

Old South Church

United Church of Christ

February 2017 Telstar

Rooted in faith, Growing in love, reaching for justice

We have exciting news to share with you! Old South members voted unanimously on Sunday, January 29, to call the Reverend Linda Hatch to serve as our Interim Minister. Rev. Hatch will be worshiping with us on February 5 and will begin work on February 7. She will lead us in worship for the first time on February 12. Please join us in welcoming her to Old South!

Executive Council

Moderator: Chris Magri
Treasurer: Amanda Adams
Clerk: Kim Daellenbach
Financial Secretary & Fundraising: Brenda Scribner
Minister: Position Vacant
Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Jodie Gunther
Chair, Christian Ed: Arin Hilton
Chair, Diaconate: Shelley Griffith
Chair, Financial Trustees: Marilyn Hylan
Chair, Outreach, Justice & Witness: Randy Oakley
Chair, Personnel: Joanna Backman
Chair, Property Trustees: Gil Riley
Member at Large: Robin Beck
Member at Large: Wendy Huish

Rev. Linda Hatch

Interim Minister

Jodie Gunther

Director of Children and
Youth Ministries
Jodie@FarmingtonUcc.org

Phyllis Pederson

Church Office
Phyllis@FarmingtonUcc.org

Kate Clark

Communications
Kate@FarmingtonUcc.org

Old South Church

227 Main Street (office)
207/778-0424

235 Main Street (church)
207/778-4438
Farmington, ME 04938

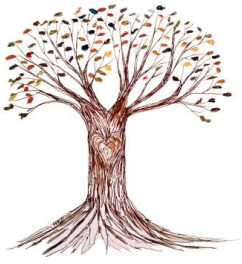
**Find us on Facebook
at:**

Old South First
Congregational Church

Find us on the web at:

www.FarmingtonUCC.org

“Old South Church is called to be a spiritual home where diverse hearts and minds are welcomed, nourished, and formed by God to transform the world.”



NOTICE

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, OF FARMINGTON, MAINE:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Church, the FINANCIAL/BUDGETING ANNUAL MEETING thereof will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2017, immediately following the worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is:

1. To receive Financial Reports from 2016;
2. To approve the 2017 operating budget;
3. To consider a proposal to bring the Holman Parish House into code compliance during 2017, at an estimated cost of \$15,500, by using the \$10,000 garnered from the 2016 land strip sale and then taking the remaining funds from the Holman Trust;
4. To rename the Holman Parish House as the Holman Mission House;
5. To discuss the results of the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study and, if modifications to the Capital Campaign have been recommended by the study authors, to vote on said modifications;
6. To consider a bylaw change regarding the method of filling committee slots that are still open at the time of the Program/Nominating Annual Meeting;
7. To transact such other or further business that may properly come before said meeting.

Dated at Farmington, Maine, January 4, 2017
Kim Daellenbach, Clerk

In lieu of a regular coffee hour on Annual Meeting Sunday, we are all encouraged to bring something to share. Foods that can easily be consumed with our fingers are the easiest for us at this meeting: crackers and cheese, mini-quiche, muffins, deviled eggs, fruit, cut up veggies, mini sandwiches, etc. Thank you for your help!



From The Moderator

Last summer and fall, as we kept intensely busy with Holman Parish House discussions and stewardship drives and Pastor Alexis's imminent departure, I kept telling myself that come 2017 we'd get to all the other things we need to work on. Well, my calendar now claims that 2017 has arrived. I suspect it's lying; but we should move forward anyway, just in case.

Where to begin? Some of our tasks will involve money. We're preparing to run a capital campaign in the spring, so that we can at last make the church building and Newman Wing handicapped-accessible while also carrying out important repairs and upgrades. Two other financial to-do items include looking into new funds for investing our endowment and the Holman Trust, and creating a straightforward "planned giving" option for our members who want to make bequests, large or small, to the church.

