



North Church of Portsmouth

United Church of Christ | Portsmouth, NH

The Bellman: February 2018

603.436.9109 | www.northchurchportsmouth.org

LET'S BE FRANK!

The Time has come! As we said on January 21, the times our nation is in are urgent and so are the times our church lives in. If the times are urgent, we must be about experimentation to make sure our church is being a voice in our community and our world. As one person leaving the service said this past Sunday, "We need revolution not evolution because evolution takes too long". And I admitted that my saying when I entered North Church back in October was "We are in a marathon not a sprint" was not totally based on all the information I now have. So what do you do with the talk of revolution? The way I handle that kind of talk is to try something new---let's experiment and see what happens. Or as we looked at on January 28 seeing Joshua and Caleb taking a risk when the other ten spies wanted to play it safe. It is time for a risk.

None of our new initiatives are cure alls by any stretch of the imagination but they are our attempt at moving beyond the stand still point. Here is a review of what we will be experimenting with in February through early June:

SOUL CAFÉ JAZZ AND MEDITATION at North Church Market Square at 5:30pm

The first Wednesday will be jazz and the other Wednesdays will involve different forms of meditation and musical styles. This is an attempt to reach out to people who live and work downtown and to have our Market Square facility open one time during the times we normally do not have anything going on at MSQ. It would be great if many of you will join with us on Wednesdays as people are drawn to others.

SOUL CAFÉ PLAYSPACE AND LITTLE ARTISTS at North Church Parish House at 355 Spinney Rd.

The **PLAYSPACE** will gather on Wednesdays February through May 10am-12noon on the lower level for a free space for baby, toddler, and preschooler with a parent to make new friends while children play in our preschool classrooms and library. Organic and fair trade coffee will be provided.

The **LITTLE ARTISTS** will gather on Monday at 10am for Drop-In Classes for Music and Art for Toddlers and Preschoolers with a parent. The fee is \$10 per family.

Join us on Saturday February 3 at 11am at the Parish House to pass out promo cards to about 200 area homes!

In April we will talk about another new initiative entitled, JESUS LEFT THE BUILDING.

TEAM NORTH CHURCH LET THE NEW INITIATIVES BEGIN---and may God bless our efforts!

Frank

A Message from Your Moderator Liz Good

These are exciting times folks! As I write this, the Patriots have just beaten the Jacksonville Jaguars for the AFC championship and are once again headed to the Super Bowl, and yes, while that IS exciting, I'm talking about the exciting times that are ahead for North Church! During worship on January 21st, Rev. Frank kicked off three new Soul Café initiatives that will allow us to open our doors, invite people in, and extend amazing hospitality.

The Soul Café is open for business! These initiatives are designed to accomplish several things: to provide a sacred and safe space to be with God and with one another, to provide entry points for those seeking a church experience or a church home, to allow church members the opportunity to get more involved in the life of the church and lastly, to share the love of Jesus with those seeking a relationship with him.

Jazz and Meditations in the Market Square Sanctuary, Play Space and Little Artists at the Parish House and Jesus Has Left The Building (a mission initiative), will allow us to expand our hospitality and generosity in many ways. You can read more about these three initiatives in this issue of the Bellman but what I am asking of you now is to get involved! Get involved a little or a lot... but just get involved. You can help by simply participating or by inviting a neighbor or a friend to join you. You can volunteer your time as a host. Or you can provide "behind the scenes" support. The important point is to get active, get engaged, and get excited about participating in the life of North Church. You'll find a sign up sheet in the Parish House foyer. Blessings to us as we extend our hand of Christian fellowship!



Membership

Name tag Sunday is back. Please reach out to Deb Jones or Jenny Shaw if you need a new name tag.

The Membership Committee is looking for members to sign up for coffee hour so contact Deb or Jenny, if interested.

Look for some new opportunities to gather. We are looking into some new ideas to share time together. Stay tuned!

