



THE CHIMES

THE NEWS LETTER OF THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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May 2010

From the Pastor

This month's article will consist of the rest of the list of "16 Reasons I Love Jesus," a pamphlet put out by the United Church of Christ. Last month I listed the first eight reasons and now, on to the rest of them. . .

9. Because Jesus is willing to leave the safety of 99 and seek the salvation of 1. This reason is actually how I came to become a committed follower of Jesus Christ. One day, when life wasn't going very well and I didn't know which way to turn, I stopped in front of the UCC church that was on the street behind my apartment. The door was open, so I peeked in. I was somewhat familiar with churches, having attended one as a young person, so I knew what I would see. One thing caught my attention. It was a painting of Jesus, surrounded by sheep, with one sheep on his shoulders. He was carrying that one sheep while the others circled him and his passenger. When I got home I thought about that picture and I came to the conclusion that the sheep being carried on Jesus' shoulders was me. God spoke to me that day and re-invited me into His Church, promising me that Jesus not

only sought me out, but would carry me when life got too hard. What a difference that painting made in my life! Could that make a difference to you?

10. Because His crucifixion and resurrection show me that death does not get the last word. We are reminded in this season of Easter and beyond that Jesus' resurrection and post resurrection appearances to the disciples and others are the most wonderful promise of God – death is not the final answer, nor is it all we have to look forward to. God has a wonderful plan for us that includes life with Him that goes on forever. Hard to believe? You bet it is. But that's just how wonderful God is.

11. Because once when I had given up hope, I felt His hands on my shoulders. Have you ever felt this wonderful presence of the living God? There is nothing more deeply meaningful than to know that you are not facing the challenges and disappointments of life alone – even if you have no one with whom to share your life. Sometimes the only thing that saves us from giving up is a small glimmer of an indescribable feeling that, in some miraculous way, God is aware of you and stands by, ready to hold you up when the going

gets tough. This presence of God is also a wonderful blessing when we are in the midst of a happy occasion or time in our lives. God's presence makes the joy even deeper and the meaning more profound.

12. Because Jesus welcomed the little children, and not all of them would have been well-behaved. Our Lord knew how important it was to welcome people of all ages into His holy presence. He made a special effort to include children in his teachings and He offered special blessings to the smallest among the crowds that gathered to see and hear Him. When I first came to this church there were only a few kids. Now it is a joy to see them making their way up to the front of the church for Children's Time each Sunday. A lively church is populated by children. Look around some Sunday – there is much we can learn from our kids. Spend some time with them – they are wonderful!

13. Because Jesus regards my body and the bodies of others as temples of the living God. There is much emphasis these days on physical fitness. There is even more emphasis on physical beauty. Jesus has taught us that our bodies are the vehicles through which we do His work on earth. Bodies come in all shapes and sizes, colors and appearances. Jesus' message reminds us that our bodies are holy and should be treated as such. This is not because we want to be admired for our physiques or our good looks, but because our bodies and our lives are gifts from a loving God. Take good care of yours!

14. Because His ideas about who and what matter never stop challenging my own. One thing that is surely true about being a follower of Jesus is that we are not allowed to become complacent or to think that we have

stopped learning. Every day there are new lessons to be learned, new people with whom to get acquainted, and old assumptions to be re-thought. The bottom line is: everyone matters. Being a Christian makes one unable to forget that and reminds us to act accordingly.

15. Because the prayer He taught me is written on my heart. One thing I learned quite early after I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior was that it doesn't matter how well I can memorize prayers or Scripture. What is pleasing in God's heart is our understanding on a deep level the meaning of prayers and Scripture. The mark of a committed Christian is the living of the prayers and Scripture, not the recitation of them. The recognition of God's love for us needs to be a part of our very being, not simply words we say.

16. Because he saves my sorry a, or, if you prefer, my sorry butt.** Are you aware of God's salvation in your life? Having claimed Jesus as your Savior, are you the same person you were before? Many of us know through experience the difference God's love can make in a life. When asked whether we are saved, if our answer can be, "Yes," we have seen the difference between life lived without Christ at its center and life lived as a beloved child of God. I never want to go back to the old way.

I hope you got something out of these sixteen reasons why I (or you) love Jesus. If you have never thought about these things, perhaps you have started now. The *Still Speaking* movement within the United Church of Christ reminds us that no matter where we are on life's journey, we are all welcome. Truer words were never spoken. Jesus made sure of it. There's another reason why we can love Him.

