



A Newsletter of

The Foreside Community Church, UCC United Church of Christ

January 2022



(photo courtesy D. Coyman)

The Portland Trumpet Ensemble December presentation in The Foreside Community Church sanctuary. Pictured second on the left is FCC's choir director Trevor Lavenbein. See page 5 or more info .

*Connecting
to God*

*Nurturing
Community*

*Discovering
how our Lives
Make a
Difference*

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340 Foreside Road
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Notes from Pastor Geoff

Being the Church

Happy New Year, Dear Foreside Friends!

In the season of Epiphany, like shepherds and wise ones who glimpsed the new born savior, we strive to share the news of great joy we have found. It invites us to learn the practice of bearing witness in our world and in our lives to God's love and justice.

As I'm writing to you, we are observing what we hope is a brief suspension of worship for two Sundays, hoping we can help our own—and the wider—community slow the current spread of COVID-19, and hoping we can all safely enjoy time with our families. Yet, this is also an act of public witness: of care for the most vulnerable among us, and for the health care workers that will hopefully be receiving needed relief and support in the coming week from national partners.

A few months ago, in response to an act of vandalism against a nearby church with a sign proclaiming Black Lives Matter, a Governing Board conversation sprang up about how our congregation proclaims our belief in God's hope for justice, and how we carry that message to our community and neighbors. It was a good and faithful discussion that started thinking about a sign, but asked deeper questions: about how we discern as a congregation where we are called to raise our collective voice, and how we make sure that our actions and ministry align with that discernment and pronouncements. We noticed that this is a way of sharing our faith that we have varying levels of comfort with—both more and less—as a group.

In the month of Epiphany, then, you will notice that we will be using our sign down on Foreside Road a little differently. Each week, we'll be sharing—both with our neighbors and community, and within our own worship and reflections—a series of calls to “Be the Church” in the world which the United Church of Christ began sharing with congregations a number of years ago.

Be the Church

Embrace Diversity

Reject Racism

Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources

Care for the Poor

Protect the Environment

Enjoy this Life

Love God

Forgive Often (For Lent!)

This is, perhaps, a small spiritual practice; a chance to “try on” more ways in which we hope to share what God

is calling us to as a people, and get more comfortable sharing that call with others. The world, and yes, the church, are changing rapidly, so these calls to witness and action may change, deepen, or develop as well... but that is nothing new. At the founding of the United Church of Christ, the uniting churches proclaimed in the preamble to their new constitution:

[we affirm] the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.

So, as we explore the church we are called to join God's (re)-creation of, I hope that you'll join with us in this practice of listening for Christ's call to us: where we are called to stand with others in solidarity in the hope for justice... where to listen, where to act, and where to speak as one in this unique body of Christ gathered here on the Foreside.

Merry Christmas, and blessings to you in the New Year!




I am fully vaccinated and am available for times to visit, sit, or pray together as you would like. If you would like to schedule a meeting, [you can do so here](#), or by contacting me [by email](#).

Blessings of the Spirit to you.

*You Have An Invitation to Join Pastor Chuck Erb
in an Online Zoom Prayer Meeting*
Sunday, January 2 @ 9:30 a.m.

[via Zoom at this link](#) and the bulletin can be opened [at this link](#)

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD MODERATOR

As we prepare to greet the new year, we're again facing unsettling news about the pandemic. Covid cases continue to rise with the Omicron variant, and health experts anticipate the surge will continue well into January. This is not how we were hoping to begin 2022; we're all experiencing some degree of Covid fatigue, but our church community must make responsible choices about gathering for worship.

Rev. Geoff and the Governing Board have assessed the current risks and have agreed that the most prudent course of action is to suspend in-person worship services for the month of January and offer an on-line option as we have previously. We will continue to monitor conditions and make adjustments as guidelines indicate.

Best wishes to all for a safe and healthy new year!

Deborah

NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING

You are hereby notified that an Informational Meeting of The Foreside Community Church will be held **via this Zoom link** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85785724857?pwd=UIVOM3ordGVwVW4zZEVJZEFSRHlCdz09>

Meeting ID: 857 8572 4857 - Passcode: 1789 on **January 23, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.** for the following purposes:

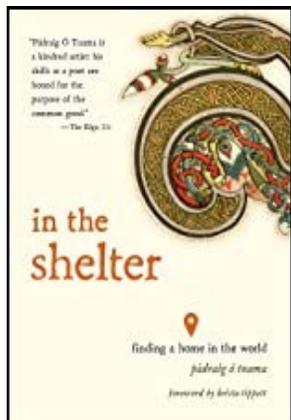
- ◆ Review of the 2021 Annual Financial Report
 - ◆ Review of proposed budget for 2022
 - ◆ Pastoral update
 - ◆ Closing remarks

