



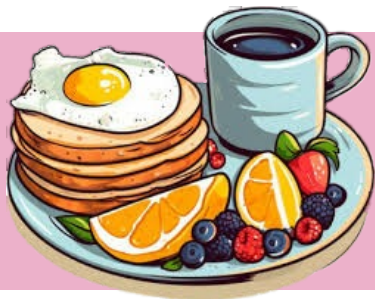
FBC February Newsletter

BE STILL AND KNOW I AM
GOD.
PSALM 46:10



Photo by Clarice

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.
- *Corinthian 13:4 - 8a*



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, February 1 • 8:00 am

Women's Breakfast
Saturday, February 22 • 8:30 am

FEBRUARY GREETERS

- Feb. 2 - Belinda & Fred Crouse
- Feb. 9 - Melissa & Kurt Bragan
- Feb. 16 - Julie Saunders & Leola Pingree
- Feb. 23 - Kim & Nathan Shepard

WEEKLY CHURCH EVENTS AND TIMES

- Sunday AM Worship: 10:30 AM
- Childrens' Sunday School Class, downstairs: 9:15 AM
- Youth Sunday School, downstairs: 9:15 AM
- Adult Sunday School, *The Fear of the Lord*, by Michael Reeves, Reeves shows how the gospel repels our misplaced frets while drawing near to God in holy fear. Fellowship Hall: 9:15 AM
- Sunday Youth Group, Youth Room: 6:15 PM till 8:00 PM
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 9:30 AM (Fall/Winter Schedule), 1 John, started January 14 Fellowship Hall: 9:00 AM Refreshments
- Wednesday Prayer Meeting, Fellowship Cafe: 7:00 AM
- Book Club - Wednesdays, this month: January 15 and 29 at 3 PM (In His Image by Jen Wilkins)
- Friday Morning, Moms in Prayer, 7- 8:00 AM (Speak with Amanda Bermudez if you would like to know more)
- Good News Club - Follows School District Calendar





Birthdays

- February 3 - Shelby Sinclair
- February 4 - Joanne Prescott
145 Zions Hills Rd
Dexter, ME 04930
- February 7 - Walter Akes
64 Railroad Ave
Dexter, Maine 04930
- February 10 - Luke Shepard
68 Lincoln St
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426
- February 18 - Edwin Saunders
155 Sunken Bridge Road
Corinna, ME 04928
- February 20 - Charlotte Davis
290 Bowden Rd
Corinna, ME 04928

There are many opportunities to serve in the church and one of those is providing snacks on Sunday mornings;

THEY NEED NOT BE HOMEMADE!

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church

Greetings to all from the friendly folks at FBC!

We have important updates to share as we enter February. Hopefully the month will have at least a FEW warmer days than our recent rather frigid ones! We love the change of seasons in Maine so let us wait patiently as winter begins to give way to the hope of spring.

UPDATES:

Please speak to, or call (992-3921), our treasurer, Benita Rudmin, if you would like a copy of your church contribution for your tax purposes.

BEAT THE BLUES WINTER LUNCHEON

Sue Bowden and our efficient supper service group have chosen February 23, after morning worship for a luncheon. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church shortly. Plan ahead to attend!

DESSERT OPPORTUNITY FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 COMMUNITY DINNER AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Deacons have planned to solicit 5 poke cakes (white cakes with liquid red Jello poured in holes). If you are interested in helping with this Valentine Project, please sign up at the back of the church.

APPRECIATION FOR MISSIONS MONEY FOR CALEB BERMÚDEZ

Many thanks for your generous gifts of money for Pastor Andrew's brother as he heads out yet again on a mission trip for Kingdom Rain.

Ongoing giving is welcome as these funds will be used for the natives themselves... not to fund his journey.

EASTER CANTATA

Easter is late in April this year for a nice change! On Palm Sunday, April 12 and 13 weekend, we will sing WHAT LOVE IS THIS? written by several of our favorite composers.

