



May Update -2017

Dear Members and Friends of Union Church,

May is upon us offering beautiful surprises each day: Most of the trees that were bare just one week ago are now showing off their tender lime green leaves and some are covered in clusters of delicate blossoms. Daffodils, narcissus and some tulips gather in joyful bunches in yards

all over. Numerous versions of birdsong serenade us throughout each day. Tender blades of sweet-smelling grass are jumping out of the ground. The earth is in transition and it is a magnificent experience.

We at Union Church are also at another stage in our transition. Our able and dedicated search committee (Paul Schlaver, Katie Koles, Lamar Robinson, Debbie Lamb, Joe Boyle, Beth Baskin, Eve McPheeters and Heather Davis) have worked hard over several months and have now unanimously selected a candidate that they enthusiastically presented to the Deacons for approval. After meeting with the candidate this past week, the deacons voted to accept the search committee's choice "with gratitude". They also are very pleased with the selection. They will now recommend to you that this person become our settled pastor. You will all have a chance to meet the candidate on May 7th and after coffee hour members of Union Church will be asked to vote to affirm the Search Committee's selection and the Deacons' recommendation. With your affirmation the process of transition will continue, but it will be several months before the settled pastor is installed. This is what we have been praying for since Pastor Jan made her announcement about retiring. Yet now that this stage of the process is upon us, some members of the community may feel as anxious as they did when I first started as interim pastor. Change is frightening and it can be hard. We love our church. We are all invested in it. Hopefully, however, you have come to see that despite some changes in the past year and a half, Union Church is thriving. Our services are still beautiful and meaningful, we still love and support each other, and have a good time. None of that will change.

Let us take courage from God who orchestrates the transitions of the seasons and trust that this same God will guide and care for us in the transitions at Union Church.

Much love, Nancy



News from our Moderator(and Chair of the Search Committee): The search for a Settled Pastor at Union Church is coming to an end! The eight person Search Committee received over twenty five inquiries over the course of several months and many of those with detailed applications for the position. We advertised through various denominational church networks, various websites offering church position postings, seminary web sites, etc. All applicants were asked to write an essay of why they felt they fit our church as pastor and to also submit sample sermons. These requests proved to be a very helpful way to eliminate the candidates that simply did not make sense for Union Church. After considerable vetting of the applications, detailed interviews were conducted with two candidates, including answering an extensive list of questions. The Search Committee presented their unanimous recommendation to the Deacons who voted to approve the candidate with gratitude. One Deacon was not able to attend this meeting with the candidate. The members of the Executive Committee, not on the Deacons or Search team, also have had a chance to meet with the candidate.

On Sunday, May 7th the rest of the Union Church family will have an opportunity to meet and hear the chosen candidate preach. Following the coffee hour the members of Union Church present at this service will follow the requirements of the Union Church Constitution and cast a vote as to whether they support the efforts and recommendation of the Search Committee and Deacons.

The Search Committee appreciates the patience of the Union Church family in this long process and need for confidentiality. The need for confidentiality is very important for the candidate's sake due to the current position this person holds as well as for the respect for the process. Following May 7th more time will have to pass before the new Settled Pastor can begin at Union Church. Thankfully we have been in the very skilled and loving hands of Nancy Bancroft for nearly a year and a half and she will continue to lead and guide us until the transition is complete.



In-A-Pinch:

Tuesday, May 9: Union Church will be preparing the meal for the **In-A-Pinch** non-food essentials pantry and we are *in need of bakers*. There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule. Thank you!

Time for a New Directory: McKenney photographers will set up **at the community club after our church service on May 21** to take head shots of each of us. They are also willing to take family photos, at no charge, at the same time. Our hope is to have current pictures of all our year-round members and friends before the snow birds arrive. The photographer will return in June for them and for any of you who can't make May 21st and missed April 23rd. Please sign up in the church entry and fill out the form below and bring it with you for your sitting.

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>Union Church Directory Portraits McKenney Photography is pleased to be providing photography services for the new directory at Union Church. On April 23rd and May 21st, we will be set up at the Community Club directly after service. We will photograph each person individually as well as any family groupings you would like. There is no charge to have your photo taken for the directory. You will have the option to purchase prints and digital images from the photos we take, but there is no obligation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us before photo day. We can't wait to see you!</p> | <p>Please fill out and give to photographer</p> <p>Name(s) _____ _____ _____ _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> |
|---|--|

Women's Retreat: Some people have asked, "What's a retreat?" "What goes on there?" Although there are several types of retreats, the Union Church women's retreats have involved sharing of readings, personal stories, thoughts and feelings, some prayer, a little quiet personal reflection time, happy hour (actually somewhat longer than an hour) and eating together. Here are comments from some of this year's participants:

**The retreat allowed participants time apart from day-to-day activities to be in a warm, encouraging community of women. Time for personal enrichment and reflection and communal sharing in a beautiful seaside setting."*

**I liked sharing meals together."*

**I thought it was a very positive experience for people to feel support when sharing feelings."*



"I enjoy retreats that build community. I think our sense of community was strengthened by the time and experiences we shared together at Marie Joseph's."

"I liked the ocean view and the forsythia. My sense of hope was renewed when I looked out the windows."

"The casual conversations I had with others meant a great deal to me."



**Spending the night at the retreat house brought back happy memories of college life."*

**"I like the ironed sheets at Marie Joseph's!"*

**"I made some new friends at the retreat. At the after church coffee hour, I have good intentions but don't seem to get to talk to everybody I want to get to know."*

**"When other people share the same concerns you have about the future, it takes away some of the fear you feel."*

** " It would be so nice if some of the younger women who come to our church would take part in these retreats."*

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

Saturday May 6th - Fire Barn, Biddeford Pool

5:30 – appetizers / 6:15 – dinner

Bring your Muchachos! Wear A Sombrero, por favor!

Chefs: Peter & Eve McPheeters

Guacamole, chips & salsa, Chicken Enchiladas

Choose: Medium, Mild or Vegetarian

Pinto Beans/Green Rice

and Chocolate Bread Pudding

BYO Beverage



\$ 15.00

RSVP - Cynthia @ 286-7776 ASAP

charchibald@me.com

Please specify number attending AND regular or mild or vegetarian

Holy Week 2017 at Union Church

We began our week reenacting Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with joyful music.



Maundy Thursday taught us lessons about serving as Jesus had done. Then we celebrated the Last Supper



And recalled, through the Tenebrae Service the depth of love Jesus has for us.

On Easter morning we gathered in the dark and wept with Mary Magdeleine at the tomb.



And watched the sun rise over the ocean. The Lord is Risen! He is risen indeed!



Now above the sky He's King
where the angels ever sing
Easter 2017
Because He lives - a new beginning



The Lord is Risen – Let us rejoice and be glad!



(Please check out our website- the picture gallery is updated regularly)