The annual meeting votes to approve the 2021 Financial Report and the 2022 budget will be held via either an online ballot or via mailed paper ballots (the latter reserved for those not receiving electronic communication). This information, as well as the documents to be reviewed will be provided in subsequent communications.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Penrose, Clerk

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday Morning Study Group Update



When we resume on Tuesday, January 4 via Zoom. We are going to read Padraig O'Tuama's book In the Shelter: Finding a Home in the World. According to Amazon it is an "unforgettable memoir of peace and reconciliation, Celtic spirituality, belonging, and sexual identity. "It is in the shelter of each other that the people live" Drawing on this Irish saying O'Tuama relates ideas of shelter and welcome to our journeys of life, using poetry, story, biblical reflection, and prose to open up gentle ways of living well in a troubled world." I hope you all enjoy your holidays if our paths do not cross before January 4th, when our gathering resumes.

Liz

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82642682827?pwd=OGxsSnhdZVZrd0pVQnl5Y3NSVzd5UT09>

Meeting ID: 826 4268 2827

Passcode: 095518

The Foreside Book Club...

...ended up the calendar year with a small group but a big discussion of The Vanishing Half. The books become so much more meaningful after discussions like that. Thank you all for participating. We have decided to move to Zoom in January so hopefully more of you will be able to join us safely and conveniently. We will still be meeting **on the third Wednesday of the month but the time may change to either 3:00, 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. Stay tuned.** Our choice for **January 19** is Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. The story centers on Eleanor Oliphant, a social misfit with a traumatic past who becomes enamored with a singer, whom she believes she is destined to be with. The novel deals with themes of isolation and loneliness, and depicts Eleanor's transformational journey towards a fuller understanding of self and life. For those of you who like to plan ahead, we have chosen the next 3 books:

February 16 - East of Eden by John Steinbeck

March 16 - Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart

April 20 - Case Histories by Kate Atkinson

Hopefully you will find some that appeal to you. We tried to pick several different genres, so start reading now and mark your calendars. As always anyone is welcome and encouraged to attend any discussion. I will let you know the chosen time and send out a Zoom link ahead of time. Hope you all have a happy and healthy new year. Mimi FMI: mimihinkel@gmail.com

Christmas Angels ~ Thank you for the generosity of so many in our congregation for participating in Justice & Outreach's 2021 Christmas Angel project. Because of your kindness **sixty-five children in need of warm winter clothes are now ready for winter.** In addition to the warm clothes provided by so many in our congregation, **extra donated handmade knit hats and scarves were added to the gifts for parents and grown siblings.** Delivering the gifts was an adventure for all of the volunteer elves! Some of the parents wanted to hide the gifts until Christmas but many others felt it was important for their children to immediately use their new clothes. It was fun watching the 5-year-old girl hug her colorful new shoes. And there was the 11 year old girl who would not take off her new jacket and kept repeating, "I have a coat, I have a coat." May everyone in the congregation think of the joy you have brought to these children.

FCC Responds to Family in Crisis ~ Emergency need calls are often received at the church office or to Dorothy and we work as a team to respond quickly. Just before Thanksgiving, Opportunity Alliance contacted us about a family of five that was in desperate need of everything- winter clothes, bedding, food, furniture, kitchen equipment and more. They were evicted from their apartment because their landlord decided that he wanted to move in. Lacking the funds to pay for storage, they had to abandon everything that did not fit into their car. FCC office sent out a notice of the need and our congregation immediately responded! Thanks to the compassion of many in our community this family received all of the most crucially needed supplies within the week including winter clothes, towels, blankets and more. Additional help was offered, and the family now has many of the basic furniture items they need. It is truly a blessing to know that FCC is always ready to reach out to those in need and that our church family will share so generously.

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

(Still...) Calling all strong Men, Women and Youth.....

WE NEED YOU!!!

(L. Ventre)

Want to give back to our church community but don't have a lot of free time? Have so many meetings now that you just can't face another? Have some muscles that need to be put to good use and not just at the gym? Want to be appreciated by many in our community? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, then join Dr. "J" Goodrich, Pastor Chuck Erb, Pete Ventre, and Christina, the first volunteers to join the **FCC Muscle Brigade**.

