

Good cool morning from a hill in Rockport....

The Annual Meeting of the Federated Church of Thomaston will be held after our worship service this morning. This is the one meeting of the year that everyone associated with the church is invited, and encouraged, to attend – to learn of what the church has accomplished over the past year, and to vote on the church’s budget for the coming year. Our UCC Conference representative, Rev. Jonna Jensen, and our UMC Kathadin District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Jackie Brennan will be with us. Jackie will be preaching from Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16.

We are a community of seekers after truth and faith. According to Hebrews 11:1-3, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” As many of you reading these words know, this text was pivotal for me in my decision to go to seminary at the age of 47, and into ministry. Assurance and conviction.... Hope and things unseen.... In the aftermath of all that has happened since March, 2020, in our country and around the world, assurance and conviction are some days hard to hold on to in the midst of so much that has gone awry in these weary times. The title of Jackie’s sermon for today is “Faith in a Strange Land.” It is an appropriate and needed theme for such a time as this.

I hope you will join us this morning for worship, to hear Jackie’s wisdom, and to participate in the work of the church in our Annual Meeting. It is good to be with you. It will be good to look forward to the coming year with assurance and conviction, and with hope in the midst of so much that remains unseen.

Blessings to each one this last day of July..... Susan

p.s. As always, please don’t hesitate to be in touch if you would like me to stop by for a chat sometime. My phone number is 207-322-1948 and my e-mail address is either [freerangepastor@gmail.com](mailto:freerangepastor@gmail.com) or [susanstst@aol.com](mailto:susanstst@aol.com).... My visits with each of you always give me a smile, a new appreciation of the unique perspective each of you have, and thanks that you have chosen me to be in conversation with you in worship and in one to one dialogue....

**Federated Church in Thomaston**  
**United Church of Christ    United Methodist Church**  
**All Are Welcome**  
**Sunday, July 31, 2022**

Rev. Dr. Susan Stonestreet, Pastor Alice Billheimer, Organist/ Choir Director  
Lector: Jackie Harjula  
Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Jackie Brannen

*Please be respectfully silent once our worship service has begun.  
An asterisk (\*) indicates where you are invited to stand.  
**Bold print** indicates that the people speak these responses & prayers.*

## **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** Meditation -- Theodore Dubois

### **Call to Worship**

**One:** Faith gives substance to our hopes. In faith we gather in this time and place, trusting that God is with us.

**Many:** Faith makes us certain of realities we do not see, and gives us courage to live into the unknown

**All:** Let us worship God in spirit and truth. God be with us, so that we will trust you on our journey!

**\*Opening hymn** "Faith of Our Fathers" #710 Blue Hymnal

### **A Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation**

**Faith is acting for good when we'd rather do nothing;  
siding with life when we'd rather be silent.**

**Faith is noiselessly listening when we'd rather shout out;  
paying attention when we'd prefer not to notice;  
standing for right when we'd far rather keep walking.**

**Faith is trusting that after the darkness there will be the light;  
seeing the rainbow as the sign of the sun;  
hearing the rooster crow as hope for the dawn.  
Faith is upsetting the comfortable status quo;  
unreasonable, irrational, a foretaste of heaven;  
the step at the edge to all that is good.**

**We say these words of grace and try to take heart and have courage.**

**Little by little, step by step, we live thankfully, in faith.**

**We believe God is not ashamed of those who long for a better world.  
Indeed, we pray that it is already in the making in each of us. Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

**Scripture Reading** Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

**\*Gloria Patri No. 70 Glory Be to the Father....**

**Message** "Faith in a Strange Land"

**\*Hymn of Meditation** "Abide With Me" #284 Red Hymnal

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns with God and Each Other**

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer.....**

**Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

**Offertory** O Savior Sweet, O Savior Kind -- J. S. Bach, arr by George Blake

**\*Prayer of  
Dedication**

**\*Doxology No. 95 Blue "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow...."**

**\*Closing Hymn** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" #276 Red Hymnal

**Benediction**

**Postlude** All Hail the Power of Jesus Name -- based on the hymn tune "Miles Lane."

**Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, August 7, 2022  
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40**

**Especially we continue to hold in prayer our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.... & those who have lost loved ones in Buffalo, NY and Uvalde, Texas and beyond..... due to gun violence....**

**Please hold in your prayers all those affected by the coronavirus and the families of those who have died from the virus.... And all those families affected by the use of**

addictive drugs among their members....And all those dealing with the ravages of cancer near and far..... And all those affected, which should be every one of us, by the cruel condition of racism which continues to take the lives of too many of our Black brothers and sisters....And all those who have worked tirelessly for the building and rebuilding of our nation into one people, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all And, from Jackie a request for prayers for Kyle Cloudier... and for “Cody,” who doesn’t live locally but needs prayers for guidance; Kristin Parker O’Neal, Jo Ann Parker’s daughter, who has had brain surgery and is home now!; Enid, Ann Foster, Carol Moss, Julie Pollitt, Zeke Bryant, John Flaherty, Heather Van Buskirk, and for Tiffany, Lucy’s granddaughter... And for Arlene from NH.... And for Rev. Wayne Sawyer and Kurt Leidenroth who has broken his leg.

*Please feel free to contact Susan by phone (207)322-1948 or by email at [freerangepastor@gmail.com](mailto:freerangepastor@gmail.com) to have her add or drop any names from the prayer list AND to let her know if you would like for her to stop by for a visit sometime. She’s always glad to have a chat with you!*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thursday-8/4/22.....10:00 am-2:00 pm:  
 Quilters  
 Sunday-8/7/22.....9:30 am: Communion  
 Service  
 .....10:30: Coff  
 ee Time  
 Suggested Food Pantry Donation.....Canned  
 Vegetables

Deacons for August, 2022: Jackie Harjula

Reminders for next Sunday, August 7, 2022:

Greeter/Usher: Arlene

Woodman

Coffee

Host: Margie Kinney Lector: Janet

Dwelley

Flowers:

Laci

DeVarney

Collection Total

for Sunday, 7/24/22:

Pledges - \$ 236.00

Loose - \$1311.45, \$1307.45 is a bequest from Ben Harding's  
estate.  
Total  
- \$1547.45

The 2022 weekly budgeted operating cost for the Church and parsonage is \$1623.00 per week.

**Federated Church of Thomaston  
United Church of Christ  
&  
United Methodist Church  
Together Since 1929**

***Sunday, July 31, 2022***

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.”*

Hebrews 11:1

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WiFi password is #1Church