



Thoughts from the Pastor, September, 2025

“From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”
~ Ephesians 4:16

I’ve been thinking a lot about our upcoming Rally Day on September 14th, partly because on that day so many of our fall programs begin, but also because I’ve been asked several times, “What is Rally Day?”

We return to our 10:00 worship hour on Sept. 7th, and Rally Day is:

- A day in the church where we rally together.
- A renewed energy and joy as we begin the new program year.
- As we return from summer, we renew our commitments and our joy.
- We celebrate all the things God is doing in our church and in our lives.

As part of Rally Day, this renewal is also meant to energize us. As we work together and grow together as the Body of Christ, we need that energy! There are so many ways that we can join together. We join in service, in fellowship, in discipleship, in outreach. And sometimes we might feel overwhelmed with all this energized activity.

But don’t worry, it’s okay. Our Ephesians text reminds us that it’s never one person alone in this life of Christ. We are all of us joined and knit together. And each doing our own part, each of us building and being built up in love.

So even for me, as I look over the busy season ahead, I find myself renewed and filled with joy. God is doing so much through us. And we are working together to share God’s love with each other and with the world around us.

Our Sunday worship hour returns to 10:00am on Sunday, September 7th.

SUMMERTIME PLEDGES We thank all, and there are many who so faithfully give to our church each and every week. However, as we move into September, we find that our bills have outpaced our giving, and we are encouraging you to catch up from Sundays you were away enjoying Summer!

BEGINNING PROCESS OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

As most, if not all of you are aware, I will be retiring as your Pastor on December 31, 2025. I am deeply grateful for the blessings of this church and for my time serving you as Pastor, but through prayer and asking God for discernment, I believe it is time for me to retire, and for the church to prepare for the new adventure God has before you!

The first step in this process is to select a Search Committee for the seeking of the new Pastor. The Officers of the Church have met several times to talk about who might serve on such a committee. Please know that each and every one of you is important to the church and if you are not asked to be part of the committee, it is not because you are not valued.

Through prayer and discussion, the Church Officers have asked four men and four women to be on the Search Committee. The next step is to have an All-Member Meeting to vote to approve the make-up of the Search Committee. That meeting will happen after worship on Sunday, August 31st.

The Search Committee will then meet with our American Baptist Churches of Maine Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Al Fletcher. He will help the Search Committee move forward in a good and positive way.

Please know that while you will know who is on the Search Committee, their process will need to be kept confidential. That means you will not know all the details of what they are doing. What you can do, and need to do, is to keep the work of the Search Committee in your prayers.

Never doubt that God carries United Baptist Church in the palm of His hand and has a plan for the future! I firmly believe that God is preparing the heart of the next Pastor of United Baptist. Be patient and watch the unfolding of God's plan.

NOTICE TO

ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH OF SACO, MAINE

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH OF SACO, MAINE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, August 31, 2025 FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO ACCEPT THE SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO HAVE AGREED TO SERVE TO FIND AN INTERIM PASTOR AND A NEW PASTOR FOR UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH.

ANN GRANT, CLERK



Labor Day, observed on the first Monday of September, is a federal holiday in the United States that celebrates the social and economic achievements of American workers. It commemorates the contributions of workers to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of the nation. The holiday was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century to recognize the struggles and achievements of workers in their fight for better working conditions, reasonable hours, and fair wages.



IN MEMORIAM

Charles Edward Gladu died May 31, 2025. An active member of UBC since 2007, he is survived by his wife, Ruth, and sons Jonathan and Timothy and their families.

Patricia A Bedell died June 25, 2025. Pat joined the church through the waters of baptism on April 7, 1974. She and her husband, Ormand, raised their large family and all were active here in their younger days. She is survived by her son Steve Bedell along with other children.

Charles E Fortier died August 10, 2025. Charlie joined the church on June 7, 1981. For many, many years he faithfully served as usher and his was the smiling face that greeted you when you entered the Sanctuary on a Sunday. He and his late wife, Muriel, were very generous in so many quiet ways, and he will be missed.