Fellowship is hoping to expand this list of members and friends who live close to the church who would be willing to be on a call list for our committee as well as any other committee, ministry, or group in the church who need help in setup for events. Christina will keep the list, so it is available to all. Many times, it is a very quick thing but impossible for those of us who are organizing the events due to our physical condition or age. If you volunteer, as a need for strength arises another church member will call you to ask for help. They should be able to give you a time to show up and about how long it will take to set up. You just have to show up and carry and/or move things. Normally there are plenty of people around after an event to help pick up so I suspect this will be mostly set up.

If you are willing to help us, please email Christina with your name, email address and phone number (csklarz@foresidechurch.org). Give any times that just will not work for you so we don't waste your time or ours with a call.



The Portland Trumpet Ensemble (as pictured on the cover of this month's newsletter) was founded in 2016 and features some of the best trumpeters in Maine. Members are graduates of music schools across the country. In addition to frequent solo performances, they have performed with the Portland, Bangor, and Midcoast Symphony Orchestras, the Reading and Harrisburg (PA) Symphony Orchestras, the Philadelphia Brass Quintet, the Mainstreet Brass Quintet, the Casco Bay Wind Ensemble, the 207 Wind Ensemble, and many other musical organizations throughout Maine and the Northeast. The Portland Trumpet Ensemble includes players from all walks of life – doctors, lawyers, educators, and students who come together with a few goals in mind: to play great trumpet ensemble music, to have fun while doing it, and to entertain their audiences. FCC wishes to once again thank its choir director and ensemble member Trevor Lavenbein for bringing this amazingly talented group to play during their 2021 holiday concert series. For more information, and to view upcoming concerts check out PTE's Facebook page.

Travelogue Presentations Continue

“Join Pete Ventre on **January 13th at 7 p.m.** via Zoom (link to follow) for a rafting adventure above the Arctic Circle in the least visited national park, Gates of the Arctic National Park. The park and preserve are an American national treasure that protects portions of the Brooks Range in northern Alaska. The park is the northernmost national park in the United States, situated entirely north of the Arctic Circle. With no roads, no trails, and no established campsites, the park has no set routes in place and visitors may wander at will across 8.4 million acres of superlative natural beauty. There are no established services within the park boundaries and only limited means of communication work effectively to contact anyone for assistance. Cell phones don't work here. If you like wilderness, this is the trip for you. Please do not miss the telling of this amazing adventure.”

[The Men's Breakfast](#)

Meets every other Saturday.

**The next virtual gatherings
are scheduled for
January 8 and 22
@ 8:30 a.m.**

Join the gents here ([Zoom](#))

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

2021 Christmas Fair Closure

The final tally continues as payments are still received, and the decorations are once again put into storage. Under Carol Ward’s creative and energetic facilitation, another successful, two-event fair has concluded. Thank you seems so inadequate, but is extended to the team of volunteers who brought their time and talents, as well all the donors and material contributors.



One of the many generous contributions to the Christmas Fair silent auction was a hand crafted fox lovingly provided by Phyllis Hewitt. Above, the foxes enjoy a pre fair tea before saying good-bye to one of their pack.

~ important notes from the office ~

The year end is approaching, and what a great time to thank everyone for their faithful, financial support of our church. If you have not yet completed, or, wish to enhance your annual tithe, the office will need to receive your contribution as soon as possible but no later than January 3, 2022. **Checks that are to be applied to the 2021 calendar year should be dated no later than December 31, 2021. If you choose to use your credit card as a payment method, you will need to go online and do so no later than Friday, December 31.** Please do not hesitate to call Christina at 781-5880 if assistance or clarification is required.

Starting in January, the office will be revising its hours of open operation. Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday will observe the regular hours of 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. **On Wednesday and Friday, the office will be open and available 9:00 a.m. up until noon, at which time it will be closed to traffic. If in doubt, please call 781-5880 for assistance**

**February Steeplenotes
Deadline Is Wednesday,
January 19, 2022**

**January
BIRTHDAY GREETINGS!**

The Capricorn is extremely driven, enthusiastic about life, and capable of setting lofty but attainable objectives.

< Pastor Geoff Parker - 5
< Susan Gilpin - 9
< Beth Penrose - 10
< Sandy Panenka - 13
< Bill Maynard - 16

Aiden Lacombe - 20 >
Janet Clough - 28 >

The Aquarius is extremely intelligent, and loves having long, thoughtful conversations with others about the big picture, philosophy, true feelings, and the meaning of life.

