

## ***Congregational Church of Bristol Newsletter April 2017***

Church telephone: 563-6843; Email: [ccob@tidewater.net](mailto:ccob@tidewater.net)

**To find out what's happening at our church between Sunday services and the monthly newsletter, please visit our website: [www.ccobucc.org](http://www.ccobucc.org)**

### **APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER**

#### **April Birthdays**

2<sup>nd</sup> - Brooke Seiders  
9<sup>th</sup> - Mabel Scherer, Todd Vincentsen  
12<sup>th</sup> - Stephanie Vincentsen  
15<sup>th</sup> - Anne Lewis  
21<sup>st</sup> - Julia Cheney, Susan Buchanan  
25<sup>th</sup> - April Ference



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*(If you don't see your name on the birthday list, please contact the office 563-6843 and let us know.)*

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#### **“A Pilgrim’s Ponderings”**

April 2017

Dear Bristol Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

At long last another winter here in Maine is coming to an end. Well, it seems to be coming to an end. It's only late March, after all. We are cautiously optimistic. Here in northern New England, we know from experience that more snow, sleet, freezing rain, and mud could well be on the way before the daffodils emerge. But let's stay positive: chances are pretty good that it will warm up by the Fourth of July!

All of us are ready and eager to climb out of our “dens” of hibernation, shake off the doldrums of cabin fever, put in the garden, and maybe even take a spin in the boat. Enough is enough. Time to move on to the next season, come what may.

We are nearing the end of Lent, a brief, holy season consisting of forty days. This is the time set apart in the church year to prepare for our Lord Jesus Christ's passion, crucifixion, and death on the cross. We evaluate our lives. It is a season for reflection, repentance, and renewal. We as Christians recommit our lives to our Lord's ministry of reconciliation. Thank God for drawing us closer to Himself and each other.

Now it is time to leave Lent and begin the season of Easter. Not being overly focused on the so-called church year, I was surprised to discover several years ago that there is not one, but seven Sundays of Easter. The Easter Sundays continue until the day of Pentecost, which falls this year on June 4. Just think, for nearly two months we will gather on the Lord's Day and proclaim “Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!”

I'm as ready for Easter as I am spring, even more so. Death holds a strong grip on the human race. It is the last enemy to be conquered. Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday morning. He gloriously broke free from death's grip. Good Friday is now but a memory. In and through Christ we have become people of the resurrection. The season of new life has begun. And all creation rejoices. **HAPPY EASTER!**

Your Pastor & Brother in Christ,  
Jim

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## **Holy Week & Easter Services at Bristol Mills**

**Palm Sunday, April 9**, Come join the festive, palm branch waving crowd as we declare “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

**Maundy Thursday, April 13**, Hosted by the Union Church in South Bristol and sponsored by the Pemaquid Peninsula Cooperative Ministry. A service of readings, hymns, and Holy Communion. Time: TBA.

**Good Friday, April 14**, Hosted by the Congregational Church of Bristol. Following the service at noon, the sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation until 3:00 PM.

**Easter Sunday, April 16**, Easter Sunrise Service at the Pemaquid Lighthouse, 6:00 AM. Sponsored by the Pemaquid Cooperative Ministry, a breakfast will follow at the New Harbor United Methodist Church.

**Resurrection Worship** at CCOB, 10:00 AM. Bring flowers, bring friends, invite neighbors. Come and rejoice in our Lord’s victory of life over death!

## **Help Fill School Kits for Needy Children**

CCOB’s Missions Board is sponsoring a project through Church World Service to provide basic school kits for children in impoverished communities and refugee camps. Scenes of families made homeless by war and natural disasters and pictures of refugee camps with their rows of tents or crude shelters are all too familiar in newspapers and on television. The Board is hoping many members and friends of Bristol Church will volunteer to fill the kits to give these children some of the basic tools for learning. It may be a small gesture, but it is one that could make a significant difference in the life of a child.

Church World Service has a specific list of supplies needed to fill each bag. The Missions Board purchased cloth bags and will have them available on Sunday, March 26, and subsequent Sundays. Attached to each bag will be a list of the required supplies. The filled bags are due back no later than April 30, so that they can be delivered to the collection point, Woodford Congregational Church in Portland.

All the materials to fill the bags are to be purchased new. All items must be as specified and no additional items or personal notes should be included. CWS estimates the cost of the supplies to be approximately \$15. The Missions Board asks that, if possible, \$2.00 be attached by paper clip to each bag when it is returned to cover the cost of purchasing the bags.

Following is a list of the items to fill the kits: one pair of blunt scissors, three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages, one 30 centimeter - 12 inch ruler, one hand held pencil sharpener, one large eraser, six unsharpened pencils with erasers, and one box of 24 crayons (not larger or smaller).

Won’t you help?

-Missions Committee

## **Acoustics Update**

Hi Everyone!