Some tasks will involve logistics. Once we've run that capital campaign we'll need to *spend* the money we've raised by carrying out the various building projects, a welcome but inevitably disruptive process. We'll then need to move the church offices to the Newman Wing and identify at least one new nonprofit renter for the renamed Holman Mission House. And we can't stop there: having voted last year to rededicate ourselves to mission, we need to brainstorm how *we* can enhance our mission efforts and community visibility, rather than simply relying on a tenant agency (however worthy its goals!) to accomplish this for us.

Then there's the "finding a new settled pastor" task. At this writing we're still working on finding an interim minister, but let's suppose that this will soon be accomplished. Finding a settled pastor involves more than just voting a search committee into existence. That committee will need to know what kind of pastor we're looking for, which gifts we feel we need at this time in the life of Old South. Meaningful sermons? Innovative worship services? Adult programming? A passion for pastoral care? A knack for community outreach? A talent for feeding committees new ideas? Answering "Yes, all of that!" won't cut it: we're calling a minister of God, not a Marvel superhero. (As NASA engineers say about creating space missions, "Faster, cheaper, better: choose any two.") Our congregation needs to discern just who we want to be and what sort of pastor can best guide us to that future. That person may not look like Alexis or like any other past minister, for God is always doing a new thing.

So there's your preview of 2017 at Old South. It's time to roll up our sleeves and get started.

Chris Magri



From Your Treasurer

Greetings to you all and we! As I type this article, it is a toasty -5 outside.

The Financial Trustees are in the process of finalizing a draft of the 2017 Budget. If you have not submitted your pledges, we would encourage you to do so. Old South is entering a new chapter and we can only forge ahead if we all work together.

I know these transition periods can leave us in a state of worry or nervous anticipation about what lies ahead, but I am confident, comfortable, and at peace. I have so much faith and trust in our Diaconate because I know their number one priority is our spiritual health. We are so lucky to have them all. I hope you will join me in offering them support and encouragement as they prayerfully continue to lead us in this journey.

Please mark your calendars for the Financial Meeting on Sunday, February 5th. Bring your questions and concerns, and we will do our best to answer them. We will take a look back at 2016 and look ahead to 2017.

We ended 2016 with a surplus of \$2,238. While this is *always* great news, most of that surplus came from the Minister's Expenses since much of what we *would have* paid in December for January (benefits, etc.), we did not pay this year. Also, many of our committees worked hard to be mindful of their expenses as did our office staff. The mild winter last year also helped to save on heating costs. So, however you choose to look at it, our needs were met and for that, we should be thankful.

As always, if you opt to include UCC Membership Dues as part of your pledge, we ask that you make and designate a separate payment apart from your pledge payment(s). As of 2017, the cost is \$15.83 per member in your household. This probably seems trivial, but it really does help us to better allocate those receipts for budget reporting.

Thank you and so many WARM thoughts to you all!
Amanda

From the Financial Trustees

The Financial Trustees are working with Amanda Adams, our treasurer, to finalize the 2017 proposed budget for Old South. Our biggest concern – pledges. Thank you to all who have pledged. We have 64 pledges in for \$113,000. Our budget plan requires at least \$123,000 in pledges. If you have not submitted your pledge for 2017, please do so.

Other items we are discussing are the capital campaign which will occur later this spring and our investment portfolio. The top priority for the capital campaign will be handicap access to the Newman Wing.

Marilyn Hylan, Chairman



News & Upcoming Events



Sunday, February 5

Pastor Dee Webber will lead us in worship on Communion Sunday, Feb. 5. Dee will be a familiar face to many of us as she has preached at Old South in the past. Dee Webber is a retired United Methodist clergy with both local church and pastoral counseling experience. In addition to her clinical counseling practice, she enjoys her service at the Boards of the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area and the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem. Dee lives with husband Michael in Strong on the banks of the Sandy River.

