

Prayer is the light of the soul, true knowledge is a mediating activity between God and humanity. Through it the soul rises heavenward and embraces the Savior with ineffable love ... It expresses its deepest desires and receives gifts greater than anything on earth. Prayer, by which we respectfully present ourselves to God, is the joy of the heart, and the soul's rest.

- John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407



We Gather to Praise God

* indicates those who are able may stand



PRELUDE *It is Salvation Come to Us*

J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND SHARING NEWS



* CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*)

Leader: In you, O Lord, I take my refuge; let me never be put to shame.

People: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

Leader: Incline your ear to me and save me.

People: Be to me a rock of refuge; a strong fortress to save me.

All: For you are my fortress. — *Psalm 71*

* OPENING HYMN #27 *Come, Thou Almighty King*



* GREETING ONE ANOTHER *please stand and greet those around you!*

* RESPONSE *sung by everyone*



Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. (x2)

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice. (x2)

INVOCATION (seated)



Almighty God, who pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication; deliver us when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wandering mind, that with steadfast thought, and kindled spirit, we may worship you in spirit and truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



We Listen for God's Word

CHILDREN'S TIME "A Handful of Loose Change"



PRAYER OF JESUS (using "sins")

* HYMN #192 *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

At this time children depart for their summer program



EPISTLE READING Romans 9: 1-5

p. 801

SERVICE OF PRAYER

SHARING PRAYER JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER — PASTORAL PRAYER — RESPONSE

GOSPEL READING Matthew 14:13-21

p. 692

SERMON "The Compassionate Christ"

Rev. Swanson

We Respond to God's Word

THE OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY #46 (*altered rhythm*)

Thomas Ken (1674)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION *by the pastor*

* CLOSING HYMN #241 *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

* BENEDICTION *by the pastor*

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #437 *sung together while holding hands*

Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

We Depart to Serve God

Please join us in the Parish Hall for fellowship and refreshments hosted by the Stewardship Committee.

First Congregational Church of Pembroke, N.H.

United Church of Christ

Ministers: All the People!

Pastor: Rev. Jim Howard, D.Min.

Organist: George Bozeman

Secretary: Nancy Jackson

Office hours: Monday-Friday 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Office: 603-485-9639

Pastor's home: 603-210-2368

Pastor: pastor@pembrokechurch.org

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Website: www.pembrokechurch.org

301 Pembroke Street

Pembroke, NH 03275

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME to all who worship with us this morning. Visitors are encouraged to sign the guest book outside the center-aisle entrance at the back of the Sanctuary. Nursery care is provided for infants and young children, and there are rocking chairs at the rear of the Sanctuary for those with a child who needs comforting. Please see an usher if you need assistance. Older children are excused for classroom work as indicated. Thank you to those assisting in our worship this morning. Chelsea Shuey read the scripture. Harold & Lynn Matava, Kurt & Jodi Ehler served as ushers.

Bulletin cover courtesy of Athena Petrin.



All are Welcome!

The First Congregational Church of Pembroke

United Church of Christ

Where Neighbors Meet

July 31, 2011

AUGUST USHERS ...

- 7 Luke & Cindy Bonenfant, Eric & Judy Pearson
- 14 Marc Herring, Alan & Anna Gibbs, Lynn Matava
- 21 Floyd & Dot Smith, Don & Laurie Hill
- 28 Randy Shuey, Dean Hopps, Helen Chapman, Harold Matava

If you are unable to usher on your given day, please contact Dean Hopps at 485-5509.

THE BUSH FAMILY FUND...

The Dad, who is the breadwinner in this family from Pembroke, has a form of brain cancer and can no longer work to provide for his family. They need the community's help! If you can donate to help them, please contact Fred Kline, 310 Church Road (485-7962) or you can donate at any Laconia Savings Bank. **Thank you for caring!**

PLEASE NOTE: There will be **no yoga** on **September 10th** due to summer vacations.

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun., July 31 24 9am Choir Rehearsal
10am Worship (Guest Minister)
10:20am Summer Sunday School
- Tues., Aug. 2 7pm Church Council
- Weds., Aug. 3 6pm BSA
- Thurs., Aug. 4 6pm "AA" Group - MR
- Sat., Aug. 6 8:30am Yoga
- Sun., Aug. 7 9am Choir Rehearsal
10am Worship
NO Summer Sunday School
- Thurs., Aug. 11 6pm "AA" Group – MR
6pm World Service
- Sat., Aug. 13 8:30am Yoga - MR

THE FLOWER COMMITTEE ...

