovation for 6 months.

The Safety Team is working on plans for re-entering the building, e.g., cleaning, etc.

There will be a “Tune Up” meeting with Paul Nickerson on Sunday, May 31.

The weather vane on the steeple needs repair. Alan is working on getting that done. The room off the Narthex is finished thanks to Ernie and Alan. Prayer team meetings have been held on Zoom. Questions about the fair were brought up for discussion.

June 25, 2020

Charlie highlighted several items in the Treasurer's report and it was approved for audit.

We voted to adopt the new policies for Hilda Fife Memorial Scholarship and the Safe Church as presented. Charlie presented the budget for the fiscal year 2020-21. It is nearly the same as last year's with a few exceptions. It was voted to adopt the budget as presented.

[Footprints Food Pantry](#) & [End 68 Hours of Hunger - Kittery](#)
need us now more than ever! Please donate to help feed our neighbors!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Bill Baran	Molly Banville	Aidan James
Tootie LaClair	Ann Grinnell	Nita Mitchell
Cindy Mason	Chris F.	Aunt Chris
Michele Swisher	Emma Pearson	David Raitt
Montana Wiswell	Andy V.	

Family and friends of Lorraine Harmon
 Family and friends of Joe Gillis

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

July Birthdays

July 10 Sandy Raynes
 July 12 Richard Clough
 July 16 Bobbie Contella
 July 21 Robert Varney
 July 29 Tim Runey

July Anniversaries

July 3 Rodney & Barbara Robinson
 July 7 Rich & Ann Clough
 July 10 Sandy & Kevin Raynes
 July 11 Ernie & Sharon Wiswell
 July 20 Vick & Bobbie Contella
 July 23 David & Marion Raitt

August Birthdays

August 5 Tom Baran
 August 9 Wilma Wheeler
 August 12 Alexander Clough
 Natalie McDonough
 August 23 Edith Grindle
 August 27 Lucille Melhorn
 August 28 Bill Baran
 August 31 Valerie Brock

August Anniversaries

August 25 Brad & Linda Hirst
 August 28 Charlie & Nadine Donnell

Remember:

Online worship is every Sunday at 10:00am.
 Live from the Pastors' Porch at Parson's Gulch!
 Grab a cup of coffee and join us – it just won't be
 the same without you!

And don't forget to visit our
[Online Calendar](#)
 for the latest updates

**Are you on Facebook? "Like" our church page so
 you can share the good news of Second Christian
 Church with all your friends!**