January 2022

Be sure to check the calendar at [Foreside Community Church's website](http://ForesideCommunityChurch.org)
www.foresidechurch.org for any updates or changes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:30 a.m. Online Zoom Prayer Meeting w/ Pastor Chuck Erb (see pg. 3 for details)	3 3:00 p.m. Dick Terhune Memorial, streaming via YouTube @ www.foresidechurch.org	4 9 a.m. Tues Morn Study Group (see pg. 4 for details) 1 p.m. Knitting Group-lrg clsrn 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal TBD 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:30 p.m. Bell Rehearsal TBD	5 Office closed @ 12 noon.	6	7 Office closed @ 12 noon.	8 Men's Breakfast (see pg. 5 for details)
9 Worship format to be determined.	10 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Mnthly Mtg. via Zoom	11 9 a.m. Tues Morn Study Group (see pg. 4 for details) 1 p.m. Knitting Group-lrg clsrn 5:00 p.m. Baysite Condo-lrg clsrn 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal TBD 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:30 p.m. Bell Rehearsal TBD	12 Office closed @ 12 noon.	13	14 Office closed @ 12 noon.	15
16 Worship format to be determined.	17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Office Closed	18 9 a.m. Tues Morn Study Group (see pg. 4 for details) 1 p.m. Knitting Group-lrg clsrn 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal TBD 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:30 p.m. Bell Rehearsal TBD	19 February Steeplenotes deadline Foreside Book Club (see pg. 4 for details) Office closed @ 12 noon.	20	21 Office closed @ 12 noon.	22 Men's Breakfast (see pg. 5 for details)
23 Worship format to be determined. 11 a.m. Informational Meeting via Zoom (see pg. 3 for details)	24	25 9 a.m. Tues Morn Study Group (see pg. 4 for details) 1 p.m. Knitting Group-lrg clsrn 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal TBD 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group	26 Office closed @ 12 noon.	27	28	29
30 Worship format to be determined. Ballots due in office.	31					

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Daily Lectionary Readings for January 2022

Sat., Jan. 1

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Sun., Jan. 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or
Sirach 24:1-12
Psalm 147:12-20 or
Wisdom 10:15-21
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Mon., Jan. 3

Psalm 72
Job 42:10-17
Luke 8:16-21

Tues., Jan. 4

Psalm 72
Isaiah 6:1-5
Acts 7:44-53

Wed., Jan. 5

Psalm 72
Jeremiah 31:7-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Thurs., Jan. 6

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Fri., Jan. 7

Psalm 29
Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Sat., Jan. 8

Psalm 29
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
1 Corinthians 2:11-16

Sun., Jan. 9

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Mon., Jan. 10

Psalm 106:1-12
Judges 4:1-16
Ephesians 6:10-17

Tues., Jan. 11

Psalm 106:1-12
Judges 5:12-21
1 John 5:13-21

Wed., Jan. 12

Psalm 106:1-12
Numbers 27:1-11
Luke 11:33-36

Thurs. Jan. 13

Psalm 36:5-10
Jeremiah 3:1-5
Acts 8:18-24

Fri., Jan. 14

Psalm 36:5-10
Jeremiah 3:19-25
1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Sat., Jan. 15

Psalm 36:5-10
Jeremiah 4:1-4
Luke 11:14-23

Sun., Jan. 16

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Mon., Jan. 17

Psalm 145
Isaiah 54:1-8
Romans 12:9-21

Tues., Jan. 18

Psalm 145
Song of Solomon 4:1-8
1 Corinthians 1:3-17

Wed., Jan. 19

Psalm 145
Song of Solomon 4:9—5:1
Luke 5:33-39

Thurs., Jan. 20

Psalm 19
Isaiah 61:1-7
Romans 7:1-6

Fri., Jan. 21

Psalm 19
Nehemiah 2:1-10
Romans 12:1-8

Sat., Jan. 22

Psalm 19
Nehemiah 5:1-13
Luke 2:39-52

Sun., Jan. 23

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Mon., Jan. 24

Psalm 119:89-96
Jeremiah 36:1-10
1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Tues., Jan. 25

Psalm 119:89-96
Jeremiah 36:11-26
2 Corinthians 7:2-12

Wed., Jan. 26

Psalm 119:89-96
Jeremiah 36:27-32
Luke 4:38-44

Thurs., Jan. 27

Psalm 71:1-6
2 Chronicles 34:1-7
Acts 10:44-48

Fri., Jan. 28

Psalm 71:1-6
2 Chronicles 35:20-27
Acts 19:1-10

Sat., Jan. 29

Psalm 71:1-6
2 Chronicles 36:11-21
John 1:43-51

Sun., Jan. 30

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Mon., Jan. 31

Psalm 56
1 Kings 17:8-16
1 Corinthians 2:6-16



STEEPLENOTES

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