

January  
2020

# Cultivating the New Year

---



## MEETING HOUSE CHIMES

First Congregational Church, PO Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578  
(207) 882-7544 [www.uccwiscasset.org](http://www.uccwiscasset.org) [fccw@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fccw@myfairpoint.net)

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am-12pm  
Minister: Rev. Josh Fitterling Organist/Choir Director: Linda Adams  
Church School Teacher & Coordinator: Colleen Crowley

*"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you." – Psalm 32:8*

For the gardeners among us, the winter months can be a bit of a drag. During these dormant months, we are in between harvest and planting. Still, these months can be put to excellent use and can provide benefits to a garden. In the winter, we may not plant, we may not harvest, but we can dream. We can dream about what the spring will bring. We can wonder about the possibilities for our gardens in this next growing season. We can begin to plan for the spring, while not rushing the important season of dreaming.

In our lives, we can often get caught up in the cycles of sowing and reaping, not just in a literal garden but in the metaphorical gardens we tend. We can focus on what we need to do to produce the outcome that we are looking for. Still, it is important that we always make room for the dreaming.

As we enter a new year, folks will often ask "what will the New Year bring?" We wonder what the harvests of our lives and of our world will look like in the coming year. However, now is not only the time to look toward the harvest with curiosity. It is a time to dream as we prepare to plant again. It is a time to be especially open to the guidance of God's Holy Spirit as we seek God's counsel for what is yet to come. What is possible in this new year? What could we cultivate that would bring about new and exciting wonders for the year ahead? How can hope, peace, joy, and love grow anew in meaningful and God-inspired ways that make for a better world?

In 2020, may we ask these questions as we too commit to the work of cultivating these dreams as we follow in the ways of our God, and may we work with God to bring about a fruitful new year.

In Hope for the New Year,

*Josh*

Rev. Josh Fitterling

## Epiphany White Gift Service

On Sunday, January 5th, we will hold our annual White Gift Service, collecting supplies and funds for three local support groups. This year the Diaconate has chosen Midcoast Humane, St. Philip's Food Pantry, and our church's Speed Needs Fund. Please bring donations of food or pet supplies wrapped in white paper, or checks for the cause of your choice, in white envelopes, with the name of the group you wish to support on the outside.



Please join us for this symbolic celebration of the arrival of the Wise Men with gifts for the Christ Child. Each year we raise over \$400 for these very worthwhile groups who support our community so well.

All checks should be made out to First Congregational Church with the name of your preferred recipient on the bottom of your check. This will make distribution to the groups less complicated and faster than in previous years.

---

**Church World Service says thank you  
for all the toys and coats  
donated this holiday season**



---

**Join us on **January 5** to celebrate these birthdays!**

Betty Applin   Susan Attwood   Aleene Barnes

Lisa Hargreaves   Dewey Harris   Janet Hatch

Sally Jacobs   Bud Lewis   Mary Lewis

Ahni Sallaway   James Sullivan

Allan Sylvester   Michelle Wentworth



## **CIS Special Presentation After Worship on January 5th**

Restorative Justice is a growing movement that focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with harmed parties and the community. This program is being used in educational and criminal systems, and we have a local group in our area doing this work.

Leigh Anne will share about the program and how it is being used on our community. We will have discussion and questions to follow.

**We will be offering soup and bread as well!**

We hope to see you there!



---

## **Annual Committee Reports Due on January 6**

For our upcoming annual meeting on January 26, we will be putting together an annual report that includes information from each committee about its activities in 2019 and its plans for 2020. These reports are due to the office on January 6. Please submit them by email ([fccw@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fccw@myfairpoint.net)) or hard copy. Thank you!

---

## **Annual Meeting & Potluck January 26 After Worship**

---

## **Sunday Night Bible Study**

The study of Revelations led by Rev. Josh will resume in January!  
Bible Study will meet in Fellowship Hall at 6pm on:

January 5<sup>th</sup>  
January 12<sup>th</sup>  
January 19<sup>th</sup>

Join us for one session or for them all!



# January 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
			No Organ Society			1pm Audrey Robertson Memorial
5 10am Family Worship & Communion White Gift Stewardship AW Restorative Justice AW 6pm Bible Study	6 1:30pm Garden Club Board Meeting (upstairs) <b>Committee Reports Due</b> 6pm Game Night	7 10am Diaconate Afternoon: Garden Club in FH 7pm Trustees	8 9:30am Organ Society	9 10:30am-3:00pm Garden Club 4pm Choir	10	11
12 10am Worship & Church School Christian Ed AW Annual Report available for pickup 6pm Bible Study	13 6pm Game Night	14 7pm Council	15 9:30am Organ Society	16 Chase Point Service 10:30 am 4pm Choir	17	18
19 10am Worship & Church School Diaconate AW 6pm Bible Study	20 6pm Game Night	21 9:30am—12pm PEO (FH) 3:00pm CIS	22 9:30am Organ Society	23 4pm Choir	24	25
26 10am Worship & Church School Noisy Offering <b>Annual Meeting followed by pot-luck</b>	27 Wiscasset Green Coffee 9:30am 6pm Game Night	28	29 9:30am Organ Society	30 4pm Choir	31	

## New Office Hours in January

Please note that our office hours are changing in the new year!

The office will be open on:

Tuesday, from 9am to 12pm

Wednesday, from 9am to 12pm

Thursday, from 9am to 12pm

As always, Rev. Josh is available outside office hours by appointment and by chance. Office phone 207-882-7544 or [joshfitterling@myfairpoint.net](mailto:joshfitterling@myfairpoint.net)

---

## THE ORGAN SOCIETY CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!!

Last year the Organ Society – thanks to many of our congregation members – sold a record 60 plates of cookies. But this year on Sunday, December 15, thanks to all the congregation members (and guests) and the marvelous plates of cookies, we sold 63 plates of cookies. Another all-time high!!! We couldn't have done it without all our bakers and helpers.



To our Coffee Hosts for January  
Church in Society

## Stewardship Update – We Are Getting Close!!

As of December 30th, we have received pledges totaling \$94,472! Thank you to everyone who has pledged already. With only \$10,528 left to go, our goal is within reach!!

If you have not yet pledged and would like to help us meet and beat our goal, there are pledge cards available in the church office or you can print a card on our website, [www.uccwiscasset.org](http://www.uccwiscasset.org). Cards can be returned by mail to the church office. Pledges can also be made over the phone by simply calling the church office at 207-882-7544.

Meeting House Chimes  
First Congregational Church, U.C.C.  
P.O. Box 350, 28 High Street  
Wiscasset, ME 04578



**January  
2020**

**First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
28 High Street, PO Box 350  
Wiscasset, Maine 04578**

**We welcome you to the First  
Congregational Church of Wiscasset.  
We are an open and affirming  
congregation and are open  
theologically, growing spiritually, and  
concerned socially.**

