

Sunday Services on GCTV

Sunday: 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday: 2:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m.

April 2016

First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 155
Gray, ME 04039

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Church office: 657-4279
Church/Supper room: 657-3279
Email: grayfirst@securespeed.us
Website: www.grayfirst.org

Office Hours:

**Rev. Annette: Tuesday &
Thursday with open office
hours 2:00-4:00 on Thursday.**

Rose's Office Hours:

Tuesday & Friday 9:00 – 3:00

*Office hours subject to change.
Please call ahead to be sure.*

First Church Notes

From Pastor Annette:

Do you have a favorite Bible story? I have lots of favorites, but if pressed for just one, it would have to be Luke 24:13-35. It is the story of how the risen Jesus encounters two of his followers who are walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus on Easter Day. They don't recognize that the stranger who has joined them is Jesus. The stranger asks them what they have been talking about on the road, and they proceed to fill him in on all that has transpired in Jerusalem during the past three days, including the strange report of the women who had gone to the tomb that morning, only to find it empty, and had a vision of angels telling them that Jesus was alive. The stranger then opens to them the meaning of the law and the prophets, interpreting Scripture in terms of himself. When the two followers reach their destination, they prevail on the stranger to stay with them, rather than continuing on his journey, and to share with them their evening meal. It is when the stranger breaks bread with them at the table that their eyes are opened, and they recognize that the one with them is their risen Lord.

Why do I love this story so much? Because it is the church's story—our story—of where we can be sure of seeing and meeting the risen Lord. If you want to see Jesus, let him interpret anew for you the Scriptures in terms of himself and his love. If you want to meet Jesus, come to the table where he gives himself to you without reservation in the bread and the cup.

But I always hold these two meeting places—Scripture and Communion—together with a third place where the Gospel of Matthew assures us we can always find Jesus. In Matthew 25 Jesus tells the parable of the Last Judgment, where he reveals to us that we will find him among the hungry, poor, lonely, or oppressed—anyone in need. There we can see him and serve him.

(Continued on page 2)



Lectionary Readings for April 2016

April 3, 2016

- Acts 5:27-32
- Psalm 118: 14-29
- Revelations 1:4-8
- John 20:19-31

April 10, 2016

- Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)
- Psalm 30
- Revelation 5:11-14
- John 21:1-19

April 17, 2016

- Acts 9:36-43
- Psalm 23
- Revelation 7:9-17
- John 10:22-30

April 24, 2016

- Acts 11:1-18
- Psalm 148
- Revelation 21:16
- John 13:31-35

Monthly Financial Report

February 2016 Income and Expenses

Pledges	\$4,887.91
Loose Offering	268.00
UCC Dues	85.00
Initial Envelopes	14.00
Parsonage Rent	1,450.00
Supper (still due \$28.00)	700.10
Coin Jar	13.85
Miscellaneous - Organ Fund	500.00
Donation from Food Pantry	100.00
<u>Donation for Adult Education</u>	<u>70.00</u>

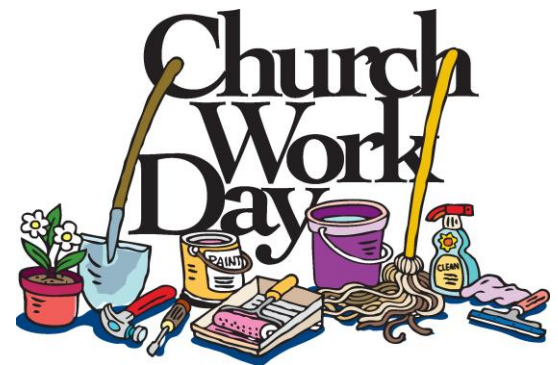
Totals **\$8,088.86**

Expenses for the month of February totaled \$9,822.23. To meet the budget for 2016, our monthly income should be \$9,046.74.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Hutchings

Spring Clean Up Day

The Stewardship Committee asks you to put Saturday April 9th on your calendars for our annual spring cleanup, from 8am to 11am. A signup list will be in the vestry as a reminder of this time for church-wide work as stewards of our land.



April 9, 2016 8-11 a.m.

From Pastor Annette (continued from pg. 1)

Of course the risen Lord is not is not captive to just these three places: word, sacrament, and those in need. Christ is totally free and unbound, and he can meet us anywhere, under any circumstances.

Friends, let us encourage one another this Easter season by sharing with each other our own Jesus sightings!

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP WITH FLOWERS

Join MOFH at
Skillins Greenhouses in Cumberland
For A

Fresh Floral Arranging Class

Tuesday, April 12, 2016
At 6:30 p.m.

Class Fee - \$20

This Class Will Be Taught By
Marie Temm

The Class Will Be Limited
To 15 People

Sign-Up Sheet In The Vestry

For More Information Contact
Sue Pollard

The Awesome Bible Adventurers

Thank you, Don Ray and Richard Wood, for installing the new TV for the Awesome Bible Adventurers. Thank you also to everyone who worked at the barnyard restaurant for the funds that allowed us to purchase this TV. It is a wonderful addition to our music program and because it is wall mounted we are also able to watch the bible videos we have as a group. Thank you all so very much!

Thank you to Boy Scouts Garner and Johnny as well as their leader Charity for cleaning the kitchen in the parish house. The boys needed a service project involving their church. They worked for 2 hours. It looks great! We are blessed to have children in our community and in our church family who willingly use their time to help others.

The Awesome Church Family Connection (An Intergenerational Pen Pal Program)

The MOFH (Membership, Outreach, Fellowship, and Hospitality) Committee is inviting you to participate in a Pen Pal program between the adults and the children of the church.

Purpose: To form a connection between the children of the church and the adults; to help the children and adults to get to know each other through cards and/or notes, (NO gifts) and seeing each other at church.

Signup will be March 13 through April 3.

On Sunday, April 10, at 9:15 am, at the Parish House; a continental breakfast will be served and pen pals will meet each other.

Come and Join the fun!