Deb Jones and Jenny Shaw



PLAY SPACE AND LITTLE ARTISTS

FEBRUARY–MAY
Wednesdays, 10 a.m. -12 noon
Playspace at the Soul Café

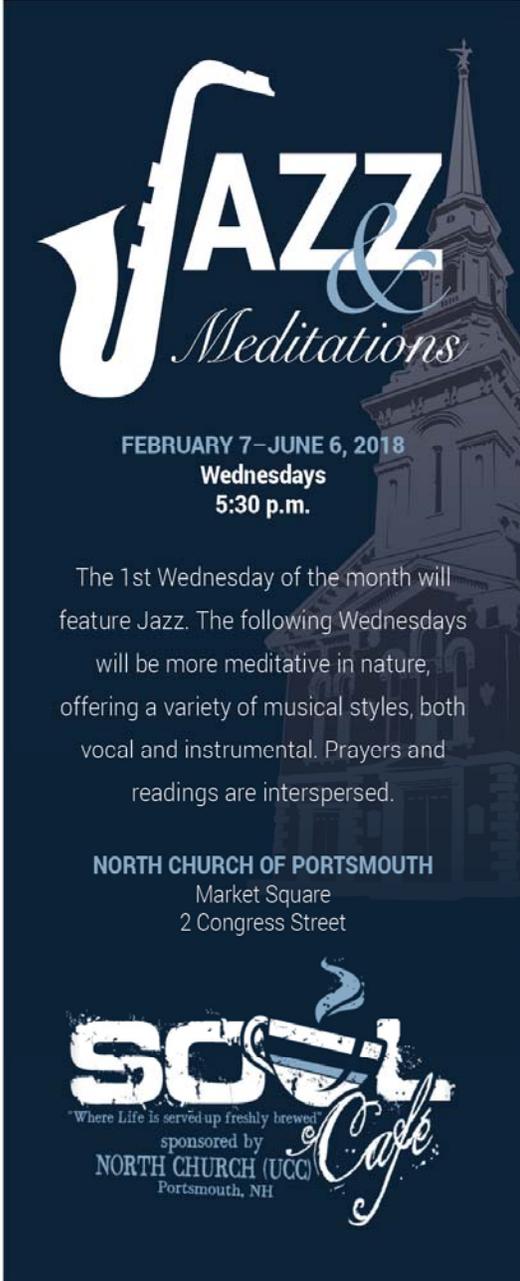
FREE space for baby, toddler, and preschooler for playdates. Meet a mom and make new friends while your children play in preschool classrooms and library.
Fair trade coffee provided.

Mondays, 10 a.m. Drop-In Classes
Soul Café Little Artists
 Music and Art for
 Toddlers and Preschoolers
 FEE: \$10.00 per class/family

NORTH CHURCH PARISH HOUSE
 355 Spinney Road • FREE Parking



"Where Life is served up freshly brewed"
 sponsored by
NORTH CHURCH (UCC)
 Portsmouth, NH



JAZZ & Meditations

FEBRUARY 7–JUNE 6, 2018
Wednesdays
5:30 p.m.

The 1st Wednesday of the month will feature Jazz. The following Wednesdays will be more meditative in nature, offering a variety of musical styles, both vocal and instrumental. Prayers and readings are interspersed.

NORTH CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH
 Market Square
 2 Congress Street



"Where Life is served up freshly brewed"
 sponsored by
NORTH CHURCH (UCC)
 Portsmouth, NH

Contact Pastor Frank Newsome at
fnewsome@northchurchportsmouth.org
for more information.
603-436-9109
www.northchurchportsmouth.org

Worship SCHEDULE

All Worship services begin at 10 am

Sunday, February 4

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany---worship at Parish House
The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated

Sunday, February 11

Last Sunday after Epiphany—worship at Parish House

Sunday, February 18

First Sunday in Lent ---worship at Parish House

Sunday, February 25

Second Sunday in Lent—worship at Parish House

Scout Sunday—February 4th



In an ongoing effort to promote more connection between North Church and our Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack, the scouts will be hosting fellowship after the February 4th service in honor of Scout Sunday.

