

Pastor's Letter – October, 2015

I spent a lot of time by the water these past 2 weeks, near ponds, lakes, streams and even the seacoast of Maine. Each of these was delightful and each evoked qualities of God. The pond was thoughtful and calm. The lakes were playful and fresh. The stream was energetic and full of purpose. And the ocean was powerful and deep.

Each body of water fed my soul. But I think it was the ocean that most thoroughly erased my words and even my thoughts. Of course, it doesn't require the Atlantic Ocean to render us speechless. It can be a sunset striping the sky with pink and orange. It can be a friend who listens deeply to our heart. Perhaps it's a piece of music that carries us back...or lifts us up. Or maybe a hillside enflamed with autumn colors. The glory of God is alive in all places. And we are blessed as we attend to the holy even (or especially) amidst the struggles, fears and uncertainties of our living.

Returning to that rugged outcropping in Maine, I'm reminded that the pounding surf never ends. Days later, I'm sure the waves are still crashing upon the rocks, as they will be years from now. Perhaps that's the quality of God that feeds my soul the most these days: the timeless, unstinting rhythm of grace that lies beneath and within anything we can experience.

Jesus said, "I am with you even to the end of the age." Not for 50 years. Not "until I'm tired of you." Not "so long as you are good." Always. Longer even than the surf will hit the shore. God's embrace extends throughout all times and places, struggles and set-backs, joys and journeys. If that was the reminder my soul received as it rested by the sea, I guess it was well worth the trip. May God's deep and eternal love be clear and present to you in the coming days.

In grateful faith,
Tim

United Church of Bristol Calendar for October and November 2015

October 4	Worldwide Communion Neighbors In Need Offering
October 11	Deacons Meeting – 9am Cabinet Meeting – 11:30am Joy Jar Collection to Benefit Breast Cancer Awareness
October 18	Applesauce Making – 9am Birthday Cake Sunday Quarterly Meeting
October 22	Dining room set-up
October 23	Turkey carving and potato peeling – 9am
October 24	Fall Dinner! 4-7pm Doors open at 3pm
October 25	Adult Faith Formation Series Kickoff – 11:30am
November 1	Communion
November 8	Deacons Meeting – 9am Cabinet Meeting – 11:30am
November 15	Birthday Cake Sunday
November 22	Take down Fall decoration after worship and decorate for Christmas
November 29	Committee budget requests due Adult Faith Formation – 11:30am Annual Children’s Holiday Craft Bazaar – 9am
Dec 6	Communion Community Christmas Tree Decorating
Dec 13	Deacons Meeting – 9am Christmas Sing-Along Service followed by Christmas refreshments
December 14	Cabinet Meeting – 6:30pm (budget review)
December 24	Christmas Eve Service – 5pm
December 27	Adult Faith Formation – 11:30am

Happy Birthday in October to:

Art Babcock – 10/1
John Faulkner – 10/2
Steve Rath – 10/6
Julie Searles – 10/7
Alex Bodnar – 10/8
Norma Lyons – 10/10
Ann Ward – 10/11
Daisy Fletcher – 10/12
Catherine Joseph – 10/14
Kali Ensman – 10/15
Laura Burgart – 10/15
Gerry Damaske – 10/16
Mel Clark – 10/17
Laura Kunes – 10/18
Warren Lockwood – 10/19
Kristin Drayn – 10/21
Meredith Fletcher – 10/22
Marian Thomas – 10/24
Tom Casey – 10/25

Sharon Eckler – 10/28
Trevor Drayn – 10/28
Sandy Casey – 10/29

Happy Birthday in November to:

Tom Miles – 11/1
Lexington Angell – 11/1
LaRue Fletcher – 11/2
Mary Lynne Parmelee 11/2
Jakob Cooley – 10/6
Tim Fox – 11/6
Gloria Miles – 11/8
Doug Rath – 11/10
Bob Marcellus – 11/12
June Rogers – 10/15
Mary Jane Stoltz – 11/16
Charlie Bassett – 11/23