Worship on February 5 will be followed by our Annual Financial Meeting. All members and friends are encouraged to join us at this important gathering. There will be no regular coffee hour on this Sunday. Instead, we are all asked to bring something to share that can easily be picked up with our fingers: cut up veggies or fruit, muffins, deviled eggs, etc. Thank you!

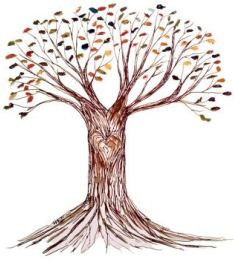
Retiree's Lunches: February 6

Please join us for the Retirees Lunch at Noon in the Vestry of Old South on Monday, Feb. 6. Dick and Lynda will be serving meatloaf and mashed potatoes. Bring something to share if you would like. Contact Dick Giard (897-6228) for more information.



Handicap Accessibility Fundraiser

Cape Breton musical craftmasters, fiddler Colin Grant and guitarist Scott MacMillan will join forces to promote their cd, "Good2Go", on Thursday, February 9th at Old South Church. Pre-concert jam session begins at 6:15 pm. Concert 7 pm. Adult tickets \$15. Student discounts (\$10/\$5). Ticket reservations recommended by calling 207-491-5919. Church's portion of proceeds will benefit the Newman Wing Extension handicapped accessibility project. There are many ways you can help: bake a goodie for intermission, help collect at the door, help with set up or clean up and more! Please contact Debbie Davis-Robinson if you would like to be involved!



News & Upcoming Events



Bread for Benefit Sales Dates

The Youth will be selling bread in the Vestry after worship services on February 12. Thank you for your ongoing support for this youth project!

Women's Retreat

A women's retreat will be held at the Marie Joseph Spiritual Center in Biddeford, Maine, May 26 – May 28, 2017. The \$210 cost of the retreat includes accommodations, 6 meals, program expenses and more. You may begin making payments this month to reserve space today. If you begin making payments now, you may make four equal monthly payments or you may pay weekly if you prefer. Confidential partial scholarships are available. Please contact the church office if you would like to attend.



Winter is here! Church Service Cancellation Information

We make every effort to hold worship and other scheduled events in inclement weather, but we may cancel in the event of dangerous road conditions. Should this happen, we will update the church voicemail (778-0424) and Facebook page, and announce it on WKTJ-FM 99.3. If Sunday school is cancelled, but worship is not, we will update our answering machine and Facebook. The church office will close if RSU 9 cancels school due to weather.

**The next issue of Telstar will be the March issue.
The deadline to submit articles for the February issue is February 10.**



News & Upcoming Events

Heat Dance 6

The legendary Hollywood-themed event to support crucial heating assistance in Franklin County.

Oooh, darling--- we look fabulous,

And it's all for a fabulous cause!

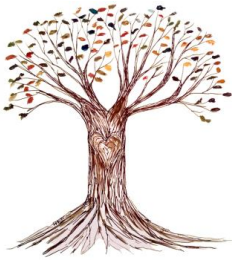


WITH LIVE MUSIC BY **SHEPHERD'S PIE**
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017
7:00 PM
UMF NORTH DINING HALL

For
more information:
FACEBOOK: "HEAT DANCE 6"

\$10 IN ADVANCE/ \$15 AT THE DOOR

\$20 "GOLD PLATED" TICKETS PROVIDE
CHAMPAGNE AT THE HOMESTEAD,
THEN LIMO SHUTTLE SERVICE TO THE DANCE



Mission & Outreach



Tissue and toilet paper

Please bring your donations to church, and we will deliver everything to Care and Share. Thank you



★
THE CHRISTMAS FUND
for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Special United Church of Christ Offering: The Christmas Fund

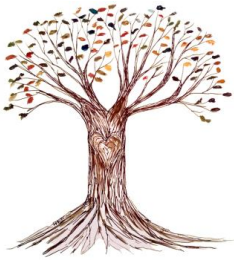
Thank you for your gifts to the Christmas Fund. We received \$254 for this special offering of the United Church of Christ.

