



# The Clapper



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

**Fall 2020**  
[www.2ccucc.org](http://www.2ccucc.org)  
(207)439-3903

## SEMIANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 27

Our Fall Semiannual Meeting will be called to order following worship on September 27, 2020. We will hear reports from officers and ministry teams, elect officers and Ministry Team Liaisons for the following year, and conduct other such business as might properly come before the membership of the church.

In these extraordinary times we will gather via Zoom, both online and over telephone, as well as allowing for a *very limited number* of people to gather in-person at the church. We will be strictly observing physical distancing and masks will be required. Please contact us if you would like to attend in-person, because in-person attendance will be limited and **BY RESERVATION ONLY**. Call by September 25 to reserve your spot!

So, Officers & Ministry Team Liaisons, it's Annual Report time! All written reports for the FY2020 Annual Report are due in the office (email to: [church@2ccucc.org](mailto:church@2ccucc.org)) by Friday morning, September 18. Thank you in advance!

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## THE UPPER ROOM

We know that many of you have enjoyed the daily devotional booklets that we have made available on the table in the church hall, and that you may have missed them while we are not in the building... If you would like a print copy, please let us know and we will get one to you – while supplies last... However, the publishers of *The Upper Room* have very generously made available a PDF of the current issue which you can download by clicking [HERE!](#)

## WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE

Every Sunday at 10:00am

Over these past months we have heard many words of affirmation about our shared worship services that we are streaming “Live from the Pastors' Porch”. What started out as something we thought would be a stop-gap measure has blossomed into a bit of a tradition. We've teamed up for worship with our friends from First Parish Federated Church in South Berwick (FPFC) and their fabulous pastor Rev. Linda Hirst, and we are so glad that you have been a part of it!

From *The Porch* we've been able to welcome guests from Washington, D.C., Nashville, TN, Connecticut, Ohio, and Wyoming. And we've welcomed some new, more local friends who have never been to worship here but have found a home with us online. As we work towards getting back into our sanctuary, we recognize that *live-streaming* our worship services will continue to be part of who we are and how we share God's extravagant welcome with the world.

Our first move back into the sanctuary will be with a worship team: preacher, liturgist, musician(s), and a tech person – nobody in the pews. We will continue to share leadership with FPFC and will alternate between live-streaming from Second Christian and South Berwick. This will happen some time next month – when autumn comes in earnest and we have to say a chilly goodbye *The Porch*, at least for a while.

We don't yet know when we will be able to gather together in our sanctuary. But you can be certain that when we do *Everyone* will find a welcome in this place!

## From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this, our nation is still struggling with how to respond to a global pandemic, people are in the streets across the country demanding an end to racial injustice, and – though it seems like just piling on – wildfires are burning out of control, taking lives and destroying communities as they ravage the American West. Oh yeah, we are also in the midst of an election season that is one of the most divisive in our history. Common ground remains elusive. 2020 has been a remarkable year to say the least. So far.

We long, desperately, to get back to “normal”. Schools are reopening in fits and starts, retail stores and restaurants seem to be adjusting to a new way of doing business, and we are, little by little, emerging from our six month quarantine/physical-distancing with masks on and sanitizer in hand. And we are also wondering when can we re-open our church building; when can we worship together, in-person, once again. “When can we go back?”

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: *I don't want to go back!*

Of course, I want us to be able to gather together again in our beautiful sanctuary. I want to be able to see your faces as we worship together, as we sing our hymns and pray our prayers. I want us to re-gather, but I don't want us to go back to being that same gathering that we were back in March. Because we are not the same. We will never be that church again.

When the Hebrew people finally broke free of Pharaoh's grip and fled into the wilderness, they wandered for 40 years. When they were hungry and thirsty in the desert, when they weren't sure that God was with them, we are told they longed to return to the *flesh-pots* of Egypt – to the way things *were* – even though things weren't so great. But when they had wandered long enough, learned enough, grew enough, they were a new people and were prepared for a new chapter in their life. And that is my prayer for us.

As we prepare to re-gather – when it becomes clear that it is time to do so – what will we carry with us from our own wilderness journey? As we have gathered remotely from our porches and kitchens and living rooms, what have we learned about who we are as people of God – as The Church – that we will bring back into our building when our wandering is done?

See you along The Way,

*Brad*

## Faith Promises and Offerings...

### Monthly Giving Update



The vertical bars represent the *actual* gifts and offerings received through August 23, 2020.