If you have been to the Parish house since the Saturday, you have seen the templates of the panels the Trustees have arranged on the walls. This is the layout for the optimal sound absorption.

We have several fabric choices out for your review and would like input. I know some folks wanted a little color and others wanted to match the paint color, so we need YOUR input.

We hope to get this project going in the near future. We will have to order materials soon, so we will have the fabric choices available for a couple more weeks before we have to place the orders.

Please take a moment and look the colors over. Thanks in advance!

-Sandy Holmes



## **For Whom the Bell Tolls?**

Sandy Guibord enjoyed hearing our bell ring on Thursday morning, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The bell is now fixed and ready for ringing thanks to the diligent work of Phil Averill. Thanks, Phil!

## **Deacons' Report**

At the March meeting of the Board of Deacons, we were pleased to welcome Becky Collarmore as our newest member. Leighton Andersen and Diane Hall will serve as Deacons during Sunday services for the month of April.

## **Magazine Sharing**

Beginning in April, the Library Committee will be starting a magazine exchange. If you have a magazine or magazines that you think church members would enjoy, please speak with Amy Vitanza or Ralph Ferguson and bring them to the Library. If you see a magazine that interests you, please bring it home. There is no need to bring it back. Enjoy.



## **Baked Bean & Casserole Supper – April 8<sup>th</sup>**



Please join us on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall for our delicious Baked Bean & Casserole Supper with all the fixin's including dessert - \$8 per person!!

**2017 Lenten DVD Series**  
***“Final Words From The Cross”*** Adam Hamilton

April 2        ***“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”***  
April 9        Palm/Passion Sunday  
                  ***“I thirst. It is finished...Into your hands***  
                  ***I commit my spirit”***

We will gather in the library after worship. Bring along some “Keep it Super Simple” refreshments from the Fellowship Hall.

If you can't make some of the episodes, or if you want to see them again, they will be shown on **Wednesdays at noon in the library** during the “Eat and Pray” midweek service. **EVERYONE WELCOME!**

### **Easter Flowers**

It has been CCOB's tradition that anyone is welcome to bring flowers or potted plants on Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, to brighten the sanctuary. The more the merrier. If you would like your flowers to be in honor of or in memory of a friend or loved one, please call Debbie at the church office between now and April 12, so that she may include the recognition in the church bulletin. At the end of the service, you may keep your flowers or take them to a shut-in.

### **Special Easter Sunday announcement!**

Several people have talked with Pastor Jim about joining our church. These prospective members are taking classes with the Pastor and will meet with the Deacons soon and share their faith journeys. Easter Sunday in Bristol Mills will be even more festive (if that's possible!) as we welcome into church membership our sisters and brothers in Christ.



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

### **Food Pantry – April 2nd**

The volunteers at the New Harbor Food Pantry are very grateful for the food CCOB collects every first Sunday of the month. They are currently serving approximately 60 individuals. Thank you for your donations.

### **Fair Update**

Spring Has Sprung!! If you are beginning your spring cleaning, please keep in mind that we will be needing clean, usable items for the White Elephant Table and Granny's Attic as well. The fair is Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.



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## **Fair Update (continued)**

Let us know if you want to donate items early. We can arrange for pick up and storage of smaller items.

Work continues on the Art Show. This is a perfect venue for the newer artist as well as the seasoned ones.

Volunteers are still needed. Let us know if you can donate some time – even a few hours will be appreciated. Please contact Chris or Sandy Averill with any questions, suggestions, and to volunteer: phone 207-677-2165 and email [sandyorln@aol.com](mailto:sandyorln@aol.com). Thank you!

## **Peninsula Artisans**

Are you an artisan? Would you like to display and sell your work at our church fair? Or perhaps you have friends who are artisans. Would they like to show their crafts? If so, I would love to hear from you. Please pass along my contact information (below) and/or send their contact information to me, and I would be happy to reach out to them. Artisans may set up in the fellowship hall, or outside if they prefer and have their own tent. Thanks so much for your help, and I look forward to hearing any ideas you may have about our Peninsula Artisans at this year's fair.

Sandy Guibord  
Email: [sguibord@operamail.com](mailto:sguibord@operamail.com)  
Home phone: 563-3783

## **April Calendar**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sat. April 1	5 pm – 11 pm	Healthy Kids babysitting – Fellowship Hall
Sat., April 8	5:30 pm	Baked Bean & Casserole Supper – Fellowship Hall
Sundays	11 am – 12 N	KISS Refreshments - Fellowship Hall
	4:30 -6:30 pm	Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall
Tuesdays	9 am & 5:30 pm	Yoga Class with Carol Krajnik – Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays	5:30-7:00 pm	AA – Special Study Group – Library
	7:00-8:00 pm	AA Meeting – Community Room
Friday	9:00-10:30 am	Yoga Class taught by Carol Krajnik – Fellowship Hall