

August 2017 Update



Photo by Jenn Scavuzzo

Dear Union Church family,

Here we are in the last full month of summer and the last full month that I will be your interim pastor. It has been an honor and one of the greatest blessings of my life to journey with you in my capacity as your pastor. Union Church is an amazing spiritual community and I'm so grateful that you have given me the opportunity to serve as your leader. I want to end, however, as I

began, reminding you that we together are Union Church, and that a change in leadership will result in some things being different, but does not in any way threaten the soul of who we are. If we together, leadership and congregation, listen and respond to the urgings of the Spirit, we will continue to thrive and grow.

The first four services that I led at Union Church focused on how we have defined ourselves as church, what is core to who we are and how together we can preserve those elements and develop them. Now, almost two years later, we see that has been the case. Union Church remains Union Church. All of the elements that we identified as important to who we are have endured. As we prepare to enter our final major stage of transition, welcoming a new pastor next month, I want to once again review with you our Covenant and the profile that we developed together. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that Union Church continues to be the spiritual wellspring that we all treasure and the "little church with the big heart" of which we are so proud.

To that end, the themes for our services in August will be:

*August 6 - (Communion Sunday) - We are a Pilgrim People
(We are on a journey together, advancing the reign of God. What do we need for the journey?)*

August 13 - Worship (We will celebrate this dimension of who we are with Music Sunday. We all value this wonderful aspect of our services. Please consider becoming involved even for this one service). Also, Rev. Paula Norbert, who will begin as our settled pastor on September 10th will co-preside at our service with me and you will have a chance to meet with her at our church picnic which will follow our service.

August 20 - The sacredness of all creation. (In our profile we state, "We recognize the place we hold in nature as a reciprocal partnership; we walk together with, and are not in dominion over, all of God's creation." During our service we will prayerfully reflect together the ramifications of that statement and how we want to preserve and promote that significant component of how we describe ourselves.)

August 27 - Mission. (Our profile states, "Through financial support and volunteerism we have benefitted the local community and beyond." Members of the Mission Committee will be planning this service with me. We will review our present commitments as a church community and each of you will have an opportunity to reflect on how you will be involved in Union Church mission endeavors going forward.)

Life is change and without change there is no growth. At the same time, change is anxiety provoking. Let's together bring our concerns and aspirations to prayer, continue enjoying our summer and enter joyfully into this next phase of our transition as church.

Blessing and love,

Nancy

Prayer in Time of Transition by Julianne Lepp

*Dear Goddess, Mother, and Source,
Your womb is all of creation,
Your love is mother's milk.
Please grant us support during this transition.
Please help us move through this next stage.
Please carry us in arms of support, grace, and love
So that we may bring new life to this ministry,
So that we may grow as a community,*

*So that we may birth a whole new way of being together.
We ask this in your Holy, and Sacred name. Amen.*

Church Picnic: After our church service on August 13, please join us (Members, friends and visitors) on the McPheeters' lawn for a joyful church picnic. We'll all have a good time and you'll be able to meet our future pastor, Rev. Paula Norbert. Please RSVP no later than August 8th, (the sooner the better), so that the appropriate amount of food can be prepared. There will be a sign-up sheet at church or you may call Elaine Robinson at 283-1398 or email erobinson4@maine.rr.com. Also, please bring lawn chairs.



Calling All Bakers and Fruit Salad Makers: On **Tuesday, August 22**, Union Church will once again prepare a meal for the **In-A-Pinch** non-food essentials pantry. Last month we offered fruit salad for dessert in addition to a few baked goods and it was very well received. We'd like to do the same this month. If you are able to make fruit salad or cookies, bars or brownies, there will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule. Thank you very much!



Calendar of Events:

August 6: Communion Sunday

August 13: Music Sunday; Church Picnic

August 22: Union Church serves In a Pinch meal

August Birthdays:

Blessings to each of you for a healthy and happy year to come!



August 1: Norma Marshall

August 3: Robert Orcutt

August 8: Joe Boyle

August 12: Melanie Pope

August 15: Laura McKenney

August 16: John Comeau

August 16: Roland Cronkhite

August 17: Doug Firebaugh

August 20: Caroline Pope

N.B. If you have a birthday in August and aren't on this list, please give your information to Anne Murray.



Diana Jepchirchir

Through our mission budget, Union Church supports a first term secondary school student in Kenya. Her name is Diana Jepchirchir. She is a very good student and very appreciative of our support. Jo Deupree, who is affiliated with Education for All Children-Kenya, summers in Biddeford Pool. She will be visiting Kenya and will see Diana in the fall. She has offered to take cards, pictures and letters to Diana when she visits. SO, there will be a box in the church vestibule during the month of August. Feel free to drop a note, card or picture in the box to express your support for Diana's studies. The deadline is the last Sunday in August.

Ken Murray, Mission Committee Chair.



The Susan G. Komen 3-Day: Caryn Firebaugh

and her team, The Ta-Ta's from KC, will be traveling to San Diego November 17-19 to walk the Susan G. Komen 3-Day. The 3-Day is a 60 mile walk over the course of three days to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research, education and a variety of community assistance programs for those navigating their diagnoses and treatment. The 3-Day family believes this 60 mile adventure isn't just a walk...but a journey to the end of breast cancer! To donate, visit her web page: www.the3Day.org/goto/carynfirebaugh. If you have questions, please contact her at Racqueteers@aol.com or 913-707-9038.

How to Listen To Jazz: Tom Bancroft will be offering a course through York Co. Senior College on understanding and listening appreciatively to modern jazz. The course will be held on Wednesdays in the A.M. in Saco for eight consecutive weeks. (More on the exact times and

location to follow). This course requires no knowledge of music, but will focus on listening to, and discussing, the evolution of jazz and the development of instrumental and vocal style. We will hear the household names- Louis, Ella, Dizzy, Bird, Duke, Miles, and some not so well known that should be. Most of all, we'll have fun , and I promise you will also learn something from Tom, The Jazz Jockey.

Courses will be listed on YCSC website soon, or see Tom for more info.