Donations of flowers are always welcome 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 know of your intention. Please contact Doris Rowden, 485-3664 (August), Robbe MacKenzie, 485-7295 (September) and Lynn Matava, 485-8352 (October).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Prayers for the family of Ruth Hill – who passed away
- Mary Louise Grandmason's brother-in-law, Bud Miller - had 2 stents put this past week.
- Frances Maffucci – medical concerns
- John Theuner – recovering from knee surgery
- Doc Greco's daughter recovering from serious liver surgery
- Athena Petrin's younger brother (and others) struggling with addictions
- Work Camp (for its success, for more youth workers, for the neighbors whose homes we will work on, for finding a Praise Band)
- Shirley Whittemore – recovering from orthopedic surgery
- Evelyn Hoyt (Barbara Matava's sister-in-law) – colon cancer
- Prayers for Steve & Erica Peaslee and family – their son Jacob has been diagnosed with Autism
- Abby Duffy – diagnosed with LHON (6 years old)
- Stacy Driscoll's dear friend Joanne Kerstetter and her 16-year old granddaughter were severely injured in a bomb blast in South Africa on July 11th while on a mission trip. Please keep them and the other six who were also injured in your prayers.
- Military personnel overseas & their families
- Athena Petrin's address: TF 3643 D, Camp Command Cell LSA, APO AE 09815

ANYONE INTERESTED IN BEING ON THE PRAYER CHAIN should contact the Secretary by e-mail: secretary@pembrokechurch.org or by phone: 485-9639 and let her know. You will be advised of those needing prayer. If you know of someone who is in need of prayer, and wants to be included on the list, please contact the church office, also.

Major Retailers Want To Give Our Church Money!

We're pleased to share some exciting news about a new fundraising program for the church. It's called "scrip", and it's the fundraising program that works while you shop.

Scrip is simply a word that means "substitute money" – in other words, scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They're the same gift certificates that you buy at the store. Many popular retailers participate in our scrip program including JC Penney, The Gap, Shell, Pizza Hut, Red Lobster and many, many others.

You're probably asking yourself how these stores help us raise money. It's simple -- scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount. Families like yours buy the certificates for full face value, they redeem them for full face value, and our church keeps the difference as revenue. And scrip is exciting, because everybody wins:

- The retailer gets cash up front and repeat business...
- You get a powerful fundraising alternative that involves *no selling*...
- Our church gets a regular source of revenue.

The beauty of scrip is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for our church without spending a single additional penny. Just spend your regular shopping dollars with scrip at the stores that participate in the scrip program! And scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline and even dining out.

Contact Marc Herring at church or via email mherring@imarcinc.com to get more details. You can also go to www.shopwithscrip.com and create a user name so that you can order your scrip cards and read more about the program.

The Pembroke Congregational Church scrip program promises to be a simple and effective fundraising program. Thanks for your support.

Striving for Peace

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
Mathew 5: 9*

Kingston, Jamaica, was the host city for the World Council of Churches' (WCC) International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in May. The theme was "Glory to God and peace on earth". It was the culmination of the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence, which has sought to network and bring attention to the peacemaking initiatives of its various member churches. More than 2,000 participated.

The convocation leaders took time to recognize the work done during the decade to overcome violence, and also invited churches to "renew their commitment to nonviolence, peace and just peace," through a variety of events including the planting of peace trees, a peace Sunday and a peace concert in Kingston.

Churches around the world joined convocation participants in prayers, special events and worship services including the use of a Caribbean prayer for peace which was translated into more than 20 languages, and singing the convocation theme song, "Glory to God, Peace on Earth," written by Jamaican musician Grub Cooper.

A series of consultations on a variety of peace and reconciliation-related topics took place in the years prior to the convocation, which built significant momentum. One group travelled to the United States last fall to dialogue about gun violence. Another group met with Kenyans struggling with post-election violence. The Rev Dr Jayasiri Peiris, general secretary of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka said the consultation visits represented the church striving "to be the living body of Christ".

The International Ecumenical Peace Convocation participants heard many stories of transformative peace efforts, but also honestly studied where differences and suffering still exist. The convocation became a milestone in ecumenical deliberations on peace and justice.

Today we pray that each one of us will be peacemakers in our world.