
STEEPLE CHIMES

Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church

April/May 2024



Calendar of Events

C.E. Board Meeting

Sunday, April 28th at 10:45 a.m.

May - TBD

Church Council Mtg.

Sunday, April 21st at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 19th at 10:30 a.m.

Community Dinner

Monday, May 13th at 5:00 p.m.

Diaconate Meeting

Wednesday, April 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Handbell Rehearsals

Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.

Mission Meeting

Tuesday, April 9th at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 14th at 11:00 a.m.

Pastor's Chat

Wednesday, April 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

via Zoom

Project Linus

Saturday, April 6th 8:00 -2:00 p.m.

Quilting Group

Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

Staff Meeting

Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, April 10th at 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8th at 4:45 p.m.

Sunday Mornings at Church

8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

June 15th

FOR SUMMER ISSUE



“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV

This passage from Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus speaks to the nature of salvation, divine grace, and the wonder present in all creation. I love the translation here- from the New International Version- where Paul refers to humanity as “God's handiwork” because it's such a lovely image! God has shaped each of us exactly how we are meant to be, and that is so good and reassuring for all of us. The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible translates the same passage as “...for we are what he has made us...” which speaks to the same idea, though perhaps with a slightly more formal tone. Each one of us is formed by God with unique gifts, attributes, quirks, and ways of being; and it's all good because it all comes from God.

This passage was one of the scriptures offered in the service where we welcomed our six confirmands into church membership on March 3rd and I think it speaks well to the unique spirit of each of them. Each confirmand brought their own gifts to our classes, raised their own questions, explored their own theology, and shared their own spirit with each other; now, all of those gifts are parts of our church community, shared with all the other unique gifts each person offers for the betterment of the whole. All of these

gifts, woven together, create a beautiful tapestry of God's handiwork which tells the story of our community of faith, our church.

As I have begun to settle into (nearly) full-time pastor's hours, I've had the chance to connect with more and more of you in different ways, and I have found that same spirit of God's unique handiwork reflected in those connections. Some of you prefer to call me on the phone, some feel more comfortable with an email interaction, others love to text or send a Facebook message, and these are all great ways for us to be in touch! I delight in a note left on my desk or slid under the door too, but my favorite way to connect with you all is face to face, and my intent is to make more regular time for that in my schedule. No matter how you do it, though, I hope that we connect soon, and often!

On March 10th, we had our first Pastor Chat after the service, and we enjoyed a variety of conversation in a small group (about 8 people). I feel that discussion in small groups is a vital part of our church conversation, so we will offer more opportunities to chat going forward. Look for information on our next Pastor Chat to be held on Zoom on Wednesday, April 3rd! Going forward, I will also have open office hours 10-11am on Tuesday and Thursday morning. No appointment is necessary, just drop by for a quick chat at any point in that hour! If you need more time to talk or need to speak confidentially, just let me know and we can make an appointment to meet any time it's convenient.

As far as the pastoral transition goes, Pastor Steve and I are deep in it! Worship services have been coordinated between the two of us into August, and we will continue to remain in close contact throughout this transition which ends with my graduation

from seminary in May 2025. So far, all is working well in this transition process, and good communication between both pastors and the church will ensure that things continue to operate smoothly. Though this arrangement is a bit unconventional, it seems like it also serves the pastors and the community in a healthy and supportive way that encourages growth.

Communication and discussion are key to this transition being successful, and as congregational people this is the typical way in which we operate. We worship as a congregation, meet as a congregation... we break bread together, sing together, laugh together... we share each other's joy and pain that comes as a part of life. Let's keep on talking to and with each other as well, with the prayer that we may deepen our understanding as a community of followers of Christ; that we continue to be people of both faith and mission, serving our community and our world as Jesus has called us. May we always remember that we are God's handiwork, fearfully and wonderfully made, and that there is always grace in abundance.

With grace and peace,

Pastor Rachel



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to assist with Sunday morning's live broadcasting of worship. Training will be provided. If you have any questions, please see George Barton or one of the Deacons.

Anyone interested can sign -up on the sheet located in the connector.



Pastor Rachel's next Pastor's Chat will be over Zoom on Wednesday,

April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. The Zoom link for the meeting will be emailed to everyone on the morning of the chat. We hope you will join in!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Attention Church Family High School Seniors AND Current College Students



If you are in need of financial assistance in pursuing your dreams of higher education, please call the church office (564-2872) OR e-mail dfcong@dfcongo.org by April 7th to request a scholarship application (please include your current address).



