

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EAST SUMNER
National Association of Christian Congregational Churches (NACCC)
Third Sunday in Easter
April 14, 2024

Welcome and Announcements
Prelude.

The Call to Worship

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer. How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Hymn *"Good Christians All, Rejoice"* Hymnal# 307

*** The Gathering Prayer of Confession**

*** The Invitation**

The Lord is perfectly faithful in all things, but we are not. Let us bring our sins and errors before God. Let us pray.

*** The Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, we cannot always make sense of Your purposes. The way may be hidden, the path may appear dark, but sometimes when You seem far off You are at Your most near. Teach us never to despair, however bleak it may seem. When injustice seems all around and peace far off, help us to hear Your words of promise.

Forgive us when our journey is not humble, or faithful, or just.

Forgive us when we do not take heed of Your words.

Forgive us when we do not notice Your presence.

Forgive us when we don't recognize You working in our midst,

Forgive us when we fail to give glory to Your name.

A moment of silent prayer

Come in our weakness and fill us with Your renewing power. Loving God, when we are in a tight place, give us room. We lift our prayers in the name of Jesus the Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*** The Assurance of Pardon**

God sent Jesus not to judge us, but to save us. Dare to accept the gift of a new beginning.

*** The Gloria Patri**

Hymnal #734

Scripture

Acts 3:1-19

p 967/LP 1473

1 John 3:1-7

p 1083/LP 1647

John 16: 16-22

p 957/LP 1460

Sermon

Bill Glass

Hymn

"All I Once Held Dear"

Hymnal # 357

Prayers of the Church - Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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, for ever. Amen.

*** Doxology**

Hymnal #34

Hymn

"Easter Alleluia"

Insert

Benediction

*** Response**

"God be With You (v.1 only)

Hymnal #716

God be with you till we meet again;

By His counsels guide, uphold you,

With His sheep securely fold you;

God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

** All who are able, please stand.*

For church or pastoral matters, feel free to contact Bill Glass (388-2263) or one of the deacons. If you wish to ask for a visit or call, you may place signed notes (comments, etc.) in the offering plate.

The offering is being taken as a retiring offering, with the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary.

By custom, during worship we share in Communion on the first Sunday of each month. If you wish to participate in Communion on another Sunday,

just mention that to the deacon or Bill. Communion is always available after the worship service.

Annual Spring Sale (May 18). The sale includes plants, raffle baskets, beanhole bean lunches, bake sale goods and local vendors. It's time to start planning. The next planning meeting to go over details will be **April 28** and the final check-list meeting will be **May 12**. We try to keep meetings under 90 minutes. All ideas and suggestions to make this a better event are encouraged. Cyndy Norton is the contact for vendors--207-388-2667 or norton@megalink.net. Let's plan some fun.

Work Days. Please mark your calendars for the work days on April 20th and May 4th. There's a lot to do in order to clean up the grounds and the church. There's a chore for everyone, whether you can work outside cleaning up behind the church, or restoring the gravel to the parking lot or doing one of the inside projects. Plan on 8:30am-noon each of those days.

Church calendar-

Today	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following.
	10:45am	Deacons meeting.
	10:45am	Search committee meeting.
Monday, Apr. 15	9am-Noon	Food Bank
Thursday, Apr. 18	11am-2pm	Soup & sandwiches
Saturday, Apr. 20	8:30am-Noon	Work Day!
Sunday, Apr. 21	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following. Nicene Creed. The Pipes.
Sunday, Apr. 28	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following.
Saturday, May 4	8:30am-Noon	Work Day!
Sunday, May 5	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following. Communion.
Sunday, May 12	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following. The Pipes.
Saturday, May 18	9am-1pm	Spring Sale!
Sunday, May 19	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following. The Apostles Creed

This Week's Lectionary.

