

***THE MESSENGER***

The First Congregational Church of Pembroke, UCC; 301 Pembroke Street, Pembroke, NH 03275-3234

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## A SEASON OF RENEWAL & REFORMATION

As the calendar turns to September, a new program year commences. This is when many of us truly make our choices and commit to the activities and events which we believe will nurture, fulfill, inspire, instruct, and generally better our lives and the lives of those we love and care for. So it is important for your pastor to remind you that the spiritual welfare of you and yours OUGHT (dare I even use that word, much less capitalize it?!) to be one of your uppermost priorities as you consider your fall commitments! After all, studies have shown that “young people who are religious are better off in significant ways than their secular peers.” (see my column from last September for more) Hence the importance of spiritual nurture for our youth, and if for them, why not adults as well?

Opportunities for all ages abound in our church (and there are no limits on anyone offering additional opportunities for learning, service, or fellowship. If you have an idea to offer, a passion to pursue, a gift to share, then *make it known!*) as the list below reveals:

- PowerXpress Sunday School – classes through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and adult opportunities to teach and assist
- High School Class – alternate Sunday mornings
- Junior and Senior High Fellowship Groups – watch calendar for times
- Choir – rehearsals on Sunday mornings at 9
- Praise Band – rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7 (late elementary to adults)
- Confirmation Class – for grades 8-12 Thursdays 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. and includes supper. Opportunity for interested adults to assist and/or attend.
- Adult Study – Wednesdays at 7 (see details in article below)
- Our Family’s Table – hot meal program on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at Suncook United

Methodist Church. Opportunities to cook and serve. (see Pat Hill)

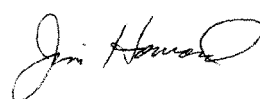
- Women’s Retreat at Camp Berea, September 24-26 (see Judy Pearson)
- Men’s Retreat at Camp Berea, in November (see Kurt Ehler)
- CROP Walk to combat hunger locally and globally, September 25 (see Pat Hill)
- Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts (contact Mark Hollis or Mike Michaels)
- Girl Scouts
- Craft and Holiday Fair, October 16 (see Judy Pearson)

In addition, there are several special Sunday worship services this September:

- September 5 – Communion and Hymn Sing
- September 12 – Rally Sunday (Breakfast and Sunday School sign up before worship, special worship program, and “welcome back” coffee hour following.
- September 19 – “Electric Praise,” from Wesley United Methodist will provide the music for worship and conduct a workshop for our Praise Band afterwards.
- “A Season of Renewal and Reformation” begins on September 19 and continues as our worship theme through Thanksgiving. Worship team planners are needed, so if interested, please see Rev. Jim.

There is much going on, but the picture is incomplete without YOU in it. So plan to be an active part, offer your presence, volunteer to serve, and give your enthusiastic participation! AND, while you’re at it, EXTEND an INVITATION, or better yet, BRING ALONG a neighbor or friend to worship or other events, that our church may be a blessing to them as well as to you!

See YOU at church!



## A BLUEPRINT FOR DISCIPLESHIP

*based on the book by Kent Watson*

**Autumn Adult Study on Wednesday nights**

September 22 to November 17, 7-8:15 p.m.



**HYMN SING  
In Worship  
Sunday,  
September 5th**

Does being a part of the church tradition make any difference in living out your faith?

We Christians sometimes exhibit the most unchristian attitudes and behavior. People notice. And it's reflecting badly on the church, but we can—individually and collectively—correct the problem: Allow God to enter more deeply into your life until it's hard to tell where your life ends and God begins.

"Most American Christians are struggling to practice their faith," Watson writes. *A Blueprint for Discipleship* offers a practical approach to Christian discipleship that addresses the desire of many Christians who want a more meaningful relationship with God but aren't sure how to start or find it.

Reawaken to the power and vitality of your spiritual heritage. Repent of apathy and spiritual complacency to reclaim, "the form and power of godliness."

Come join us as we explore together what makes for a vital and living faith in these times in which we all live!

The class will be held on Wednesday evenings in the Memorial Room and be led by Rev. Jim. (Additional meeting times may be possible to schedule. If interested, please ask Rev. Jim or call the church office). Sign up by Sept. 8 in order to have a book ready for you at the first session. Book cost is \$11 (if ordered by Sept. 8, \$15 after).

## SUNDAY FLOWERS ...

As always, donations of flowers are welcomed for our altar each Sunday morning. To contribute all you have to do is sign up on the Flower Sheet in the Parish Hall or let the flower committee member know. Please contact Doris Rowden 485-3664 (September), Lynn Matava, 485-8352 (October) and Robbe MacKenzie 485-7295 (November).



## COFFEE HOUR ...

Refreshments are provided by the Choir during September. Please join us at the conclusion of the service for more fellowship!



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ...



The school year is upon us! Rally Sunday, our first day of fall Sunday school classes, will be on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Join us anytime between 9:00 and 10:00 to eat some delicious food and register your children for Sunday school. We are so excited to begin a new year of sharing the word of God with the children of the church. We encourage you to invite friends to come along and try it out!

If you would like to fill out the registration before Rally Sunday, forms are available in the Parish hall at the welcome table. That will give you more time to eat delicious food on the 12<sup>th</sup>! See you then!

Attention all Sunday school teachers and those interested in teaching! Have you taught in Sunday School and are willing to give it another try? Are you interested in learning more about what teaching Sunday school is all about t our church? Please join us after church of Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> for an informational session about teaching in our rotation workshops. We'll answer questions and give some tips and tricks. Our focus: What is expected of me as a teacher? What are the resources available to teachers? How do I engage kids effectively in class? What is the big theological picture of Sunday school here? We'll start at 11:30 and finish by 12:30. Child care will be provided for all ages.

## JUST FOR LAUGHS ...

“Exam Assistance”



“In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student stated that he had prayed for the assistance of God. The professor carefully studied the answer script and then said, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."

## USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER ...

5 Luke & Cindy Bonenfant, Dave & Nancy Bibbins  
12 Floyd & Dot Smith and Tom & Allison Hardy  
19 Eric & Judy Pearson and Lynn Matava  
26 Don & Laurie Hill, Helen Chapman and Rick Hochsprung  
**If you are unable to usher on your given day, please contact Dean Hopps at 485-5509.**

## WORLD SERVICE ...



THE 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CROP WALK FOR HUNGER

**Date/Time:** Saturday, September 25, 2010 (sign-in/rally at noon, walk @1pm); **Place:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 90 Clinton St., Concord, NH **Sponsored by:** The Greater Concord Interfaith Council. Help fight hunger by walking yourself or sponsoring someone else. You can help make a difference! Last year participants in Concord raised nearly \$19,000 – let's all pitch in and make it even more this year! For more information on the walk, please **contact Pat Hill 485-4740.**

**The Family Table** has resumes serving free meals on **Wednesday, Sept. 8th at 5:30pm.**

Start accumulating your change! We will be participating in the *Neighbors in Need* collection in **October and November.**

The **Interfaith Food Pantry** is open on **Wednesdays from 1-3pm and 5:30-6:30pm.**

## WORK CAMP 2011 PLANNING MEETING!

Anyone interested in learning about or helping with the 2011 Work Camp hosted by our church, please plan to attend a planning and informational session on Monday, September 20, 2010 at 6pm in the Parish Hall. Dinner will be served! ALL are welcome. This initial planning meeting is meant to be an informal and fun beginning to our year long planning! If you are interested in helping but cannot be at this meeting, please speak to Eileen Herring, Eric Pearson, or Jodi Ehler