The Women's Service Group is having a luncheon meeting at Donna Hathaway's new home at 9 Mechanic Street on Wednesday, April 3rd at 12:30p.m. All women of the church are invited to attend. The group will be planning their calendar of events for 2024.

PASTOR'S P O S T S

Pastor Steve

By the time you read this I will have completed and fulfilled (hopefully) my call to the DFCC as your Designated Term Pastor. It was up on March 31, Easter Sunday. Now Jill and I are living full-time in our retirement home in Winthrop. While my contract has expired, I am still going to be with you off and on for a while. However, my role has changed and I now serve in support of Rachel as she transitions into being your full-time licensed pastor and becoming your ordained minister. This is an exciting path for all of you and for Rachel.

So, again, I want to repeat the details of how we see all this playing out.

As of April 1, I am on a two month sabbatical and Rachel will solo as pastor until June. Early June, Rachel and I will overlap for a week before she heads off to Halifax for her last summer session at AST. I'll take over pastoral responsibilities through Sunday August 4.

August 5, Rachel returns and will be settling into the parsonage. She will be full time at that point, serving as your licensed minister until she is ordained and installed at DFCC. The hope is for that to happen in summer of 2025, but a final date depends on completion of the MID process (pathway to ordination) with the Katahdin Association and its Committee on Ministry.

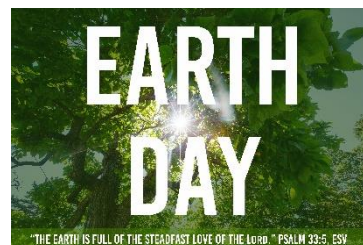
Until then, I remain available to you on an as-needed basis. Once Rachel's schedule and seminary demands become clear for

late 2024 and into 2025, we'll pencil in the other times when I will fill in.

So, this is a transition time, not an abrupt ending/beginning. Nevertheless, things will be different. Rachel Dobbs is THE Pastor of the DFCC and will be your pastor for the foreseeable future. It's a good story, how that all unfolded. I congratulate all of you for the choices you have made and for the optimism and enthusiasm that are leading you onward. The Spirit is good here. You have vision that is open and bold enough to "take roads less travelled." You have determination to do the good works of faith with grace for our times, in service to our neighbors and future generations. I know all that language sounds a little extravagant and rhetorical, but I can give examples. I'll take that into account down the road that remains for us and fill in with some details.

For now, may it suffice to say that I am fortunate to have been called by you in 2017 to serve as your interim minister and then your designated term pastor. It has been a time filled with seriously relevant ministry by a church community that looks at the way things are and asks what can we be and do better for the good of others around us and those who will come after us. A promising beginning, in my opinion, for a church entering its 3rd century. Glad I've been here to see it!

See you again in June,
Pastor Steve



April 22nd



Luke 18:15-17

The Message

People brought babies to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. When the disciples saw it, they shooed them off. Jesus called them back. "Let these **children** alone.

Don't get between them and me. These **children** are the kingdom's pride and joy. Mark this: Unless you accept God's kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you'll never get in."

The youth that have been attending Sunday School are so much fun! Funny, kind, creative, compassionate! From January until Lent began, we learned the Books of the Bible. We played games, worked together, and became more familiar with the stories in the Bible.

In February, we once again participated in Souper Bowl of Caring, where we collected \$300 and many many pounds of non perishable food for the Piscataquis Regional Food Center. We also had our second Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It was well attended, so many pancakes, and sausage and fresh fruit! Pastor Steve has even volunteered to come back next February and flip pancakes again!

The Confirmation Class was confirmed into membership on March 2. More on that from Deb Dagnan.

Foot surgery prohibited me from leading Sunday School for a couple of weeks. I am very grateful to Linda Pratt and Barb Austin for stepping in and spending time with our youth!

For the remainder of our Sunday School time, we will be looking at the history of Church music – from Gregorian chants, to taize to current praise songs. We may even share our knowledge and musical abilities with the congregation!

Looking to summer – Vacation Bible School! Wednesday, June 26 from 9am – 4pm, ages 5-12. The theme is One in a Minion – Incredible Me!! Well, not "me", but the kiddos who attend will learn how incredible they are, because they are a creation of God!! Crafts, snacks, games, activities, lunch, music!!! It will be fun! Here's a little hint – one activity involves shaving cream and Cheetos!!! Contact me at judy.adow@gmail.com, or see me in church.

As always, thank you all for your continued support and encouragement! And thank you for all the get well wishes and meals provided to Deb and I during my time of immobility!