Mon. Apr. 19	Psalm 150	Jeremiah 30:1-11a	1 John 3:10-16
Tues., Apr. 20	Psalm 150	Hosea 5:15—6:6	2 John 1-6
Wed., Apr. 21	Psalm 150	Proverbs 9:1-6	Mark 16:9-18
Thurs., Apr. 22	Psalm 23	Genesis 30:25-43	Acts 3:17-26
Fri., Apr. 23	Psalm 23	Genesis 46:28—47:6	Acts 4:1-4
Sat., Apr. 24	Psalm 23	Genesis 48:8-19	Mark 6:30-34



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF
EAST SUMNER, MAINE

“We are a welcoming family of faith
who proclaims God’s love and grace in words and deeds,
in covenant with each other and in service to the community.”

Worshipping and Serving since 1802

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207-388-2610 esummercc@gmail.com

<http://eastsumnercongregationalchurch.weebly.com>

Ministers: The Gathered Community of Faith

Today's 3rd Hymn. Today's final hymn is a relatively modern one, with lyrics from 1986, but using a version of a tune we sang last week (*O Sons and Daughters*), which dates from 15th Century France. Its lyrics directly echo the Scriptural texts for today.

Council Highlights.

Treasurer's Report. Information as of 3/31/2024

March offering and misc donations = \$3,469.00

March interest and interest income = \$0

March fundraisers & misc = \$1,104.50 (pie sale)

Total March income = \$4,573.50

Total March expenses = \$4,205.04

Income/expense difference March = \$368.46

Income/expense difference year to date = \$0

Budgeted amount left for expenses through 12/31/23 = \$ 57,271.10

Food Bank food account available = \$20,145.20

Deacons' Fund available = \$ 1,561.16

Communion procedures. We will revert to our pre-pandemic process that uses two trays each of bread and juice. The juice trays will revert to wine in the outer ring and grape juice in the inner ring. To retain the coherency of the meal we will hold both elements (the juice will be passed first, and you can put the cups in the pew holders until we partake of them) and consume them in sequence after all are served both elements.

Additional Fire Extinguishers. We will procure two additional fire extinguishers to ensure that there is one close at hand at each location within the church.

Electrical system review. We will retain an electrician to (1) examine present wiring, (2) install additional circuits in the vestry, kitchen and sanctuary and (3) expand our current CMP service. As well, we continue to plan for permanently locating a portable backup generator in the new covered porch area (outside the food bank) and hardwire it into the church distribution system. The generator would be hooked directly to our propane supply so that we could run it without having to refill its gasoline tank regularly. The generator will be sized to power the kitchen/food bank freezers and refrigerators, plus the furnace and lighting, allowing us to have all church activities even if the CMP supply is out.

April Budgeted Mission - A Christian Ministry in the National Parks

ACMNP is a grassroots, student-led ministry that began in Yellowstone National Park in 1951 with the dream of providing Christian community for the people working in, living in, and visiting the first national park in the world.

Since then — for more than 70 years — ACMNP has given a Christian interpretation to the awe and grandeur of God's creation in the nation's national parks. ACMNP has always been a ministry in, rather than to, the national parks, serving employees, residents, and visitors through interdenominational worship services on Sundays.

Today, ACMNP lives its mission by sending roughly 150-200 ministry team members into 75 locations in 45 national parks from Alaska to the Virgin Islands. Over 30,000 people worship together in ACMNP services every year, experiencing the glory of God by seeing it first-hand — nothing compares to the inspiration that comes from worshipping God the Creator in the beautiful outdoors!

Although this mission is supported by CCES via the budget, if you wish to provide an additional offering for it, just do so either noting on your check that it is for the monthly mission, or placing it in one of the mission offering envelopes in the card holders in the pews.

March Budgeted Mission – One Great Hour of Sharing. We just sent the funds for OGHS to the NACCC for distribution. This year the mission is aid to Palestinians and Israelis who have been impacted by the October 7th attacks in Israel and the subsequent war in Gaza. The principle conduit for NACCC aid to the area is the same partner working with the NACCC in Ukraine – Convoy of Hope. The budgeted amount was \$400 and we sent \$450 since a congregant gave an additional \$50 for this effort.