

THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELFAST, UCC

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Week of March 15, 2020 – March 22, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A warm and loving welcome is extended to all who worship among us this morning. If you are a **visitor**, please sign the guest book in the narthex, fill out a pew card if you'd like and put it in the offering box. Then join us for coffee and light refreshments in the parlor after the service. We are happy to have you with us!

A Prayer List is available as you enter the Sanctuary. Please feel free to place on that list any joy or concern you may have. These will be read (as they are written) before the prayer time

If you are hospitalized or know of a member of our congregation who is, please let Pastors Kate or Joel know.

Head Usher: *Gary Grant*

Deacons of the Month: *Sarah Garbe & Richard Fiske*

Coffee Hour Hosts – Trustees

Council – meets today at 11:30 in the library.

GBAM Lenten Luncheon Series – Continuing on March 18th, we will gather from noon to 1pm in our church parlor. Lane Fisher from the UU Church will speak. Bring your brown bag lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided. If you are interested in helping prepare coffee or clean up after, for these events, please talk to Pastor Joel. All are welcome!

Silence During Lent - During the Lenten Season, the First Church Sanctuary will be made available to sit in silence, each Wednesday between 11:00 and Noon. through April 9th. All are welcome.

Ethics of Eating and Food Justice Group: You face a difficult moral decision every time you decide what to eat. This group will explore food ethics within a variety of Christian and philosophical perspectives; discuss how environmental and social justice intersect; and apply what we have learned in the local community. Meetings held on the fourth Sunday of each month, in the church library. For a schedule and links to readings, see the "upcoming events" tab on the church website (<http://www.firstchurchinbelfast.org/>). Please direct questions to Josh Kerckmar (jkerckmar@gmail.com). All are welcome!

April Messenger – Items for the April Messenger are due in the church office by Tuesday, Mar. 24.

So you want to help with Hospitality? – Coffee hour after worship is one of the most fun parts of our gatherings on Sundays and a time we express our welcome to new comers. But we need folks to provide the goodies and set up coffee and hot water and clean up afterward. The Diaconate has offered to do every 2nd Sunday of the month. Beth Place is doing every 3rd Sunday. If you would like to help on one of the 1st or 4th Sundays of the month, please talk to Jane Grant who is coordinating the Coffee Hour hospitality responsibilities. Thank you!

Readings for next Sunday – Sam 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.

The Sunrise Association has invited us to pray each week for a sister church. This week we hold up in our prayers for Centre Street Congregational Church, UCC of Machias.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Today	Mar 15	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00 am	Worship
		11:30 am	Council
		11:30 am	Music Team
Tuesday	Mar 17	5:00 pm	St. Patrick's Dinner
Wednesday	Mar 18	11-12 noon	Lenten Silence - Sanctuary
		12:00 noon	Lenten Luncheon Series – Parlor
Friday	Mar 20	11-4 pm	Bridge – Parlor
		12-1 pm	Wellness (Intuitive Eating) – Library
Saturday	Mar 21	10:00 am	Circle of Presence - Parsonage
Sunday	Mar 22	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00 am	Worship
		3:00 pm	Play It Forward Concert

The First Church in Belfast, United Church of Christ

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First Church website: www.firstchurchinbelfast.org Contact: webmaster@firstchurchinbelfast.org

Facebook: [firstchurchinbelfastUCC](https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchinbelfastUCC)

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Office Administrator: Nancy Brown

Religious Education Director: Beth Haynes Nursery Attendant: Brenda Warman

Music Director: Amy Kerksmar

Custodial Staff: Heather Wren

Treasurer: Chair Trustees, Todd Hall Financial Secretary: Joan Mills

Moderator: Kenn Ortmann Co-Clerks: Linda Smith & Nancy Brown

Webmaster: Jim Kuffert Videographer: Kathleen Kearns

Pastors: Rev. Joel Krueger and Rev. Dr. Kate Winters

Ministers: All the people

The First Church Welcoming Statement

We, the people of the First Church in Belfast, United Church of Christ, declare ourselves to be a gathered body of Christians, ever open to the voice of the Still Speaking God. In the spirit of those who worshipped here before us for over 200 years, we strive to witness God's love and Jesus' example in the wider community. To that end, we engage and support all people, whoever they may be and wherever they are on their spiritual journey, in worship, fellowship and service. We intentionally and joyfully welcome people of every race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, physical and mental ability, socio-economic situation and faith background into the full life, ministry, sacraments and leadership of this church. We celebrate and support family in all its diverse forms and recognize and bless all loving and committed relationships. Together, we will strive, in the words of the prophet Micah, "to do justice, love kindness and walk