Grace and peace,
Judy Dow
CE Director



KIDS' QUARTER STORE

Items for the Kids Quarter Store will not be accepted until September.

Please do not bring any donations for the Kids Quarter Store until this Fall. That will give us ample time to collect items, organize and get ready for December.



04/02 Jan Barton
04/06 Jan McLaughlin
04/07 Jill Hastings
04/09 Phyllis Moore
04/10 Hillary Caruso
04/16 David Dean
04/29 Natalie Cannon

04/30 Jim England
04/30 Leslie Lizotte
05/01 Kay Peterson
05/03 Sue Stevens
05/07 Paul Raymond
05/10 Vicki Kusnierz

05/13 Don McLaughlin
05/16 Judy Dow
05/16 Chris Paydos
05/27 Linda Howard
05/27 Linda Lumbr
05/28 Colleen Grover



05/19 David & Elizabeth
Perkins

05/31 Tom & Leslie Lizotte

STEEPLE CHIMES

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by the

**DOVER-FOXCROFT
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

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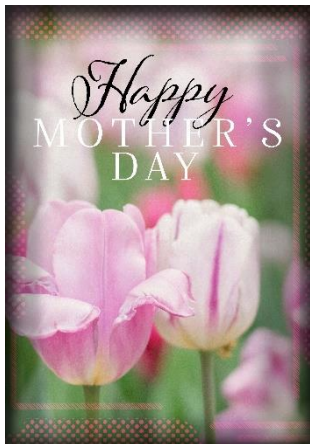
Deadline for copy: The 15th of the month prior to publication.
We welcome church news items, family news, and special
events from our church family. Articles received after
deadline date will be included in next issue.



THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY

APRIL/MAY Readings

- 4/07 Marks of Faith
John 20:19-31
- 4/14 Christ Among Us
Luke 24:36b-48
- 4/21 Enfolded by Love
John 10:11-18
- 4/28 Abiding in Love
John 15:1-8
- 5/05 Friends Together
John 15:9-17
- 5/12 Guided in Prayer
John 17:6-19
- 5/19 Spirit for All
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
- 5/26 Mysterious Encounter
John 3:1-17



CONFIRMATION

I'd like to thank everyone involved with our recent confirmation class, "Confirm not Conform". I was honored to lead the class along with Jan Barton, and I couldn't have done it without the preparation and continued guidance of Rachel. Thank you both VERY much!

Also, huge thanks to the confirmation mentors who gave of their time at meetings, the "lock-in", and provided refreshments whenever asked. Most importantly, I appreciate you sharing your faith journeys with your confirmands. They will never forget you!

Lastly, to the confirmands, it was truly my pleasure to get to know you all as young adults, and I look forward to seeing all the ways you will contribute to our community and beyond! Parents and grandparents, you are raising kind, caring kiddos, just what our world needs right now.

With much gratitude,
Deb Dagnan



Congratulations to our confirmands and their families: Jordan Brown, Jonah Brown, Emilynn Brown, Keaten Eakright, Ethen Eakright, and Zoey Eakright.



MISSION OFFERING

February Offering	\$478.00
Bangor Homeless Shelter	500.00*
Heating Assistance	30.00
DF Area Food Cupboard	40.00
Deacons Fund	12.00
Community Dinner Fund	6.00
*\$52.00 from Mission Committee + \$200 donation	

March Offering	\$472.00
OGHS	260.00
Heating Assistance Fund	88.00
DF Area Food Cupboard	70.40
Deacons Fund	35.20
Community Dinner Fund	18.40

FEATURED MONTHLY MISSIONS

April Featured Mission –

Our April featured offering will go to **Pilgrim Lodge for Maintenance**. April's designated mission will focus on raising money for Pilgrim Lodge Spring Clean-up.

May Featured Mission – The May featured offering will go to **Strengthen the Church** – This United Church of Christ offering is used to help existing and newly planted churches envision and carry out new and life changing programs, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Half of our offering supports ministry in our local conference while the second half goes towards supporting the strengthening of the church nationally.

FOOD CUPBOARD

We are collecting non-perishable staple food items. All donations will be enthusiastically received.

The month of April we will be collecting Jelly. During the month of May we will be collecting Ketchup.



FOOD DRIVE



Feb 11th, Sunday School youth collected non-perishable and monetary donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Many pounds of food and \$330

was collected and donated to the Piscataquis Regional Area Food Center.