Rehearsals begin February 2 at 4:00 PM. Performance time continues to be at 3:00 on both Saturday and Sunday. Dr. Kathleen Clark will be coming in as the new director with Shirley Grant assisting.

IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN HAITI

Pastor Wawa and Josette are back in Haiti... a difficult and dangerous trip... after fleeing to the US earlier. His dedication to the people he loves is endless. His Light for Haiti continues the vital ministry in Port au Prince and in the safer north area of Coupon. Mark, the former school principal, continues to supervise students in a school there. His Light pays the tuitions but no longer operates a school facility. He also offers afterschool programs and Saturday events similar to those happening with Pastor Wawa in Port au Prince. Janet and Laurie report that gang violence continues but the Lord continues to protect the ministries. Our financial support is needed and appreciated. Please pray for this ministry which is operated from right in Maine in Dover-Foxcroft!

The Quiet Seat: Daily Devotional



LEAN IN A LITTLE CLOSER

When I was a kid I was not one for wanting a hug or even giving a hug. It was not because I hated a hug, but my family was not very affectionate. I learned the importance of being hugged and the value of a hug, when I grew up and had my own family! I believe it happened after Jesus came into my life!

I used to hug my kids daily and still do, when I see them. Hugging is much more natural now, than it was for me growing up.

As my kids grew into teens, the hugging continued and the "I love you's," have not ceased either, to this day!

I remember an afternoon a while ago, in which two of my grandkids were visiting. The parents dropped them off for a day and I had a full list of activities planned, for a fun filled afternoon.

I gave my grand daughter a hug and told her I loved her and I had a whole bunch of stuff planned for our day. A big grin came across her face and she turned to unpack her stuff. I turned to finish the dishes while she unpacked. My grandson stepped inside, at which time I told him I loved him and was so glad to see him.

He set his backpack on the bench in the hallway and lingered there, for the duration of the time it took me to do the dishes. At first I thought nothing of it, but than I wondered if something was up. He normally would see if he could play twenty minutes or so on Mine Craft, while he waited for me to get things prepared for our afternoon. Perhaps his parents told him he could not play it today.

I begin to set up our first game at the kitchen table and they joined me. We laughed and told knock, knock jokes while setting up. Before my grandson sat down, he stood beside me at the table, not saying anything. I reached over and tickled him on the side and said what's up buddy. He leaned in close and before he spoke, I realized what he had been waiting for, a hug...

I reached my arm around his shoulder and gave him a big hug. I said is this what you been waiting for. With a big smile and a twinkle in his eye, he said, "Yes Grammie, what took you so long?"

Even when things seem to be going good, do you ever lean in to feel God's presence? That reassurance that God is still in the midst of things can have such a profound effect on our day!

Giving a hug may only take a second out of your day, but missing one can have a very profound effect on the whole day! Lean in and God will touch your day!

Acts 17:27

"That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us."

Let's get to know our church family

Leola Pingree was born in Brewer, Maine, on the fourth of July.

She has five siblings, one of which was a twin sister.

Leola and her family moved to Garland when she was four years old and grew up there.

She married her husband Keith in 1957 until his

passing twelve years ago. They were married for fifty-one years. They raised their children in Garland in the home Leola still resides in for fifty-seven years.

Leola and Keith raised four children together and now Leola enjoys the many visits from her growing family, which includes six grandkids and twelve great grandchildren.

Leola has been a very hard worker over the years. She spent thirty-eight years at Dexter Shoe and the past twenty years private duty caring for others.

Leola began attending the First Baptist Church in the early seventies after coming to know the Lord, she was baptized at the church by Pastor Dunn.

Leola's favorite verse in Scripture is the twenty-third. This verse has always been a source of great comfort to her, especially during her battle with breast cancer, but she praises God that she is cancer survivor now.

Leola continues to keep busy. You will often find her out and about eating lunch with friends.