Coat closet donations

We are accepting donation of coats, snow pants, ski jackets and blankets for the coat closet ministry. Please do not drop off shoes and other clothing items. We are not accepting t-shirts, pants, socks, shirts, etc. When you drop these things off at the church or HMH, we have to pack them up and take them to other donation sites. Please help us by donating only the requested items! Thank you for your help and for your ongoing support!

Thank you!

What a great variety of mittens, hats, and scarves you donated to the local school children this year. They are so appreciated by the teachers as many children forget or lose hats and mittens by mid-winter. There were 24 pairs of mittens, 2 gloves, 24 hats, and 3 scarves this year in our collection. Thank you to all who contribute to this annual giving. – Polly Howatt



Mission & Outreach

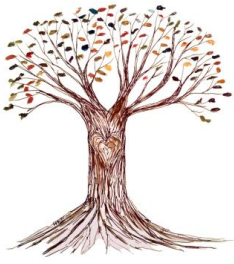


Community Lunch

As we continue in the colder months of winter our meal count continues to grow. For our January meal we served American Chop Suey, tossed salad, garlic bread and cake to 175 folks. We DELIVERED approximately 95 of those 175 meals!

For February, we will be serving Shepherd's Pie with biscuits. As always, we continue to need members of the congregation to help with supplying food items for the meal itself as well as labor to help with setting tables, serving the meals and cleaning up. And, we always encourage members of the church to just attend the meals to share in the fellowship around the table. Our experience has shown us that many people come to our meals as much for the companionship and fellowship as come because they "need" the food. We recognize that providing one meal a month isn't going to make a great difference for people with food insecurity, the fact that they have a place to come where they are made to feel welcome and are fed a hearty meal makes a big difference in their lives. So please, come and join us.

Stan Wheeler
Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs



Children & Youth



Sunday School

Now that we've celebrated the birth of Jesus, it's time to move into the "mid-winter" curriculum, in which we'll study the life and teachings of Jesus. In late January, we'll **retell the story of Jesus as a child "lost" in Jerusalem---only to be found by his parents in the temple.** We'll also meet John the Baptist, and talk about day Jesus was baptized in the river. In February, we'll join Jesus for 40 days in the wilderness (Feb. 5), then watch **as Jesus invites a surprising group of young men (fishermen, tax payers) to join him in his journey to spread the Good News.**

! After school break (Feb. 19 and 26), we'll begin looking at some of the miracles Jesus performed, including turning water into wine.

For children ages pre-K through grade 5 Feb. 5 and 12, 9:45 am to 10:30 am.
There will be no classes on Feb. 19 and 26, due to school vacation week.

BBC (Middle and High School)

We'll be opening up Coat & Cupboard on February 5th. The following week, **Feb. 12,** we'll return to the Matthew Room for a "real" BBC class (with doughnuts, of course). **No classes the last two weeks of February, due to school winter vacation.**

BBC classes welcome teens in grades 6 - 12. We'll meet just once this month, Feb. 12.

Nursery News

Please join us in giving our new Nursery Supervisor a warm welcome! Teresa Hays has offered to take on the responsibilities of our Nursery. Teresa has plenty of experience working with children (she has raised two kids of her own---including Ian, who is a sophomore at Mt Blue high school), and she holds a nursing degree. Welcome, Teresa!