Scout Sunday celebrates the Boy Scouts of America's birthday (February 8th) and are usually held the Sunday previous to February 8th. The BSA encourages scouts to attend services in full uniform and to partake in some way in their services whenever possible. We may have some Cub or Boy Scouts in attendance at church and helping serve the fellowship. Please take a minute to welcome the scouts and their families and enjoy their fellowship contributions!



"Heads up" to North Church Women

The NCW will meet on March 13th at the Parish House at 12noon. Please bring a bag lunch and drinks and dessert will be provided. A meeting will follow and we will play Bingo (with prizes).

Plan to join the fun!!

Stewardship Corner



New Year, new campaign, new possibilities!! As we move forward through 2018 we should be energized by the ways our role as stewards of North Church could develop in new directions. We are entering the in-between phase of stewardship where we reflect on our current theme of All In for North Church and look ahead to the opportunities to grow as a congregation in the new campaign. Our financial support for North Church, UCC is an integral part of that growth. Have you thought about the opportunities a new year brings for your role as a steward of North Church? It doesn't have to be a resolution but perhaps it will be a revelation. Renew, re-imagine, re-energize! Let us continue to think - both inside and outside the box - about the many ways we can be good stewards and maintain our North Church presence into the future.

Your Stewardship Committee

- Martha Labbe



Prepared to Serve 2018



Here is an opportunity to attend a day of worship, workshops, fellowship, exhibits, and food sponsored by the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ. The event is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, February 24, 2018, at Pembroke Academy in Pembroke, NH.** Registration is now open for Prepared to Serve 2018 through the Weekly News.

Last year's event again saw banner attendance with over 500 laypersons and clergy participating. Looking forward to this year's event there are plans for a full schedule that includes time for worship, attending workshops, viewing exhibits, and enjoying food and fellowship with folks from all over New Hampshire. With over 50 different workshops offered on a variety of topics, this day will be meaningful and productive for all who attend.

North Church Women

You are invited to the TENTH (X) celebration of the New England UCC Women.

This group has gathered every four years since 1982. Additional information in the NH Women's Link is posted on the Parish House bulletin board including a registration form that you may copy.

Pointers for Portland - Celebration X

A SEAT AT THE TABLE



Come for all things are now ready.

-Luke 14:17b

APRIL 6-7-8, 2018

THIS IS A SENSATIONAL
EVENT FOR WOMEN.

Registration by February 15, 2018-\$125.

Five meals at the Holiday Inn-\$125.

Holiday Inn-\$149/night no matter how many are in the room (Cots \$10/night)-Reserve your room before the "block" is sold out!

Keynote speakers:

Leslie Adelson Lewin (ME)-Friday

Rev. Renee Rouse (NH)-Saturday

Rev. Traci Blackmon (MO)-Saturday

Rev. Sarah Buteux (MA)-Saturday

Rev. Deborah J. Blood (ME)-Sunday

Saturday morning keynote speaker: Rev. Renee Rouse. Her first service in Warner NH was Easter Sunday last year. Shortly before the service began, a few members of the congregation approached their new minister to tell her there was a deaf man included in their church. "I didn't know what to do," Rouse said. "We can't just let him sit there... So I started doing some homework."

So began an initiative at the church in Warner, something Rouse calls "extravagant hospitality" where the focus is "loving people based on their need."

Rouse implored the congregation to "listen with your eyes and ears" instead of reading along. Rouse said there is no other church for the deaf in the state, and she hopes this church will continue to grow. "This is a place they know they can come to," she said. "We are moving forward."

Learn more about Celebration X by visiting their website: www.UCCwomencelebration.org

Or check out the Women's Link posted on the Parish House bulletin board.



FUN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!!

North Church has an opportunity to help the Portsmouth Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. We can volunteer at the annual Pinewood Derby!!