Her home life is spent gardening, raising house plants, reading, crocheting, putting puzzles together and playing cribbage..

Although she seems to be quite busy, she suffers with a tremendous amount of back pain.

Leola has a brother that lives at Pleasant Meadows, Leon Hewes that she visits often and would like to have prayer for him..

As I talked to Leola, I saw a a tenderhearted person. Her hardship in life did not make her bitter but better. I saw Jesus in her.

She said she has had a good life and doesn't know where she would be without the Lord.

Please pray for Leola and her back pain.

I have been truly blessed knowing Leola. She's a quiet, humble servant, we need a lot more Leola's in this world..



NEW MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

This month, February, the offering will support Kontaktmission's Charles and Kim Redburn who will be heading to Ireland to work with a recently established small church.

(Gospel-believing Christians have declined to approximately 1% of the population)

January's offering went to Kingdom Rain to support Caleb Bermúdez.

These will be ongoing ministry opportunities

Urgent Prayer Needed for Goma

Tuesday January 28th, 2025

Dear Friends,

It's hard to know where to start... we have had our share of evacuations in our 33 years as missionaries: Haiti during the blockade in '94, Zaire following a coup in '97 and again during a civil war in '98, Goma in 2022 when the volcano erupted leaving behind over 50,000 burned homes. We have remained during other crises where we felt our presence was needed: cholera in Haiti, Ebola in Congo, ethnic fighting in South Sudan and even providing relief efforts in Somalia. We've been serving in Goma in the DRC (Congo)



for nine years and have become accustomed to the challenges, adept at meeting needs, and very attached to the people. This is our most difficult evacuation yet.

Bill and I were able to spend time in Goma before things deteriorated, even as the rebels surrounded the town. We had good meetings and contingency planning with staff. We were able to address urgent issues, secure supplies, pay school fees, and deliver items we brought in from the US.

As things deteriorated and rebel troops broke through the government and UN troops along the city limits, we were advised to leave on Friday night, before the border with Rwanda (the only path open) closed. We followed the advice of our partners and sadly in the wee hours of Sunday morning, the city of Goma was breached and fierce fighting in the streets ensued. Eight of our teachers were able to make it to HEAL Africa where about 50 children had fled for safety... some Sunday school children but mostly street children. They were sheltered in a Sunday school classroom until yesterday when bullets pierced the ceiling and window as fierce fighting continued in the streets around the hospital and school compound. They moved to a lower room for safety.

During the day as fighting continued in front of the HEAL Africa compound; a group of soldiers jumped the wall, threatened our staff, took phones and money and personal items... leaving them even more traumatized, but thankfully physically unhurt.

Though the city has no electricity (and therefore no water) the 5,000-liter water tanks we had recently installed were full to the top during this rainy season, which gave both the hospital and school

access to water. Unfortunately, one of the tanks was hit by bullets yesterday afternoon and the water has drained out, though we still have the companion tank. Another blessing is that we had just stocked up sacks of rice and beans for the street children (EBA) program... so those who have taken refuge have been able to have one meal a day.

The home of one of our Sunday School teachers was destroyed when a bomb hit not far from the school, but thankfully he and his family were unhurt. We heard that doctors and nurses at the hospital were told to shelter under the beds due to heavy fighting in the street. The rest of our hospital and teaching staff are staying put in their homes as the incoming soldiers have instructed everyone to remain indoors; albeit without water, electricity, and food for many.

We know God is in control and are thankful for:

- Trained teachers who have a heart for the children
- Facilities funded by many of you which provide shelter for children and staff
- Food in stock because of you who support our street children (EBA) program
- The rains which come every evening to fill our 5000-liter container
- ... and hope that comes anew every morning.

Your prayers are cherished. There will be much work ahead as we prepare already to return when the fighting is

over. We know that God is with these precious ones who endure yet another trial.

*If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

(Psalm 91)

Ann and
Bill Clemmer