Donations from the Lenten quarter cards and Lenten Offering envelopes will be used for our Pilgrim Lodge Scholarships. The Easter Seasonal Offering will also fund the Pilgrim Lodge Scholarship Fund.

Anyone who would like to attend a camp but the camp fee is not affordable should apply for a Pilgrim Lodge Scholarship by submitting a request to the Deacons.

JOYS & CONCERNS

We rejoice with:

The Sunday School Youth who collected food and \$330.00 for the Souper Bowl. The funds were donated to the Piscataquis Regional Area Food Center. Great job!

Keep in your prayers:

The family and Friends of Martha Rollins. Martha passed away on February 25 at the age of 104.

The family and friends of Bernice LaPorte. Bernice passed away on March 7th after a brief illness.

In The
Mailbag



Dear Pastor Steve, Pastor Rachel, the Deacons and Church Family,

Thank you so much for the bible and wooden cross. Thank you all for your guidance and love throughout the years. We are so happy and blessed to now be members of this awesome church! We look forward to serving our church and community!

Love Zoey, Ethen & Keaten Eakright

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for the lovely Get Well cards and wishes.

I should be fully recovered by May.

God Bless All,
Ann Stevens

Dear members of the Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$200 to Partners for Peace on January 24th. We rely on caring community members like you to help support survivors of domestic violence and the crucial services that help keep them safe.

Thank you for your generosity.

Kind regards!
Emma Smith

Dear Congregational Church Family,

The generous donations from the audience at the March 17th concert amounted to \$472.00 As we have done before, I offer half of the income as a donation to the Congregational Church. The check for this amount is enclosed. This check arrives with my sincere thank-you to your hospitality, patience, and in the end, attending the concert and doing all of the work in setting up and putting away the sanctuary items. This seems more than you should have had to do. I could have lent a willing hand...once you were all done.

The sanctuary looked very beautiful, with the excellent piano and the harp. May it bring you many more years of prayerful enjoyment.

Sincerely,
Margery Aumann



There are Emergency Contact forms in the connector. Please consider completing a form and return it to the church office. In case of a medical event while in the church building, it will be helpful to be able to notify your designated person.



RUMMAGE SALE –

We will be having a Rummage Sale on Saturday, June 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the chapel.

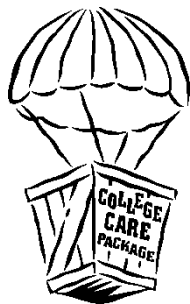
As you do your, please spring cleaning remember to put a box or two together for the Rummage Sale. Beginning in March, you may bring items in, marked “Rummage Sale”.

You can drop off your treasure anytime the church is open. We will be collecting gently used items other than clothing, TVs, computers and encyclopedias. Please contact Judy Dow at 749-0862 or Julie Knowlton at 564-3310 if you have any questions.

CPALS

We will be collecting treasures for our College–Pal Care Packages until April 14th.

Some suggestion ideas of what you can be donated are: Gum, Hard Candy, Popcorn, Granola Bars, Crackers w/ cheese, Crackers w/ PB, Nuts. Any snack foods.



A collection box is located in the connector.



IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT PILGRIM LODGE CAMPS. REGISTRATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT <http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/> BROCHURES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

There are camps for everyone, every age! Here's a sample to pique your interest:

For the older teen (18+) : **Adult Lighten Up Loosen Up** - July 31st – August 4th.

Enjoy the beautiful outdoors, hike the trails, walk the Labyrinth, watch the beautiful sunsets and listen to the Loons. “Unplug”, swim/boat, play games, read, knit while rocking in the porch chairs, share your talents and most of all Have Fun!

For Women: **Women's Spring Weekend** – May 31-June 2. A weekend of laughing, learning & worshipping together with women. **Women's Fall Weekend** – September 12th -15th . Relax, recharge your soul, and reaffirm your faith with other women from across the state.

For Grandparents: Grandparents & Grandchildren July 28th -July 30th
Grandparents & Grandchildren 2 –July 29th -July 31st.

Pride Across the Ages: All ages. August 9th-11th. All ages.

Magical Mythical Adventures: Grades 4-9 - July 23rd -29th.

This is just a sampling. There are over 20 camp offerings starting late April until mid October.

If camp cost is an issue, contact one of our deacons or the Church Office. Scholarships are available.

Church bulletin board

The following appeared in church bulletins
or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Compiled by Max Bowen



PALM SUNDAY 3/24/2024 ~
CHURCH CANCELED DUE TO THE
SNOWSTORM

Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church
P.O. Box 328
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