Children & Youth

God's Kitchen Crew

Cupid's arrow will once again be flying (no, wait! that's a toilet plunger!) as God's **Kitchen Crew plays** another silly Valentine's Day game. Plus, we'll be making table decorations for the Community Luncheon.....and "triple chocolate" cakes--**yum!**

For children in grades 2 - 5

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 3:00 - 4:45 pm

Soup Group

It's time for some hearty mid-winter fare---**chili, anyone? Our soups will be prepared to be served later at the Warming Center. We'll be making two kinds of soup, and some simple baked goods, too!**

For students in grades 5 - 8

Thursday, Feb. 16 2:00- 4:45 pm

Youth Group/Coat & Cupboard/Preble St. Mission Trip/Confirmation Classes

We'll be prepping for our upcoming mission trip to Preble Street--**Saturday, March 11** and Sunday March 12. We'll also need to spend some time in both coat rooms---**downstairs in the church and in the carriage house---sprucing up for our March 5th opening. And, it's time to begin a discussion of "where we go next" with Coat & Cupboard....do we simply offer food in the spring/summer? Or do we shut down for a few months?**

For teens in grades 6 - 12

Sunday, Feb. 12 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Jodie's house (164 Russell's Mill Road)





Children & Youth

“Special Event”: Youth Group @ Heat Dance

Here’s my shameless pitch to have Youth Group teens lend a hand to transform the **UMF North Dining Hall into another wildly fun Heat Dance event--Friday, February 3.** I’ll **provide free pizza** to teens (grades 6 and older) who’d like to blow up balloons, hang crepe paper, and other decorating duties. **Please RSVP (so I know how much pizza to order).** Plan to work **2:30 to 4:30 pm--you can come directly to the UMF North Dining Hall (we won’t be meeting at church first).**



Bread for Benefit

We’ll be offering bread for sale to support our mission ministries on **Sunday, February 12, in the Vestry following the church service.**

Want more information about Youth Programs at Old South? Join our e-mail list!

Every week we send updates and detailed information about what’s happening with kids and teens at Old South. To join the e-mail list, send a note to:

Jodie@FarmingtonUCC.org.



Worship & Music



Revised Common Lectionary

The Revised Common Lectionary is a list of Bible passages followed by the majority of mainline Christian churches, including the United Church of Christ. If you would like to study the lectionary that will be used in church each Sunday, please contact Phyllis in the church office. Below, you will find the Revised Common Lectionary for the month of February.

Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2017	<u>Malachi 3:1-4</u>	<u>Psalm 84</u> or <u>Psalm 24:7-10</u>	<u>Hebrews 2:14-18</u>	<u>Luke 2:22-40</u>
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 5, 2017	<u>Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)</u>	<u>Psalm 112:1-9 (10)</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)</u>	<u>Matthew 5:13-20</u>
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 12, 2017	<u>Deuteronomy 30:15-20</u> or <u>Sirach 15:15-20</u>	<u>Psalm 119:1-8</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 3:1-9</u>	<u>Matthew 5:21-37</u>
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany February 19, 2017	<u>Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18</u>	<u>Psalm 119:33-40</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23</u>	<u>Matthew 5:38-48</u>
Transfiguration Sunday February 26, 2017 (Last Sunday before Lent)	<u>Exodus 24:12-18</u>	<u>Psalm 2</u> or <u>Psalm 99</u>	<u>2 Peter 1:16-21</u>	<u>Matthew 17:1-9</u>



Maine Conference and the UCC

TOGETHER WE RISE

ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC RACISM AND
BIAS IN MAINE

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 4TH, 2017

1 PM - 5 PM

REGISTRATION STARTS AT

12:30 PM

*SNOW DAY: FEBRUARY 11TH

**KOMINSKY
AUDITORIUM**

PEABODY HALL
HUSSON UNIVERSITY
1 COLLEGE CIRCLE
BANGOR, ME

**FOSTERING
DIALOGUE**

**BUILDING
CONNECTIONS**

**DISCOVERING
SOLUTIONS**

Speakers from Maine Inside Out, North Star Lodge #22 F. & A.M., the Lewiston 21st Century Program, the King Fellows, and others will help attendees discover solutions for Penobscot County.

