



AUGUST UPDATE

Dear Members and Friends of Union Church,

It's hard to believe that we are in our last full month of summer! It has been packed full of events, and this August is no exception. Hopefully you have been able to find a balance between pleasurable activities with family and friends and time to relax and re-energize yourselves. If not, this beautiful season is not over. Be good to yourselves.

Several people have asked if I keep regular office hours at the North Dam Mill. I do not. I find it easier to work from the computer in my home office. However, I am ten minutes away and happy to meet with you. Simply give me a call (office: (207) 602-6237). If I am not there the voice message transfers to my home computer. Or, you can call my cell (207) 205-4951.

Thank you to all of you who have done the quiet "behind the scenes" work that often goes unnoticed except when it isn't done: Those who have watered the grass and plants in the remembrance garden, the clean-up crew at the speakers' series, those who pick up around the church after each service and those who make sure that we have the bulletins each month. We are all very grateful to you.

Thank you also to Bob Sherman and the trustees for their work on the communion cup holders and the new card holders. A lot of time and tedious work has gone into this project.

Several of you have let me know that you are preparing something for our August Life Lessons Sunday, "Lessons from our Pets". We are so fortunate to have so many gifted people in our congregation. Please do not limit your sharing to this once-a-month event. Consider, for example contributing a poem, picture or essay to the monthly update, or to a Sunday service or bulletin insert.

I continue to appreciate your feedback about our Sunday services. Being a diverse worshipping community is both a rich blessing and a challenge. My hope is that you leave church each Sunday having been nourished in some way. Your guidance will help me do my part to make this happen.

May you all be blessed by the beauty of the season. May you experience the Divine Presence in and around you. May you know that you are precious and loved.

Nancy

Union Church Web Site: The Union Church Web Site <http://www.unionchurchme.com/home/> includes the weekly sermon and Sunday Bulletins and inserts as well as news items and pictures of church and community events. If you have pictures of church related events, please send them to Paul Schlaver. We may not be able to post everything, but it is a great way to share all that is happening in our community. Please visit our web page often!

Calendar of Events:

August 7 – Communion Sunday: When receiving Communion, you may take from the half loaf, which is regular bread, or take a cube of gluten-free bread. The cups contain non-alcoholic grape juice. All are welcome.

August 9 – Reiki - 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. at the church office.

August 11 - Speaker Series: Emerson Baker

August 14 – Sunday theme: Lessons from our Pets.

- Blessing of the Animals. 4:00 p.m.

August 15 – Saco Meals

August 16 – Area Clergy Breakfast 7:30 a.m. at Nancy's home

-Union Church leads monthly prayer service at St. Andre's Healthcare Center

August 18 – Speaker Series: Sy Montgomery

August 23 - Reiki - 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. at the church office

August 28 – Collection for the Alternative Pathways Center student store.

Dementia Conversations Workshops

This workshop will offer tips on how to have honest and caring conversations with family members about driving, doctor visits and legal and financial planning.

Hosted By: Southern Maine Agency on Aging

Thursday, August 25, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Location: 136 US Route One, Scarborough, ME

>> Advance Registration Required: 800-272-3900

Dempsey Challenge: Jeremy Smith, Charlotte Cyr's significant other, is going to be participating in the Dempsey Challenge this October and will be trying to raise funds for the Dempsey Center which provides free services/support to those afflicted with cancer and their families. He will be challenging himself to a 70 mile bike ride on Sunday October 2nd. He has currently reached 25% of his goal of \$1000. If you want to help, his personal web page, hosted by the Dempsey Challenge is: <http://cmhc.convio.net/goto/JeremySmithRide2016>. Alternatively, if people want to contact him directly his e-mail is: smith.jeremy1970@gmail.com

Susan G. Komen 3-Day Breast Cancer
Walk



Caryn Firebaugh and her team, The Ta-Ta's from KC, will be traveling to Seattle **September 16-18** to walk the Susan G. Komen 3-Day. The 3-Day is a 60 mile walk over the course of three days to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research, education and a variety of community assistance programs. The 3-Day family believes this isn't just a walk...but a journey to the end of breast cancer!