The Pinewood Derby is scheduled for March 24th at the North Church Parish House. The Girl Scouts race their cars from 9 AM to 12 PM and the Cub Scouts race theirs from 1 PM to 4 PM. They need 4 North Church volunteers for each shift. Three volunteers would be judges, and the fourth volunteer would be for mechanical support of the cars, in case any are having any issues.

They also have a bake sale during the Pinewood Derby and would welcome any baked goods that North Church is willing to donate, both home made and store bought, and could use volunteers to man the bake sale tables also.

What a fun way for North Church to help the Scouts!! It will be a huge help to the Scouts because they need impartial judges, and most of the people who go to the Pinewood Derby are going because they have a child participating.

If you would like to volunteer at the Pinewood Derby, or are willing to provide baked goods for the day, please contact Janet Cushing, Elizabeth Cross or Liz Good.

Janet Cushing	janet.Cushing@gmail.com	603-770-2649
Elizabeth Cross	eyl777@comcast.net	603-969-0157
Liz Good	lgood60@comcast.net	603-498-8508



MISSIONS NEWS



Gather



“It underscores a commitment to address food insecurity through gathering not only food, but also community support.”

The Mission Board of North Church is continuing to support programs at Gather (formerly SFFP). The Board will suggest a food item(s) and a personal care item for donation each month. As always, food and personal care items may be brought to the Parish House on Spinney Road at any time and placed in the bookcase in the foyer. The schedule of suggested donations is:

Month	Food Item	Personal Care Item
February	Whole grain crackers & low sugar cereals	Facial Tissues and Toilet paper
March	Pasta sauce IN CANS-NO GLASS, Pasta/spaghetti	Facial Tissues

Thank you for your January donations of oatmeal, instant cream of wheat and facial tissues. These items and a variety of others were delivered to the food pantry. **December and January donations from North Church were valued at \$153.64.**

All donations are welcome and needed at the pantry. The following list includes items that are on the pantry’s wish list: peanut butter, 100% fruit jelly, decaf coffee, whole grain crackers, 100% fruit juice (and juice boxes for kids), soups (chunky w/meat), shelf stable milk, tuna, granola bars, extra virgin olive oil, tomato sauce, brown rice and other whole grains, canned and dried beans, preferably whole grain pasta, instant oatmeal, instant cream of wheat, oatmeal, low-sugar cereals, small portion pop-top cans tuna and chicken, applesauce, animal crackers, and Ensure/Boost type nutrition drinks. **Please check dates! Out-of-date items are NOT accepted.**



The Mitten Tree



Portsmouth school children in need of mittens and hats will be warmer this winter thanks to your generous donations during the month of January. Members of the Mission Board will deliver items to New Franklin, Dondero, and Little Harbour schools.



Jesus Has Left the Building *2018 - 5th Sundays* *10-11 am*

Share God's love and compassion with our community through our *Jesus Has left the Building* service. A brief worship at 10 AM will be followed by a hands-on mission project for all ages.

The first service will take place on Sunday, April 29. Stay tuned for more information as the Mission Board develops plans for the activity. We look forward to your participation and working together to support those in need in our local and global communities.



"Meatball Monday"

Your continued support of this Mission Board sponsored activity has been amazing! It takes 250 meatballs to prepare the number of meatball subs needed for the meal we serve at the Salvation Army on the second Monday of each month. The next time you are at the grocery store, please consider purchasing a bag of frozen meatballs for the meal. You may bring the meatballs to the Parish House and place them in the freezer. THANKS in advance for supporting this important mission activity!

Be thinking about the ways you can support individuals and families in need in our community. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated!



Red Cross Blood Drive a Huge Success!

Twenty-three (23) units of blood were collected at the January 15th blood drive held at the Parish House. We exceeded our goal of 18 units. This was the most successful drive sponsored by the Mission Board in recent years! Thank you to the following volunteers who helped to make this possible: Sue Foye, Ann Knox, Karen Conway, Marcia Leach, Priscilla Pettis and Pam Woodward.