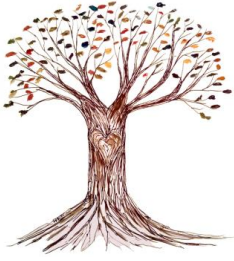
TO REGISTER, GO TO MAINEUCC.ORG
QUESTIONS, EMAIL
PASTORLINETTE@ROADRUNNER.COM

PRESENTED BY: NORTH STAR LODGE #22 F. & A.M., THE OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN AT HUSSON UNIVERSITY, THE UNITED STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF HUSSON UNIVERSITY, THE MAINE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, THE MAINE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, AND THE BTS CENTER

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Would you like to learn more about the United Church of Christ? Please check the United Church of Christ website for more information about our denomination: <http://www.ucc.org> On this site, you may sign up for "Weekly Seeds" a reflection based on the Revised Common Lectionary readings for each Sunday of the year. There is also a link to an electronic daily devotional called, "The StillSpeaking Daily Devotional."



Get Connected

OLD SOUTH CHURCH

First Congregational Church of Farmington
235 MAIN ST. (Church) ~ 227 MAIN ST. (Office)
FARMINGTON, ME 04938
TEL: (207) 778-0424

WORSHIP: 9:30 AM SUNDAYS
OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Tuesday through Thursday



<http://www.farmingtonucc.org/>



www.facebook.com/OldSouthFarmington



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[PINTEREST.COM/OLDSOUTHCHURCH](https://www.pinterest.com/OLDSOUTHCHURCH)

Old South Statement of Identity

"In Christ there is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one..."

(Galatians 3:28)

Walking toward God, we, the members of (Old South) First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Farmington, Maine, seek through God's Grace to be a congregation that includes all persons who desire to live God's Love, as shown to us through the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. We respect and embrace differences of gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identification, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic background. We welcome all to share fully in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. We are an open and affirming church: open to all, and affirming of all God's beloved children. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Due to a software glitch, many of the locations are not printed on this calendar. If you have questions about an event, please contact the church office.</p> <p>The church office will be open Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 am-4:30pm.</p>			<p>1 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group 6:00pm UMF Student Dinner 6:00pm Executive Council 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 10:00am Warming Center</p>	<p>3 7:00pm Heat Dance at UMF North Dining Hall</p>	<p>4 12:30pm Together We Rise: Addressing Systemic Racism and Bias in Maine (see Maine UCC page in Telstar)</p>
<p>5 9:00am Coat & Cupboard Open 9:30am Worship 9:30am Farmington Friends 11:00am Financial Annual Meeting</p>	<p>6 12:00pm Retirees Lunch 6:00pm Buddhist Group</p>	<p>7 5:15pm InnerRhythm</p>	<p>8 3:00pm God's Kitchen Crew 6:00pm UMF Student Dinner 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 9:00am Western Maine Arts 10:00am Warming Center 6:15pm PreConcert Jam Session 7:00pm Concert</p>	<p>10 March Telstar Deadline 9:30am Peeling Party</p>	<p>11 12:00pm Community Lunch</p>
<p>12 9:30am Farmington Friends 9:30am Worship 11:00am Deacons' Meeting 11:00am Bread for Benefit Sale 6:30pm Youth Group (Coat and Cupboard, Preble Street, Confirmation Class)</p>	<p>13 6:00pm Buddhist Group</p>	<p>14 2:30pm Just Friends 5:15pm InnerRhythm</p>	<p>15 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group 6:00pm UMF Student Dinner 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm LinQ/LGBTQ Group</p>	<p>16 10:00am Warming Center 2:00pm Soup Group</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9:30am Worship 9:30am Farmington Friends 11:00am Outreach, Justice and Witness</p>	<p>20 6:00pm Buddhist Group</p>	<p>21 5:15pm InnerRhythm</p>	<p>22 4:30pm Christian Ed 6:00pm UMF Student Dinner 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 10:00am Warming Center</p>	<p>24 10:00am Buttons for Babes</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9:30am Worship 9:30am Farmington Friends</p>	<p>27 6:00pm Buddhist Group</p>	<p>28 5:15pm InnerRhythm</p>				