Sandra M. Reed

Thank You Mike and Alexa

Mike and Alexa as Bar Harbor Rotary Club member and daughter participated in a trip to Ecuador in part to monitor four Rotary Club funded projects.

Mike, notes: "It is exciting to see first hand the projects that our district has funded over the years. Although we hear about them as Rotarians, there is no replacement for physically inspecting the projects and seeing the concrete, the wells, the piping, the farming – all of the tangible elements of these projects – and meeting the people who stand to benefit from our donations."

We thank you Mike and Alexa for caring for others, and to Rotary Club members everywhere as well.

Source: *Bar Harbor Islander*

Thoughts for Memorial Day

The anthropologist and naturalist, Loren Eiseley, who died in 1977, wanted this epitaph for his wife and himself: "We loved the earth, but could not stay."

No one can stay, of course. We all are moving inexorably toward that final day when "the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done" (Book of Common Prayer).

This Memorial Day we particularly remember the men and women who have perished in war, giving the

ultimate sacrifice to make the world a better place. They too "loved the earth, but could not stay." May God hasten the day when we can solve our disputes peacefully.

We also remember all our loved ones whose stay on Earth is over. Christians believe that death does not end all. We trust that the God who made us will provide for us when our bodies can no longer sustain us.

A memorial stone on the campus of the College of Wooster in Ohio, placed there by a class many years ago, reads:

United in time
Divided in time
To be reunited
When time shall be no more.

That is a hope we can have for ourselves, our loved ones and those who sacrificed all.

What's Happening in the Maine Conference, UCC!

The Maine Conference United Church of Christ Annual Meeting is approaching quickly. We will gather in Farmington on June 10-13 to work and worship, greet friends and have fun, learn new ideas and share ones that work. Please join us. Registration information is available on the website at www.maineucc.org. Additional information – reports, budget, resolutions, etc. - will be posted to the website on May 1.

We will be using several different buildings around the campus for different functions – meals, Plenary sessions, workshops, dorms. For many of us the chance to walk between buildings is a great opportunity for exercise, but for others for whom it presents an obstacle, a shuttle van will be provided. If you will require the shuttle to get around campus, please be sure to note that fact under special needs on your Registration form.

The Iona Community's John Bell is Coming to Maine Pentecost Weekend

Registration has been brisk for the event, but there are still spots available. If you are planning to come, you are encouraged to register sooner rather than later! That way we can serve you better!

Please help spread the word by sharing this information with your congregations and colleagues! Clergy, music directors, choirs, deacons, worship leaders, and anyone who loves to sing would benefit from and enjoy the weekend!

Saturday May 22nd – Workshop *"Encouraging and Improving Congregational Singing"* 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. with reception following North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, Maine Cost: \$10.00 per Person

Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd - Worship Service 10:00 A.M. worship with John Bell as worship leader and preacher Raymond Village Community Church, 27 Main Street, Raymond, Maine A freewill offering will be taken to support the work of the Iona Community

Sunday, May 23rd – "Big Sing" 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. First Congregational Church of South Portland, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland, Maine Cost: \$7.00 per person

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e2rf4oepfdecd5ac>

For more information on John Bell, go to:
<http://johnbellinmaine.blogspot.com/>

The weekend events are sponsored by a small group of United Church of Christ churches in the Greater Portland, Maine area and are supported by a grant from the Maine Conference Resorting the Local Church Grant Program.

A Word or Two From Christian Education

Did you notice how focused our kids were during the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services? I sure did! And I was so proud of our kids and our teachers! So what does this tell us? It's telling me that our dedicated teachers are getting **"the Message"** across to our kids...and our kids are getting it!! It's telling me that our kids are engaged....they are excited...and they are learning!! It doesn't get any better than that!!

Kathy Woodside

You too could be a part of our terrific teaching team! Just let Kathy MacCulloch (288-4272) or Kathy Woodside (288-5160) know that you have an interest...they will find a place for you! And if you're not sure...you could try teaching one Sunday this summer as part of **God's Garden Club** as kind of a test run! Just contact either Kathy W. or Kathy Mac!

Mark your calendars for these important dates!!

- **Sunday May 23rd-Family Sunday** in which the 3rd graders receive their Bibles
- **Monday May 24th- Teacher Appreciation Dinner**-Watch the bulletin for more information in the next few weeks!
- **Sunday June 6th Youth Sunday**, Graduate recognition where we honor our graduating Seniors!
- **Sunday June 13th- Sunday School Picnic**-What Fun!!
- **Sunday June 20th-** First Sunday of God's Garden Club

The Christian Education Board Needs You!!

