

THE BELL RINGER

Calling all to gather in His name

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Greetings in Jesus' Name

We are so glad you're interested in our church. We are people who love Jesus and who want others to know the joy and purpose that come with following Him. We are a friendly American Baptist Church committed to Jesus Christ and the work of His kingdom. We aim to be a loving, growing family in Jesus, and we seek to walk humbly with God, obedient to His Word. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are working to love and serve others. We invite you to join us in experiencing and sharing this abundant life.

From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Jeffrey R. Patnaude, Senior Pastor

“He Humbled Himself”

The Bible compares Adam and Jesus at least a few times. Each time, the scripture describes how Jesus triumphed where Adam failed. In the desert Jesus was tempted but did not sin (Matthew 4). Adam and Eve were tempted in the Garden and did sin. And hey, a Garden with lots of delicious fruit is a lot easier to deal with than a desert with no food! Paul's letter to the Romans compares Jesus as the “second Adam”

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to the first. Where the first Adam failed, the “Second Adam,” Jesus, triumphed.

What was Adam and Eve's failure in the Garden? Well, they ate the fruit of the tree that God told them not to eat. So, they disobeyed God. But that is only their sin seen at the surface level. What was going on inside them? Why did they do this? What was their motivation, their temptation? Genesis 3 says the serpent told them, “You will not surely die! For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God...” Adam and Eve were told they could become like God if they ate of the fruit. Again, that's not so bad. After all, shouldn't we all strive to be like God?

It wasn't their goal, per se, that was the problem, it was their method and motivation. The serpent was implying that God had been lying to them and that they could become like Him and therefore become His equal. They believed the serpent! We know because they went ahead and disobeyed God. So,

they had stopped trusting God and believed the serpent instead! Their method of gaining wisdom was not to stick with God's way, but to take up the serpent's way. They distrusted God and in pride rejected His way for the serpent's way. They broke trust with God and their relationship with Him was forever changed.

I got to thinking about this when I was reading in Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. There is a famous verse there that talks about the humility of Jesus. There is a line in that verse that makes me think about how the first Adam failed, but Jesus, the "Second Adam" triumphed. Adam's failure and Jesus' triumph weren't just about willpower. In other words, it wasn't just that Jesus had more willpower than Adam so when He was tempted, He was able to resist. No, it was about Jesus' attitude. Here's the verse.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!
-Philippians 2:5-8

If there was ever a human being who had the right to think of Himself as God's equal it was Jesus Christ. He IS God the Son, the second person of the Trinity, incarnate. As Paul says in the verse from Philippians above—He was "...in very nature God..." Yet, though He had the right to consider Himself equal with God, He did not exercise that right. Instead, He humbled Himself. As Jesus Himself says in Matthew 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart: and you will find rest for your souls."

In fact, there is even language in Philippians that makes one think of Adam and Eve, standing in front of the tree, being tempted by the serpent—of their actions and of Christ's restraint in taking the same action. What action am I talking about? Grasping. Adam and Eve considered equality with God something they could and should attain, even if it meant disobeying Him. They had no right to such a position or to the means to gain it, but proudly and selfishly considered themselves worthy of it anyway. Jesus, God the Son incarnate had the right and the worth, but not the pride. Therefore, His response to the temptation of equality with God is summed up in

Philippians, "[He]...did not consider equality with God something to be grasped."

Adam and Eve reached out and took the fruit and ate. Jesus Christ stayed His hand, did not grasp at equality with God, and instead chose humility before God the Father. "He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross." Philippians also tells us that this should be our attitude as well. That humility leads to Godliness and pride never does. "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

What is the end of all this for Jesus? Again, Philippians tells us, "Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place!" (Philippians 2:9). And Jesus promised us the same kind of reward if we are humble, "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 14:11) And indeed, all those who will humble themselves, realize their faults and inability to save themselves from sin and run to Jesus and take refuge in Him, will be exalted—forgiven, restored to a right relationship with God and given an eternal place in Heaven!