### GIVING WHEN WE ARE APART

As you can see from the chart above, we are doing a pretty good job keeping up with our *extravagant generosity* even in the face of a global pandemic. We continue to avoid needing to supplement our operating budget by using our invested funds even though we have budgeted to do so. Considering we haven't been together in the sanctuary for 6 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](mailto:charles.donnell13@gmail.com)

**COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS****July 23, 2020**

Vice President John Marzinzik called us to order via Zoom at 6:33 PM and Pastor Brad led us in prayer. Present were John Marzinzik, Laurie Rowan, Ernie Wiswell, Don Tirabassi, Alan Robinson, Charlie Donnell, Brad Hirst, Kathy Runey and Priscilla deRochemont. Absent were Tom & Linda Baran and Dawn Boyer. The minutes of the June meeting were approved as written. Charlie presented the Treasurer's report, noting that our investments are improving with the improved market. We received \$14,000 under the Paycheck Protection Program and should be eligible for full forgiveness since we have been using it to pay our employees. Our overall financial picture is good. The revenue from the parking lot is picking up again with the opening of businesses in town. The report was accepted for audit.

Unfinished Business: We will have a joint meeting with the Deacons on August 11<sup>th</sup> and Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> to plan ahead for reopening the building for use. The vitality Team will be meeting over Zoom with Paul Nickerson on Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM. Meals continue to be delivered to some of our members and friends of the Church from the Table of Plenty.

The weathervane has been damaged and we are waiting to hear back on an estimate. The insurance company has been informed of the damage.

New Business: Kittery has sent out notification about the property assessments for the town. The Parsonage was \$250,700. in 2019 and now is at \$508,300. and the Parking Lot was \$68,900.00 in 2019 and now is at 90,000. We will be asking for a review by the town by August 10. We received a letter about our sales tax exemption and found we need to have wording in our Bylaws to address the disposition of assets should the Church dissolve. This will be discussed by the Executive Team.

Team reports: Learning – Don T- Brad and Linda are leading a discussion group on "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi. Night Kitchen will resume in the fall.

Stewardship – John M – a letter has been sent to the Church family as an update to our current status.

Going Out – Laurie R – Phone calls are being made.

Trustees – Alan R – keeping up with maintenance at the Parsonage, keeping the yard looking good and trying to control the chipmunks. He is exploring ventilation for the Sanctuary. We adjourned at 8:02PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Priscilla deRochemont, Scribe

**August 27, 2020**

The Council was convened via Zoom at 6:36 PM by Tom Baran, President. Pastor Brad led us in prayer. Present were Linda & Tom Baran, Alan Robinson, Ernie & Sharon Wiswell, Laurie Rowan, Don Tirabassi, John Marzinzik, Kathy Runey, Brad Hirst, and Priscilla deRochemont. Absent were Dawn Boyer and Kathy Maloney. The minutes of July 23 were approved as written. The financial Statement will be held over until our next meeting.

Unfinished Business: The Table of Plenty is doing well under the direction of Diana Marzinzik. They served 65 people with take-out meals this week. A special dinner was served by Diana & John Marzinzik to the Table of Plenty drivers as a thank you for their time and service. A social gathering of several Church people was held at the deRochemont's home as way to keep in touch with our Church family members and friends. Alan had a nice chat with Nelson, a neighbor of the Church. Several members of our Vitality Team attended a Zoom meeting with several Churches sharing ideas for dealing with the pandemic going forward.

New Business: We discussed a phased plan for re-entering the building prepared by Tom Baran. It is a guideline for going forward and getting back into the building and holding services, which was adopted by consensus. It was voted to continue on-line for the time being, sharing with FPFC, from the Pastors' Porch. Teams have been assigned: Safety Procedures/Policies; Team leader is Tom Baran with Laurie Rowan, Diana Marzinzik & Kathy Runey. Technology Team leader is John Marzinzik, with Don Tirabassi, Ernie Wiswell and Alan Robinson.

Semiannual Meeting: Will be held on Sept. 27. Details to be worked out as to how it will be held. Annual reports need to be in by Sept. 15 so that they can be ready for the meeting. We discussed whether to have the officers and team leaders remain in place for the upcoming year. No final decision was made.

Ministry Team Reports: Trustees: Alan reported that the weather vane has been repaired and is ready to be put back on the steeple. The plan to re-key the doors is in place and will be done soon. New front doors were talked about and Alan will look at pricing. Learning: Don reported that the discussion of "How to be an Anti-Racist" is finished and it went well. The discussions were held over Zoom.

Next Council meeting will be Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. We adjourned at 8:10 PM after reciting our Mission Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Priscilla deRochemont, Scribe

## DEACONS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(There was no July Deacons Meeting)

### August 11, 2020

This was a joint meeting of the Deacons and Council and was convened via Zoom at 6:38 PM by Senior Deacon Ernest Wiswell with Pastor Brad offering a prayer.

