



The Chimes

Bar Harbor
Congregational
Church, UCC



July 2024

BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

LOVE IN ACTION

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Letter

Affection vs Affiliation

When we receive new covenant members in worship, with great affection our congregation sings “Blest be the tie that binds.” Here are some of the lyrics:

*Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.*

*We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.*

I was thinking about this lately as I’ve been considering how we might work together to strengthen our “ties that bind,” with those who have been here a long time, those who are newer, and even those who might be visiting.

It’s tricky because at any moment throughout the year, attending

worship is simultaneously a *reunion* and a *reception* – a chance to reconnect with people we already know, and also to meet people those we don’t. For our congregation to continue to thrive, it’s important to tend to both aspects of our being together – to extend hands and hearts of fellowship to those we know, and also (especially) to those we don’t, whether they’re here for a day or a lifetime.

So this summer let’s do two things: first, *invite someone to come with you to church*. And next, when you come, *reach out to someone and introduce yourself*. Together, let’s strengthen the ties that bind us together in Christ’s love.

Blessings & peace,
Rob



Creation's Joy

Who knew that Five Guys in Augusta would lead to such a joyous reunion ??



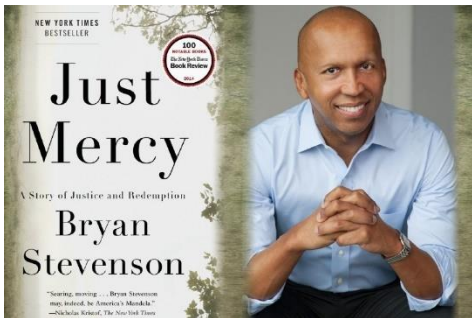
Called Together

“Creation is one of God’s love letters to humankind.”

THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE AMONG US

**Iced Coffee now @ BHCC !**

Drew had this great idea that – with our super hot summer weather lately – maybe iced coffee (and sometimes iced tea) would be a special after-worship fellowship treat ! Come, fill your cup of joy, every Sunday.

BHCC All-Church Read: *Just Mercy*

The 2024 all-church read is ***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson. There are different versions of the book, making it available to all age groups, and it is also available in a video and audio format. It can be purchased or borrowed from your local library. Limited copies will be available at the church to borrow. Our tentative date for the book picnic is **Sunday, September 22nd**, after worship.

Creation's Joy***Loving God with our senses!***

Scripture reminds us to love God with heart, mind and soul - an invitation to *love God with our full selves and all our senses*. This August we will explore how we might know God through touch, taste, sight, hearing, and smell.

Also this summer, our youngest church members will stay in worship for the whole service, and we'll be designing worship as intentionally intergenerational. We are excited to worship as a full church community; it's a great gift to welcome children into the full life of our church. Let's remember that movement and noise are normal! Kids might ask questions about what is happening, or move to get a front row view of the action. So let's practice extending God's love and welcome – to answer their questions, help someone get a better view, or find the right page in the hymnal, or ask about their drawings, or – as we already do – welcome folks of all ages with a warm smile.

This summer let's celebrate and practice what Jesus said, "let the little children come to me."

**Welcome JG, Fabiola, & Alissah !**

"I dream that my daughter can have a better life" - JG Sainvil

"JG" (Jean-Gardy), Fabiola and Alissah arrived from Boston just this week. (Thank you Cape Air!!!) All smiles, but a little overwhelming, too! They're doing great so far. Hopefully you'll get to meet them soon!

We're looking forward to some guidance from Catholic Charities in Bangor as they settle in. **The most urgent need at the moment is temporary housing!** Please let Pastor Rob or Marti Torbeck know if you have any ideas.

In the meantime, they are getting to know Bar Harbor. They already have a library card, have been to the YMCA, and have toured Hannaford, the Food Pantry, and Serendipity.

Thanks to all who are helping! It is indeed taking a village! If you would like to help in any way, let us know!

- Marti
(mmtreehouse4@gmail.com)

Called Together

Helpers needed !

YOU can extend God's joyous welcome to visitors, guests, and regulars alike at our welcome tables, or lead our worship as liturgist. Sign up in the parlor, contact the church office, or use the handy-dandy link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/BHCCsignup>



Concert / Fundraiser / Ice Cream Feeding people both far and near

OpenTable MDI and BHCC team up to support World Central Kitchen's efforts to feed people in war-torn areas around the world, and Open Table MDI's efforts to alleviate hunger and isolation by feeding individuals & families on MDI.