The Christian Education Board has a vacancy on its board and we need a treasurer. If anyone has gifts and talents in this area and would like to be a part of this vibrant and active group, please contact the Reverend Dr. Sandra Reed (288-3280) or Kathy Woodside (288-5160).

What is God's Garden Club?

God's Garden Club is an opportunity for parents and church members to share a special interest or talent with our younger children throughout the summer. Although the theme of "garden" has an emphasis on nature, anything in God's creation is a good topic for the children preschool through fourth grade. We ask that you commit to one Sunday during the summer beginning Sunday June 20th through Sunday September 5th. If you have an interest in participating in this unique program, please contact Kathy MacCulloch @ 288-4272.

Pilgrim Lodge Alert!!

TWO MORE SESSIONS ARE FILLED AT PILGRIM LODGE

"**Beyond the Boardwalk**" (July 7-8 for 7th and 8th graders), and "**Grandparents 2**" (August 27-29) are now filled as is "**Senior High Camp**" (July 18-24). You can be placed on a waiting list for any of these sessions by calling 207-724-3200. Other sessions still have openings.

Don't forget our church has a special Pilgrim Lodge Scholarship Fund that will cover 1/3rd of the registration fee!! So take advantage of this amazing opportunity and spend some time at PL this summer! Just a warning though...if you go once you will want to go again...and again!! Check out

the Pilgrim Lodge display in the Church Parlor; choose a camp and GO!! You will be glad you did!!

For those of you who register online, please let the church office know so we can be sure that the church pays 1/3 of your registration fee!!

In a changing world, what is our role? How do we fit in?

Many of our churches are asking the question, "In a changing world, what is our role? How do we fit in? Most importantly, what is God calling us to do and be?" Even though churches face change uneasily, we seem to be living in a time when responding slowly may leave us not only behind but out of the conversation entirely. Even among our more evangelical brothers and sisters, there is a movement called Emerging that seeks the places where the Spirit nudges us beyond our familiar and comfortable ways of being church. What does the future hold for mainline congregations in Maine, the state with the lowest church attendance in the country? What it holds is the most fertile field we can imagine. What it holds is the opportunity to look at ourselves and our churches and do the work of looking at our history, our practices and our beliefs through the frame of life in the 21st century.

"Reframing Church: Visions and Dreams" asks us to come together and have these conversations in the spirit of trust that the old and the young, the familiar and the new, have been part of God's word to us from the very beginning. **Register now for this incredible weekend!** Registration materials are available on the Maine Conference United Church of Christ website <http://www.maineucc.org/>. If you are interested in attending the conference and are concerned about the cost, please see Reverend Dr. Sandra Reed or Kathy Woodside.

GOOD NEWS T-SHIRT

Jesus told his disciples — and us — to go into all the world and preach the good news. Wherever you go, this cool T-shirt will help spark conversations about your faith.

What you need:

- Newspaper
- Cardboard
- Plain white, cotton T-shirt
- Permanent markers
- Goggles (optional)
- Eye dropper
- Rubbing alcohol
- Clothes hanger

What you do:

1. Cover a table with newspaper. (Work outside or in a well-ventilated area.)
2. Place a piece of cardboard inside your T-shirt. (This keeps pen marks from going through to the other side.)
3. With permanent markers, draw a design of large circles, spirals, hearts, etc.
4. Wear goggles while dropping rubbing alcohol onto your designs with an eye dropper. As the alcohol permeates the permanent marker, the color will break up and spread in interesting ways.
5. Hang the shirt to dry.
6. When the shirt is dry, place cardboard inside it again. On the front, write "I have some good news to share with you." You can also write a Bible verse.



Just for KIDS

"I am with you always."

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he encouraged his disciples in the work they had to do. We, too, are Jesus' disciples and should follow his same instructions.

Follow the words in the clouds to find Mark 16:15-16a, NIV.



Go into all the
away Bible the world
good the preach and
word it
news to all creation
the
people friends animals Whoever
in baptized is and believes)
power will be saved.