Present were: Ernie Wiswell, Tom & Linda Baran, Diana & John Marzinzik, Laurie Rowan, Charlie Donnell, Don Tirabassi, Alan Robinson, Priscilla deRochemont Jim Swisher, Kathy Runey, Mike Effenberger, and Brad Hirst.

Music Director, Mike Effenberger, talked about how the music program could work once we are back using the Sanctuary for services, either on line or in person. Music would probably either organ or piano without singing. He's willing to work to make the services safe for all. Now he and the music director for FPFC are taking turns providing pre-recorded music each week.

Ernie then opened the Deacons meeting by checking to see how we are doing by checking with team members. Wanted to know what is working and what might not be working. Sunday Services are being well received. We celebrated Wilma Wheeler's 90 Birthday with a balloon party on her front lawn. It was suggested that we start holding social distancing gatherings with 5-6 people. Calls and thinking of you notes are being done.

We then moved on to our joint meeting to discuss current and future needs of our Church. We're targeting Sept 20 to begin to broadcast Sunday Service from the sanctuary.

John will look into getting a suitable iPhone to use as our feed to FB for streaming the services.

Procedures will be established to begin using the building again. The *Safety and Policy Team* will work together to find solutions. Team members are Laurie Rowan, Tom Baran, Kathy Runey, and Diana Marzinzik. Ideas for spacing and cleaning need to be worked out. The *Technology Team* includes John Marzinzik, Don Tirabassi, and Ernie Wiswell. They will be planning for and setting up for our live-streamed worship services.

New ways to get information out to members and friends were discussed. The Clapper and Weekly Peal were mentioned as possible ways of communicating. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM after reciting our Mission Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Priscilla deRochemont, Scribe pro-tem

## TABLE OF PLENTY

We know that many of you have volunteered your time, talent, and even your treasure to help feed our neighbors through Table of Plenty. Thank you!

In these extraordinary days, when groceries are more expensive, ToP is only able to serve meals *To Go*, which means they are incurring the added expense of disposable containers. If you are able to make a contribution to help them through this time, you can send a check to the church with Table of Plenty in the memo, or send it directly to:

*Table of Plenty*

*P.O. Box 232*

*Berwick, ME 03901*

Or contact Diana Marzinzik for more information!

## **WANTED:**

### VOICES FOR A VIRTUAL CHOIR!

One of the things many of us have missed in this time of online worship and physical distancing is singing together! To meet this spiritual need we are exploring the possibility of gathering a multi-church Virtual Choir sometime this fall!

Mike will make a very approachable arrangement of a familiar hymn and send out the parts to everyone who wants to sing! A moderate amount of tech-savvy and bandwidth will be needed, but there will be plenty of technical assistance, coaching and hand-holding available, so don't be intimidated – there's a spot for every voice!

If you're interested, let Mike Effenberger know at [mike.effenberger@gmail.com](mailto:mike.effenberger@gmail.com).

## **REMEMBER:**

We worship online 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!

Did you know that the average Mainline denomination church member (that's us) invites one person to worship every 38 years... You know it's never been easier to invite a friend!

### **Maybe THIS Sunday will be the one!**

So go ahead and invite a friend, and 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](#).

**OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR**

- Sunday** 10:00am Online Worship  
[www.facebook.com/2ccucc/live](http://www.facebook.com/2ccucc/live)
- Tues.** 6:30pm Deacons – usually the  
*second Tuesday* of the month
- Wed.** 9:00am Coffee and Conversation  
via Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6368107586>
- Thurs.** 4:00pm Prayer Team  
Email your prayer requests to:  
[prayers@2ccucc.org](mailto:prayers@2ccucc.org)  
4:30-5:30pm Table of Plenty!  
To-Go meals can be picked up at  
St. Raphael's  
6:30pm Church Council, usually  
the *fourth Thursday* of the month

All meetings of the church are open to all members and friends. If you would like to attend a meeting please call the church office (439-3903) and we will make arrangements to provide you with the Zoom link or the phone number to connect you!



Did you miss a Sunday of worship?  
Are you not on Facebook?

You can find a complete recording of each and every Sunday service on our YouTube page – just click on the [Worship Archive](#) button at [www.2ccucc.org](http://www.2ccucc.org).

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Are you on our mailing list?

Email, Snail mail?

Would you like to be?

To have of this information automatically sent to your inbox every week just subscribe at [info@2ccucc.org](mailto:info@2ccucc.org).

**Did you know that “the internet is the new front door of the Church!”**

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