February 2018

February 2018							March 2018							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
					1	2	3					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28					25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3

10:00am PH Worship 6:00pm Troop 164 Meeting	9:00am Soacoast Pathways 6:00pm Cabinet Meeting (Living Room)	6:30pm Bear Den Mtg. (Scout Room) 7:30pm Parent Pack Mtg (Scout Rm)	9:00am Soacoast Pathways 10:00am Soul Cafe Play Space (Parish) 6:30pm Soul Cafe Jazz 6:00pm Membership	6:30pm OA-new members 6:00pm /7pm - O/A/OA (men's) 6:00pm Choir PH 7:00pm Bell Choir	9:00am Soacoast Pathways 7:30pm AA Meeting	11:00am Pass out promo cards (meet at Parish House)
10:00am PH Worship 6:00pm Troop 164 Meeting	9:00am Soacoast Pathways 10:00am Soul Cafe Little Artists 4:00pm SOUP 6:00pm Webelos 2 Den	9:00am staff meeting (Family Room) 6:00pm Sherive Tuesday (Fellowship Hall)	9:00am Soacoast Pathways 10:00am Soul Cafe Play Space (Parish) 6:30pm Soul Cafe Jazz 6:15pm Tiger Scout	6:00pm /7pm - O/A/OA (men's) 6:00pm Choir PH 7:00pm Bell Choir	9:00am Soacoast Pathways 12:00pm Blue & Gold - Prep (Kirchen + 6:00pm Pack Mtg 7:30pm AA Meeting	
10:00am PH Worship 6:00pm Troop 164 Meeting	Office closed - President's Day 9:00am Soacoast Pathways 10:00am Soul Cafe Little Artists	6:30pm Bear Den Mtg. (Scout Room) 6:30pm Deacons Mtg	8:00am Mens Breakfast (Cafe 9:00am Soacoast Pathways 10:00am Soul Cafe Play 6:30pm Soul Cafe Jazz	6:00pm /7pm - O/A/OA (men's) 6:00pm Choir PH 7:00pm Bell Choir	9:00am Soacoast Pathways 7:30pm AA Meeting	
10:00am PH Worship 6:00pm Troop 164 Meeting	9:00am Soacoast Pathways 10:00am Soul Cafe Little Artists 7:00pm Women's Book Group (Living Room)		Easter Flower Form 9:00am Soacoast Pathways 10:00am Soul Cafe Play 6:30pm Soul Cafe Jazz 7:00pm Properties			

*North Church of Portsmouth is an Open and
Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ
Open and Affirming Covenant*

NORTH CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Church Sanctuary

Market Square, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Church Office

Parish House

355 Spinney Road

Portsmouth, NH 03801

603.436.9109 phone

603.436.6744 fax

Sunday Worship

Worship is held at the Parish House at 10am.

Select Sundays are held at the Market Square Bldg. A complete list is located on the website.

Fellowship Time

Following 10:00 am Parish House Service

Church School

11:15 am Parish House (Sept - June)

Office Hours

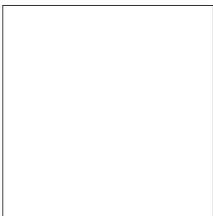
Monday-Friday, 9am - 2pm

We, the members of North Church of Portsmouth welcome all people to be faithful followers of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We believe we should reach out and be open to all people. Therefore, this Open and Affirming statement expresses that which is accepted by our congregation.

"The first [commandment] is . . . 'You shall love The Lord your God with all your soul, and with all your mind, with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31).

Therefore, we work together to support our members, the community and those seeking a place in God's family with the understanding that each is unique. We welcome people of any race, creed, color, age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, economic status, marital status, physical, emotional, mental capacity and those in relationships recognized under God's law.

www.northchurchportsmouth.org



Return Service Requested
North Church of Portsmouth, UCC
355 Spinney Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801