All are invited to this exciting concert event supporting *feeding people both near and far*. The concert will be from **3 - 6 p.m., Sunday, July 14th, at BHCC**. Performers include Big Moose Band; Masanobu Ikemiya, an award-winning pianist who blends classical and ragtime music; and the Baroque Orchestra of Maine, also known as BOOM, who will entertain with an exciting baroque period instrumental performance.

Donations will be gratefully received for the music and refreshments. The event will take place rain or shine. For additional information, or to help, please contact: Debby @ 207-650-7723, debbyhammond@hotmail.com

Special Mission Offerings

We raised **\$1145.55** to benefit Pilgrim Lodge for our June special mission offering. Thank you !!!!



The July special mission offering goes to **the Maine Seacoast Mission**, serving the needs of coastal & island communities since 1906. As a reminder, the church will match total contributions up to \$500.

Our Special Offerings for 2024:

July: *Seacoast Mission*

August: *Island Connections*

September: *Friends of Haiti*

October: *UCC Disaster Ministries*

November: *Thanksgiving Baskets*

December: *UCC Christmas Fund / Veterans of the Cross*

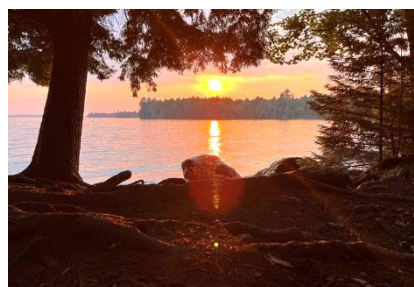


Photo by Geneva Langley

FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL TO SERVE

Living Nativity Costume Help

We need your help restoring the precious living Nativity robes! The robes are in the closet in the narthex by the front door. We hope to get them all repaired by end of October, and then washed or dry cleaned by end of November.

Please take one or two robes home. There is a large tote and zippered bag in the closet with patch material, ribbons, seam binding. If you purchase more supplies, give your receipts to Kathy Woodside to be reimbursed. Write your name on the tag after repairs have been completed. Transfer the robe to the left side of the closet to add to the group that needs to be washed. Some robes with fur collars need the fur removed, and new snaps added, so the collar can be reattached easily after dry cleaning.

See Anne Damm or Line Rechholtz with any questions. We appreciate help to restore these robes and continue the tradition of a special holiday meditation.



Sacred Awareness

Starting **Thursday, July 11th**, and continuing every second Thursday evening this summer at 5:30pm), join in "Holy Hikes" – a fun time to explore the wonder, beauty, and joy of God's creation. Meet this time at the Eagle Lake parking area. All ages welcome.

Learn to Knit Prayer Shawls

Every Saturday morning at 10am at the church ! Gentle instruction and materials provided. FMI, email pgdizazzo@yahoo.com.

JULY 2024

UPCOMING:

- **Tuesdays @ 11:50am** *Peals for Peace*
- **Wed. or Thurs. @ 6:30pm**
Evening Prayer in-person & FB Live
- **THURSDAYS @ 11am**
Bible Study in-person & via Zoom
- **Saturdays @ 10am** (at BHCC)
Prayer Shawl Knitting & Crocheting
- **Sundays @ 10am** *Worship service both in person and via Zoom;*
links at: www.barharborucc.org
- **Sunday, July 7th** TIME TBD
IC sandwich making @ Open Table
- **Wednesday, July 10th** @ 6pm
BHCC TLC meeting
- **Thursday, July 11th** @ 5:30pm
Holy Hikes: Eagle Lake parking area
- **Sunday, July 14th** @3pm
Concert / Fundraiser for World Central Kitchen and Open Table MDI
- **Thursday, July 18th** @ 9:30am
BHCC Saunter (meet at church)
- **Thursday, July 18th** @ 6pm
Possible Men's Cookout – details TBA
- **Sunday, July 21st**
Seacoast Mission Sunday
- **Wednesday, July 24th** @ 10am
Reconnec-Tea @ Debby Hammond's



July Coffee Fellowship Hosts

July 7 – **host[s] needed**
 July 14 – **Joel & Sharon Linscott**
 July 21 – **host[s] needed**
 July 28 – **host[s] needed**
 (photo by Billie Mitchell / Limited Lens)

Bar Harbor Congregational Church
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 Bar Harbor, ME 04609
www.barharborucc.org
an open & affirming congregation

Jesus tells us — ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
 - Matthew 22: 37—39 (NRSV)

*In response, our mission is to be a Christ-centered community of **prayer and worship, welcome and care, learning and growing, witness and service.***

***We endeavor to embody
 God's love for all people.***