

**First Congregational-Christian Church  
United Church of Christ # New Gloucester, Maine**

## Parish Visitor

### Save the Dates!

**August 3-7**

**Summerfest!**

Vacation Bible School  
9 - Noon; ages 4 years  
thru 6th grade

**Happy Summer  
Reading**

**Parish Visitor  
on vacation  
for August!**



**Pastoral\*e** What a splendid month June has been in worship! New members received, Sunday School adventures celebrated, a gift piano “baptized” with a spritely Mozart 4-hands duet, and, oo-la-la, Choir Favorites Sunday coming up on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

All this joy divine. I love it. And I need it. It helps me—maybe you, as well—as a sort of counter-weight to the gravity of the world.

When the church family hurtles off the summer attendance cliff, though, I feel the church family’s power as a natural coping mechanism, is diminished. What does not go away is the world. Not so much the news we get of the world, but what actually goes on, on and off the radar, the tube, and the Twitter feed. It pains me equally when friends say they don’t watch the news and when others are tuned in 24/7. Surely the psychological impact of one horrible story seen five times is different than the one horrible story heard as many times as the event reported actually happened—once.

Whether you want to hear about it or not, we ARE the world. Passive or attentive, we are part of the greatness and the vulnerability of Emmanuel A.M.E. church in Charleston, South Carolina (only nine people at Wednesday bible study in a church built to seat a thousand). We are also, by omission or commission, part of what feeds a steady barrage of violent racists.

Racism is a giant Goliath in our land. Like the one in Sunday’s David story, 1 Samuel 17, this Goliath presents itself daily to meet its match, completely confident there will be no match to meet. In David’s world as in ours, those who might be inclined at least to put up a fight are preoccupied with sibling rivalry and the snack tray provisions, or are so magnificently armored as to go from readiness to monument without any engagement at all.

Church is our encampment. It is where I meet my brothers and sisters, where we pool our power, where we assess and nurture our inner and outer resilience. In a world of giants, I need church Summer, Winter, Spring, and Fall. That’s me. But the world does also demand that when we are doing and being church, we give it our best. That may entail some sabbaths from our Sabbaths. I get that.

Promise me this. When you discover it’s no use pretending the Goliaths of the world are also on vacay, come off the playing field, beach, porch, couch, and we’ll be church for awhile. We’ll engage the world together.



This month the church was blessed with a generous gift, the donation of a Steinway grand piano for use in the choir room rehearsal space. Steinway & Sons piano company was founded in 1853 in Manhattan and has long been known for building high quality pianos using the best available materials. This piano was built in 1912 and came to us as a gift from Suzy Hurwitz of Falmouth. Rebuilt in the recent past, this piano still has the warmth and fullness of tone it was built with despite being over 100 years old. It will aid in the rehearsal of anthems prepared by the choir for worship services and provides a magnificent instrument for piano students to learn on (in a heated space year round). Pianists and aspiring pianists are encouraged to stop by the choir room and play a piece or a few notes. If more serious rehearsal time is desired, individuals may contact me or Rev. Gard to schedule a private rehearsal time. This piano begins a new chapter in its long life which even includes years on a Maine island. We are truly fortunate to have both this new piano and our lovely Baldwin grand piano in the sanctuary. They add to the strength of our music program and encourage a higher level of musicianship.

John Terison, Music Director

## Book of Life

Welcome, **Steve and Beth Westra!** Our neighbors for more than a year, Steve and Beth Westra became church members on Sunday, June 7. Beth is a school teacher in Falmouth, and Steve is currently working on the redevelopment of the Brunswick Naval Air Station. Son Peter is a student at UMO, and daughter Katie lives in Dallas. The Westras come to us from the Cumberland UCC. Please add them to your directory: 8 Gloucester Hill Road.

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**Paul Gaillard**, a supporting member of the Men's Group, passed away on June 15. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on June 19 at St. Gregory's. Our prayers are with his family and dear friends.

## History Corner

An excerpt from the February , 1965 Parish Visitor...

