

Congregational Church of Bristol Newsletter March 2017

Church telephone: 563-6843; Email: 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

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

March Birthdays

1st - Ashton Seiders
6th - Ellen Hunter
13th - Phil Averill
15th - Becky Collamore
21st - Debbie Mikulak
29th - Edgar Thompson, Sullivan Fink



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

“A Pilgrim’s Ponderings”

March 2017

Dear Bristol Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Who can remember when I adopted the phrase “View from the Pulpit” as the title for my monthly church newsletter meditation? While in Vermont, I changed the heading to “View from the River,” as the parsonage in Springfield overlooked the Black River. Now, it’s time for another change. I think it’s reflective of a new perspective indicative of moving ahead on the journey of faith rather than staying stationary in one spot.

Don’t get me wrong. I thoroughly enjoy preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ. You probably know that by now. God connects with His people through His word proclaimed by His messenger. Faith still comes from hearing the word, as Paul reminds the church in Rome. We simply cannot overstate the value of this ancient manner of telling “the old, old story.”

However, the Lord reminds me every now and then that He has called me to be a pastor, not just a preacher, and even more so, to be a pilgrim on a life long journey of faith which begins in this mortal life and will someday transition into immortality. A pilgrim is one who is on a pilgrimage striving to grow in faith, eager to please God, and joining other well-meaning pilgrims who journey together as the Body of Christ.

Jesus Christ was a pilgrim. He began His pilgrimage by leaving heaven and becoming God in the flesh. His brief ministry of only three years involved moving from place to place, healing the sick, casting out demons, raising the dead, proclaiming the kingdom of heaven, forgiving the sinner, finding the lost, loving the unlovable, and confronting the self-righteous. His pilgrimage took our Lord to Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday, to an upper room on Maundy Thursday, to a blood-stained cross on Good Friday, and finally to a tomb that could not contain the Savior rising from the dead on Easter morning.

The season of Lent is a pilgrimage which this year begins on March 1, **Ash Wednesday**. It lasts only forty days, not including the five Sundays within its calendar. Next comes **Holy Week**, which begins on **Palm Sunday**, April 9th and ends at midnight on **Holy Saturday**, April 15th.

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Jesus' pilgrims here on the Pemaquid Peninsula will have several opportunities during this holy season to deepen our faith. There will be a simple but meaningful **Ash Wednesday** service at noon in the Fellowship Hall, including Holy Communion. A new **DVD series, 'Final Words of the Cross,'** will be shown on Sunday mornings after worship in the library and again on Wednesdays at noon in the library, beginning March 12th with the final showing on Palm Sunday.

Plans are also underway for **Maundy Thursday** (April 13) & **Good Friday** (April 14) services with our fellow Christians from the South Bristol Congregational Church and the New Harbor and Round Pond United Methodist Churches. **Easter Sunday, the glorious Day of Resurrection,** will begin with the much-loved Sunrise Service at the Pemaquid Lighthouse. The festivities will continue right here in Bristol Mills for a joyous celebration of new life.

Yes, we are pilgrims faithfully following Jesus to His destiny with suffering, rejection, crucifixion, and death. The story is somber and serious, but it will not end in grief. As the old saying goes, ***"It's Friday, but Sunday's coming!"***

Your fellow pilgrim,
Pastor Jim

First Sunday Lunch

Our first Sunday lunch will be held on March 5th at 12 noon at Reunion Station. Please let Ron Hunter know if you'll be going. Ron's email is rahunta@gmail.com and phone 677-2361.

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

March 12	<i>"Father, Forgive Them"</i>
March 19	<i>"Today you will be with me in paradise"</i>
March 26	<i>"Behold your son...Behold your mother"</i>
April 2	<i>"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"</i>
April 9	Palm/Passion Sunday <i>"I thirst. It is finished...Into your hands I commit my spirit"</i>

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!**

The Annual Easter Basket Raffle will take place on Sunday, March 26th after worship!

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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.



Haddock Chowder & Sandwich Luncheon – March 11th

Please join us on Saturday, March 11th at 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall for our Haddock Chowder & Sandwich Luncheon with all the fixin's including dessert - \$8 per person!! (This has been rescheduled from the Feb. 11th event due to the blizzard!)

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing enables the United Church of Christ to reach people and communities affected by disaster, displacement, or poverty. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we provide assistance to families and communities around the world, helping them to become stronger, healthier, and better equipped to address hardships and catastrophes.

Each year One Great Hour of Sharing produces its Annual Mission Report to highlight the work of the offering. This report gives us an opportunity to share how funds were used during the year, and recognize the people impacted by generous giving to the offering. None of this work would be possible without your support.

The 2017 theme for the offering is "*You are here*" which could easily be the response to a question provoked by tragedy, fear, or suffering: "Where are you, God?" Psalm 145:18 echoes the refrain throughout scripture that God is nearby. As soon as a person calls on God, God is here.

+You are here shows the church uniting to respond to the many critical needs present in our world today. Our support is given through partner organizations responding to health, education, and agricultural development needs, refugee initiatives, and both international and domestic disaster response.

When we give, as the United Church of Christ, individuals, groups and congregations, it means that the church can stand strong, in the midst of need whether it is nearby or far away. When God's love abides in us, we are moved to respond with our own material goods to the needs of other members of God's family.

Thank you for your support, whether you are a new supporter, or long-time supporter, every gift matters. Every gift allows us to say, "*You are here.*" Here in Bristol, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing on March 26th.

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Church Fair Update

Plans are coming together for this year's Church Fair. Sandy Holmes, Chris, and myself would like to thank all of you who have committed to helping us out. There is still a need for volunteers on many of the committees, so please let one of us know if you can help.

We are in need of donations. As you are doing your spring cleaning in the coming months, keep us in mind. We especially need items for Granny's Attic which includes jewelry. Dayle Strachan, the committee chairperson, has graciously offered to store items for you if need be. Her contact number is 677-2526.

We also need books. If you have any you want to pass along and can't store them, please contact Sandy Averill at 677-2165 or sandyorln@aol.com. As in past years, drop off for any other donated items is the 2 weeks prior to the August 5th fair.

Sandy Holmes has been busy working on the Silent Auction. She is pursuing the possibility of additional trips in addition to the African Safari. More information will follow as that becomes available . . . so get your passport ready!!

We are hoping to make this a successful fair and welcome any suggestions. Thank you!

-Sandy Averill

Food Pantry – March 5



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.

March Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Sat., March 11	12:30 pm	Haddock Chowder & Sandwich Luncheon (rescheduled from February)
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
Sunday	10:00 am	Annual Easter Basket Raffle