Let us therefore humble ourselves under God's almighty hand, that He may lift us up in due time.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeff

Sympathies and Concerns



Let's continue to keep all unsaved loved ones in our prayers, as well as members of our church family who are unable to join us on Sunday mornings due to illness or other difficulties.

Joan Pettengill needs prayers. Joan has been a patient at Northern Light Blue Hill Hospital suffering from a cardiopulmonary ailment. Let's pray that Joan's doctors can quickly diagnose her problems and begin effective treatment.

Please add Raquel Dorr to your prayer concerns as she explores treatment options with doctors at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston for removal of a tumor recently found at the base of her skull.

Signs of Faith



Spirited Moments

“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”

C.S. Lewis

“If you look at the world, you’ll be distressed. If you look within, you’ll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you’ll be at rest.”

Corrie Ten Boom

“It seems to me that election season is just a Petri dish for anger and cynicism.”

Max Lucado

LOL

Shout-out to everyone who can still remember their childhood phone number but can't remember the password they created yesterday. You are my people.

Community Outreach

John Clapp reminds us that Tree of Life food pantry clients continue to need our pet food donations. Pasta, canned soups and bathroom tissue are always welcome contributions. What a big difference we can make in the lives of our neighbors in need with such small donations from our kitchen shelves. Please put

your contributions in the Tree of Life basket in the vestibule.

Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning at the church will take place on Saturday, April 13, from 8 a.m. ‘til? There will be coffee and Jackie Butler’s homemade doughnuts available. Rain date is Saturday, April 20. Everyone is invited to pitch in and lend a hand as we spruce up our beloved church and grounds. Strong backs are especially welcome! Bring gloves, rakes, shovels, brooms, wheelbarrows and anything else you think would be helpful.

Children’s Ministry



“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

Children’s Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. in the Chapel building. Please contact Christian Education leader Allison Charles at 374-9918 or 266-7019 for more information.

Sunday School teachers for the 2023-24 year are:

Pre-K and Kindergarten	Danner Curtis
Grades 1 and 2	Allison Charles
Grades 3 and 4	Nancy Bates
Grades 5 through 7	Daniel & Katrina Grindle
Grades 8 through 12	Alma Mote



Our Youth Group leaders, Daniel and Katrina Grindle, are making plans for a Youth Group trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, this summer to attend a

show at the famous Sight & Sound Theatre there. If you've never been, here's what they're all about...

Sight & Sound® is a ministry on a mission to bring the Bible to life through live theater in Lancaster County, PA. What started 45 years ago as a traveling multimedia show has today become a destination for over 25 million people. This inspiring family experience includes a majestic 2,000-seat theatre, a massive 300-foot wrap-around stage, a professional cast, spectacular sets up to 40 feet high and a variety of live animals. Go back in time and witness the greatest stories of the Bible as they come to life right before your eyes!



Junior Church is for children in kindergarten through 5th grade and is held on the main floor of the Chapel building beginning at 10:45 a.m.

Please note that there will be no Junior Church on Easter Sunday. Also, please remember there is no Junior Church on Communion Sundays.

Member News

The hockey-loving Astbury family has announced the conclusion of this year's hockey season and posted this photo with the following comment:



"Claire's Brewer Team goes undefeated 5-0 in their tournament and brings home the gold medal 🏆!! Let's go!!! They played incredibly well and grew so much this season!"

Daniel and Katrina Grindle have been busy adding to their family. You all know Colin Meshey (our substitute pastor when needed, owner of the commercial cleaning company that cleans our buildings, as well as owner of the Dairy Port ice cream stand in Bucksport 🤔) his wife, Faith, and their children, from their many appearances in our worship services and potluck lunches. Katrina and Faith have become friends and shared photos of their respective Australian Shepherd pooches. As it happens, the Meshey family recently acquired a second Australian Shepherd pup from Windy Ridge Farm. After seeing photos of the new Meshey pup, named Nova, Daniel and Katrina made the decision to expand their family by adding one of Nova's siblings to their own household. Her name is Daisy and she's a total sweetheart. Welcome to the family, Daisy!