To donate, visit her web page: www.the3Day.org/goto/carynfirebaugh

If you have questions, please contact her at Racqueteers@aol.com or [913-707-9038](tel:913-707-9038)

Reiki: Reiki will resume a regular schedule in August --2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, 9:00 - 11:30 at the church office in Biddeford. The sessions are free, and you can drop in at any time during the scheduled hours. Why would you do this? It calms the spirit and soothes the soul. If you need relief from stress, there is great support for you here. The first session is Tuesday, August 9 --and, please, if you are planning to come, send me a quick email <jforssen@gmail.com>. (John Forssen)



Bibles: You may have noticed that the bibles in the pews are very faded and worn. They have served the members of Union Church well, but displayed as they are now is comparable to flying a frayed and tattered American flag. They need to be replaced; but, with what? We are a very diverse congregation and there are many choices available. Though the decision about which bibles to purchase will be made at a later date by the settled pastor in consultation with the deacons, we want your input as well. So as to capture the most opinions, when the congregation is the largest, after the service on September 11, Rev. Jonathan Wright-Gray will make a presentation about the various bible options based on his years in the ministry and his knowledge of different translations. Printed copies of his remarks will be available a week in advance for people who are unable to receive them by email. On the Sunday following Jonathan's presentation, the members of the congregation will have an opportunity to offer their preferences. This information will be filed and given to the settled pastor to help with his/her decision.



The Union Church Blessing of the Animals will take place at 4:00 PM on Sunday, August 14, 2016 on the McPheeters' lawn at the corner of Lester B. Orcutt Blvd and Mile Stretch Road in Biddeford Pool, Maine.

(bring your own lawn chairs)

- Individual Pet Blessing by Union Church Interim Pastor Nancy Bancroft.
- Each pet will receive a special blessing gift.
- An opportunity to share your pet's story.
- Snacks and Water for pets only!
- Pet food, supplies and/or monetary donations gladly received to benefit Lucky Pup Rescue and the Animal Welfare Society.



Pets must be friendly and either on a leash (dogs), in a carrier (cats), a cage (birds or small mammals) or in fish bowls or terrariums.



*Ever shaken hands with an Octopus?
Come meet someone who has!*

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday August 18th, 3 - 4 PM

Union Church Presents:

**A SPECIAL WORKSHOP
FOR YOUNG ADVENTURERS!**

With Award-Winning Adventure Writer

Sy Montgomery

“Part Indiana Jones and Part Emily Dickinson” (Boston Globe)

Author of over a dozen books for children, including, *The Octopus Scientists*, *Chasing Cheetahs*, and *Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World’s Strangest Parrot*, winner of The Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal. Montgomery’s adult non-fiction, *The Soul of an Octopus*, was shortlisted for 2015 National Book Award.

FREE! Followed by book-signing.

Doors Open 2:30 PM

Biddeford Pool Community Center, 2 Yates Street,

Questions? Contact Paulette, (207) 985-8051, or

pjwf@roadrunner.com

*Recommended Grades 4 - 8



Beginning in September



FACTS AND MYTHS OF ISLAM

Learn about the history and practices of Islam and its effects on the world and how it is similar to and how it is different from Judaism and Christianity.

The seven-week course will involve 2-hour sessions with a video or two for every class plus various handouts and a Saturday visit to a mosque.

The instructor Brother Albert Heinrich FIC , a Brothers of Christian Instruction for fifty-four years, taught science and mathematics at high school and college levels in Ohio, Alaska, and Tokyo Japan for 31 years, worked at Alaska Radio Mission broadcast station KNOM for 4 years in Nome, Alaska, and in parish ministry in Nome, Alaska for 3 years. Since returning to Alfred, Maine in the summer of 2005, he has taught sixteen Senior College classes for the York County Senior College. The last two courses were about ISLAM.

Classes will begin on Friday, September 9, 2:00-4:00 at Union Church. All are welcome to attend this free course. A sign-up sheet will be posted soon so as to know how many hand-outs to prepare.