Answer: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." (Mark 16:15-16a, NIV)

May

2 Worship / Sunday School 10 am Spring Fling 11:30 Alleluia Choir 11:30 Girl Scouts 2-4	3 <i>Cancer Support Group 5- 6:30</i> <i>Cub Scout Pack mtng. 7:00</i>	4 <i>Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00</i>	5	6 Bible Study 10:00 Adult Choir 7:00	7 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	1 <hr/> 8
9 Worship / Sunday School 10 am Alleluia Choir 11:30	10	11 Outreach Board 7:00pm	12	13 Bible Study 10:00 BH Garden Club 1:00 Adult Choir 7:00	14 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	15
16 Worship / Sunday School 10 am Alleluia Choir 11:30 Deacons 11:30 Girl Scouts 2-4	17 <i>Eden School Board 6:00 PM</i>	18 <i>Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00</i>	19 Chimes Articles Due! CE Board 7:00	20 Bible Study 10:00 Trustees 5:30 Adult Choir 7:00	21 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	22 Concert
23 Family Worship (no Sunday School) 10 am Alleluia Choir 11:30 Girl Scouts 2-4	24	25	26 Church Council 7:00	27 Bible Study 10:00 Adult Choir 7:00	28 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	29
30 Worship / Sunday School 10 am Alleluia Choir 11:30						

May 2010



- 1 Alexandra Heiges
- 4 Aubrie Boyce
- 4 Myrtle MacLeod
- 4 George Mitchell
- 9 Susan Greenleaf
- 11 Elise Craighead
- 12 Joyce Stanley
- 14 Alisha Rechholtz
- 14 Scott Riddell
- 15 Patty Benore
- 15 Tim Smith
- 15 Sheridan Steele
- 16 Jane Sanderson
- 17 Alice Hobbs
- 17 Mary Reed
- 18 Richard Collier
- 18 Sandra Reed
- 19 Leslie Spurling
- 20 Paul Dickson
- 20 Coady Modeen
- 20 Olivia Modeen
- 21 Faith Reece
- 21 Dean DiMauro
- 21 Lou Ingrisano
- 21 Ezekiel Valleau
- 24 Christopher Booher
- 25 Crystal Hobbs
- 28 Heidi Turner O'Connor

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Rita Johnston
Assistant Deacon – Betty Bryer

Liturgists-

- 2:
- 9: Debbie Dyer
- 16:
- 23: Mimi Dickson
- 30: Kathe Simons

Flowers –

- 2: Florence Ames and Dottie Robins
- 9: Dorothy White
- 16: Mr. and Mrs. Dean DeMauro
- 23: Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Haraden
- 30: Betty and Dean Bryer

Coffee Hosts -

- 2: Spring Fling – No Coffee Hour
- 9: Kathe and Al Simons
- 16: Wally and Sandra Reed
- 23: Jane and Gerard Haraden
- 30:

Home Bible Readings -

- 2 Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35
- 9 Acts 16:9-15
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29
- 16 Act 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26
- 23 Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17
- 30 Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

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Non-Profit Organization
Bar Harbor, ME 04609
Permit Number 32

Special Dates

- Christian Family Week, May 3-9, 2010
- National Day of Prayer, May 6, 2010
- Mother's Day, May 9, 2010
- Ascension of the Lord, May 13, 2010
- Armed Forces Day, May 15, 2010
- Pentecost, May 23, 2010
- Victoria Day (Canada), May 24, 2010
- Memorial Day, May 31, 2010

Ascension of Our Lord

Many Christian denominations celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, which refers to a post-resurrection event that took place 40 days after Easter. This year it occurs on May 13.

According to Luke, Jesus led his friends to a Jerusalem suburb called Bethany. While on a small mountain, he blessed his friends and then rose into heaven while they watched.

The ascension was such a momentous occasion that after Jesus disappeared, his followers had a worship service at the spot. Then they "returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 24:52, NRSV).

Because Christ had promised to be with his followers always (Matthew 28:20), from then on they knew he would be with them as Spirit. Jesus' body was up and away, but spiritually he was still and always would be their companion.

Sources this page: Newsletter Newsletter

Mother's Day Date

A woman told her husband, George, that she wanted him to take another woman on a date. "I love you," she said, "but the woman I have in mind loves you, too, and needs to spend some time with you. It's your mother."

Dutifully, George called his mom and made a date. For the special evening, she chose the dress she'd worn to the last anniversary she and her late husband had celebrated. Mother and son enjoyed chatting so much that they missed their movie. Both left feeling joyous and fulfilled.

Sadly, George's mother died only a few days after their date. He was so happy he'd been able to spend that special time with her.

Right before she died, George's mother sent him this note: "Enclosed are two prepaid tickets for you to have dinner where we had such a pleasant evening together. You'll never know what that night meant for me. I love you, Son."