Donald C. Spulick died August 12, 2025. Don joined the church October 9, 2013. Faithful in attendance always with a smile, he will be missed. He is survived by his wife Marie and children and grandchildren.

Patricia Lutz died February 25, 2025. Long time resident of Ocean Park and member of United Baptist Church, she was the granddaughter of Anne and Burton Winslow. Our stained glass rose crown and cross window was given by Anne in memory of Burton in 1929. A memorial service will be held September 18th, at 11:00 at Laurel Hill Cemetery. All are welcome

Jesus said, Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. John 11:25



GRIEFSHARE

We will be offering the 13-week series GriefShare beginning on *Wednesday, September 10th* from 10-11:30 am. GriefShare is a powerful ministry to help anyone who has suffered the death of a loved one. If you, or someone you know is interested in taking part in this, please speak with Beverly.

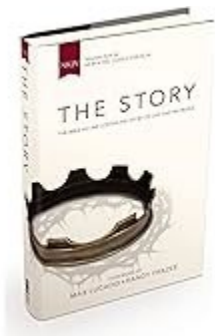


SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES SEPTEMBER 14TH

Our Sunday School will resume for the 2025-2026 school year on September 14th. Children attend the beginning of worship, and then go to their classes during our gathering hymns.

We offer two Sunday School Classes each Sunday. We have one class for young children through 6th grade, and another class for youth.

Our teachers for the 2025-2026 school year are: Linda Blades, Nancy deMiranda, Andrea Dresser, Bill and Mary Jones, Margie McDonald, Ken and Bob Maxfield, and Barbara and Hannah Publicover.



TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our 10:00am Tuesday Bible Study will resume on *Tuesday, September 9th*.

This study includes a friendly group of people, and the group is open to anyone no matter how well you know scripture.

This Fall, we will be looking at *The Story*, by Max Lucado. *The Story* is a dynamic, powerful, and rewarding experience, helping people everywhere experience Scripture like never before. Carefully selected verses from the Bible are organized chronologically and written in the form of a novel from Genesis to Revelation, providing a wonderful way to engage the entire Bible!

Copies of this hard copy book are available from Beverly for the cost of \$10.00.



ALL CHURCH PICNIC

Our Deacons are hosting an all-church picnic following worship on *Sunday, September 14th*. While we have had a picnic in September for many years, this one will be a little different. The picnic will be held in the Vestry with the food BBQ outside! We will open one of the windows on the credit union side of the church and pass the hamburgers and hotdogs in to our servers. There will be salads and beverages and desserts and lots of fun! Please plan on attending!



READERS THEATER

The Board of Christian Education will be offering a Reader's Theater on *Sunday, October 19th* during our Fellowship Hour. The program is entitled "And So They Had None." Watch for more information to come!



LITTLE FOLK NURSERY SCHOOL

This photo was taken last June at the graduation ceremony held in our Vestry of Little Folk Nursery School. Begun in 1973 as an outreach ministry of United Baptist, this Fall will mark the year of outreach to our community, providing a loving, nurturing, Christian setting for children to learn and grow! Blessings on the school and the children who attend!



HYMN SING

Janice St. Cyr and Glenn Moseley will lead us in a hymn sing in our Sanctuary directly following worship on Sunday, September 21. Fellowship hour will follow down in the Vestry. This is a wonderful opportunity to sing some of the hymns we do not often share in worship, and to sing some of our favorite hymns too! See you there!



JIGSAW PUZZLE EXCHANGE

We have an on-going jigsaw puzzle exchange on a table in our Vestry. With puzzles from 300 pieces through 1,000 pieces, the puzzles are available free of charge! Take one to enjoy – we have lots!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING Offering totaled \$1,000.00 this year. This offering is used to assist people in the midst of crisis such as hurricanes and wild fires, and also to provide assistance to programs providing long term assistance. It is a very valuable offering, and we thank to all who gave!



SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

For well over 20 years, we have collected school supplies during the month of August. The donations include backpacks, pencils, pens, small calculators, colored pencils, markers, scissors, rulers, notebook, and more! The supplies are given to children in our own congregation, and people who stop by church looking for supplies. Anything left over is then given to our Saco Schools to hand out as needed. This effort is a great help to children and gets them off to a good start for the school year. This year we collected 19 backpacks and lots of items to put in them! **Thanks to all who gave!**

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to have three individuals join United Baptist Church. Joining our church on August 10, 2025 are Anne Daisey, Sam Daisey, and Kimberly Lombardi. We are a better, stronger church with these new members!

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



FUNKY DIVAS - December 21st at 2:00 pm

Christmas Sunday will be December 21st with all the beauty of Christmas through scripture, music and decoration and a Happy Birthday Jesus celebration during coffee hour. To cap the day off, we will be having a return of the musical group *Funky Divas of Gospel with their Christmas Concert at 2:00 pm!* Their concert is FREE and appropriate for all ages. Spread the word!



HOLLY BERRY FAIR Saturday, December 6th, from 8:30-1:00 pm.

Our Holly Berry Fair will be held December 6, 2025, and our fair chairs, Sue Bedell, Pam Salvas, Rita Smith and Donna Snow have been hard at work in preparation. They are happy to announce that all the tables – gift baskets, baked goods, jewelry, Grandma's Christmas Attic, crafts – have an individual to oversee them. Now we just need people to help staff the tables and items to sell!

Anne Daisey is having monthly Craft meetings to work on crafts for the fair – watch for dates for these in our weekly announcements.

As we move towards this season of harvest, think about what jellies and jams and canned vegetables you can make for the fair!

Get your knitting needles and sewing machines going!

There are lots of ways to help. Speak with one of our fair chairs to see how you can

Giggle Page

By the time Bobby arrived, the football game had already started. “Why are you so late?” asked his friend. “I couldn’t decide between going to church and going to the football game. So, I tossed a coin,” said Bobby. “But that shouldn’t have taken too long.” said the friend. “Well, I had to toss it 35 times.”

A Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest were good friends. At a picnic one day, the priest was eating a ham sandwich. “You know,” he said to his friend, “this ham sandwich is delicious. I know you’re not supposed to eat ham, but I don’t understand why such a good thing would be forbidden. When will you break down and try it?” To which the rabbi replied, “At your wedding.”

Top 10 reasons God made Eve

1. God was worried that Adam would frequently become lost in the garden because he would not ask for directions.
2. God knew that one day Adam would require someone to locate and hand him the remote.
3. God knew Adam would never go out and buy himself a new fig leaf when his wore out and would therefore need Eve to buy one for him.
4. God knew Adam would never be able to make a doctor, dentist or haircut appointment for himself.
5. God knew Adam would never remember which night to put the garbage on the curb.
6. God knew if the world was to be populated, men would never be able to handle the pain and discomfort of childbearing.
7. As the Keeper of the Garden, since he didn’t have metal sheds or greenhouses, Adam would never remember where he left his tools.
8. Apparently, Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when God caught him hiding in the garden.
9. As the Bible says, “It is not good for man to be alone!”
10. When God finished the creation of Adam, He stepped back, scratched His head and said, “I can do much better than that!”

Hymns for Christians over 65 years old

- Give Me the Old Timers Religion
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
- Just a Slower Walk with Thee
- Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up
- Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
- Guide Me, O Thou, Great Lord God, I’ve Forgotten Where I’ve Parked the Car
- Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One by One
- Blessed Insurance
- It Is Well with My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH
318 MAIN STREET
SACO, MAINE 04072

SEPTEMBER 2025



UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: Rev. Beverly M. Lowell
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Margie McDonald
BOOKKEEPER: Danielle Roberge
ORGANIST: Janice St. Cyr
MUSIC COORDINATOR: Glenn Moseley

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Friday 8:00am – Noon
Telephone 283-3411 or 282-0320
Email: ubc.bev@gmail.com
ubcsaco.office@gmail.com
Web site: unitedbaptistsaco.org
Friend United Baptist on Facebook@[sacounitedbaptist](https://www.facebook.com/sacounitedbaptist)