As we enter the main floor of the sanctuary, we find a walnut cabinet with glass doors which was made and donated in 1960 by S. Clifton Clark. The Ladies Circle purchased an engraved plate for the cabinet in 1965. The contents reveal twelve communion articles; the first in order of years are items engraved thereon which read "Presented to the First Church in New Gloucester by the Rev. Samuel Foxcroft, A.D. 1807" (Incidentally, this was in the year he died). Other pieces carry the inscription "Presented to the Congregational Church , New Gloucester, Maine by C.H. Cram, Portland, October 1863." The Church Records indicate that there was a first set donated by Nathaniel Allen, Esq. on July 1, 1765, and the entry read "a damask tablecloth and napkin, one flagon and four pewter cans - also a baptism basin." A still further study of the minutes of meetings show that in "1863" - it was voted that we give the old communion set to some church that has none, a committee was chosen to attend to this matter and make the presentation. This, we notice, was at the time Mr. Cram donated the whole, or part of a communion service. (Mr. Cram was from the State Street Church, Portland.)

Before the cabinet was made, it was more or less the custom that the Senior Deacon keep the communion set in his home. Mr. Andrew Chandler, deacon for many years, kept the service, and after his death his daughter, Sarah, continued to do so until we sold the home place and took up residence in Washington, D.C. She then brought the several pieces, Carefully wrapped and placed in black lined wooden boxes to the home of Donald Chandler.

Pat Sawyer - Historian




# J U L Y

## July

1. Jane Sturgis
2. Jennifer DuPuis
3. Dean Neal, Kai Ovady
4. David Colbath
5. George Corriveau, Lyndsey Targett, Keith Larson, Betty Brown
6. Corey Spruill, Zeke Pendexter
7. Larry & Debby Bastian
9. Owen Dawson, Connor Beckett, Jen & Peter Chase
10. Erica Tynes
11. Donald Targett
14. Max MacCallum
15. Althea Croxford
16. Jacob Spellman,
17. Tim & Marianne Cowan
18. Alita Crosson
19. Jen Chase
21. Larry Bastian, Kellie Keneagy, Erik Weeks
25. Rosalyn Moisan
26. Silas Phillips, Paul Russ, Zeke Pendexter
28. Courtney Targett
30. Augusta Hahnel

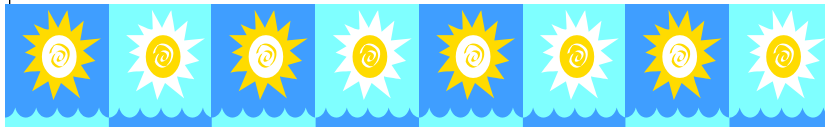
## August

- 1-Joyce Trawick, Pam Peters
- 2-Carl Cowan
- 3-Shelley Blake
- 6-Bill Menke, Todd Keneagy
- 10-John & Paula Spruill, Rob & Susan Spellman
13. Kathy Demers
16. Lisa Targett
18. Don Sappington
21. Deb Bastian
23. Lydia Larson
28. Bernys Mattson, Bill Greeley
30. Tom Blake
31. Mary Cowan

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9:30 Block-house	2	3	4 
5 9:30 worship	6 8:30 Yoga	7 6:30 Men's B'fast	8 9:30 Block-house Stitchers	9	10	11 8-9:30 food pantry
12 9:30 worship	13 8:30 yoga	14 6:30 am Men's B'fast	15 9:30 Block-house Stitchers	16	17	18
19 9:30 worship	20 8:30 Yoga (\$10)	21 6:30 Men's Bfast	22 9:30 Block-house Stitchers	23	24	25 8-9:30 food pantry
26 9:30 Worship	27 8:30 Yoga (\$10)	28 6:30 am Men's B'fast	29 9:30 Block-house Stitchers	30	31	

### Coming up in August..

August 3-7 Summerfest 2015



Church Calendar kept current @ ngucc.org





# THE PARISH VISITOR

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United Church of Christ  
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Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
New Gloucester  
Maine  
Permit No. 5

**Rev. Linda Gard, Pastor**  
**John Terison, Director of Music**  
**Phillip Blake, Sexton**  
**Cindy Mahan, Office**

Current resident or



## **SUMMERFEST 2015**

### **Vacation Bible School**

#### **August 3rd- 7th**

#### **9 a.m. - Noon**

**Bring your children ages 4 years thru 6th grade for a free week of summer fun!**

Registration form online at [ngucc.org](http://ngucc.org); Forms can also be picked up from the box outside to the right of the vestry anytime or register the morning of the program.

For more information, or to volunteer to help, please call the church office at 926-3260.