Speaking of the Meshey family, before Nova's arrival, Colin and Faith welcomed their sixth child,

Caeli Harper Meshey, on October 27. Here's the little cutie at four months...



Pastor Jeff's wife, Mary Beth Patnaude, took a couple of days recently to travel to Orlando, Florida, with her sister, Mary Donovan. The purpose of the trip was for Mary Beth to accept a very special award from the American Occupational Therapy Association. Here she is accepting her award at the Inspire conference...



"This afternoon, Dr. Mary Beth Patnaude was added to the prestigious Roster of Fellows at the American Occupational Therapy Inspire 2024 conference. Congratulations, Dr. Patnaude, DHSc, OTR/L, FAOTA, what a well-deserved recognition!"

Jon Woodward is recovering from his recent cataract surgery. Sandy reports that he is doing well, but can't wait to be pronounced A-okay by his eye surgeon. Jon and Sandy will be headed to sunny Florida shortly where Jon can put his feet up and fully relax for a few days — and maybe do some fishing?



An April Day

When the warm sun, that brings
Seed-time and harvest, has returned again,
'T is sweet to visit the still wood, where springs
The first flower of the plain.

I love the season well,
When forest glades are teeming with bright forms,
Nor dark and many-folded clouds foretell
The coming-on of storms.

From the earth's loosened mould
The sapling draws its sustenance, and thrives;
Though stricken to the heart with winter's cold,
The drooping tree revives.

The softly-warbled song
Comes from the pleasant woods, and colored wings
Glance quick in the bright sun, that moves along
The forest openings.

When the bright sunset fills
The silver woods with light, the green slope throws
Its shadows in the hollows of the hills,
And wide the upland glows.

And when the eve is born,
In the blue lake the sky, o'er-reaching far,
Is hollowed out and the moon dips her horn,
And twinkles many a star.

Inverted in the tide
Stand the gray rocks, and trembling shadows throw,
And the fair trees look over, side by side,
And see themselves below.

Sweet April! many a thought
Is wedded unto thee, as hearts are wed;
Nor shall they fail, till, to its autumn brought,
Life's golden fruit is shed.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Birthday and Anniversary Greetings

Daron Clifford
Josiah Walden
Keegan Butler
Paul Zierk
Jessica Astbury
Deborah Carter

April 5
April 8
April 10
April 10
April 13
April 15

Happy Birthday to

Stacey Walden
Schyler Dorr
Sue Fenders
Tommy Astbury
Corina Walden
Amos Lowry

April 17
April 18
April 18
April 19
April 28
April 30

Happy Anniversary to



Are you on our Birthday or Wedding Anniversary list? If not, please let us know by e-mail to fbcbluehill.office@gmail.com so we might celebrate with you!

Kids Korner

Color me!



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Adults and Children 9 a.m.	1 Bible Study  Ladies 12:30 p.m. Men 4:30 p.m.	2 Trustees 4:30 p.m.	3	4  Praise Team  Prayer Team 4:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:30 p.m.	5	6
7 Communion  Potluck Lunch	8 Bible Study  Ladies 12:30 p.m. Men 4:30 p.m.	9	10  Happy Siblings Day	11  Praise Team  Prayer Team 4:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:30 p.m.	12  NATIONAL GRILLED CHEESE DAY	13  Church Cleanup 8 a.m. Coffee & Doughnuts
14	15 Bible Study  Ladies 12:30 p.m. Men 4:30 p.m.	16 Advisory Board 4:30 p.m.	17	18  Praise Team  Prayer Team 4:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:30 p.m.	19	20
21	22 Bible Study  Ladies 12:30 p.m. Men 4:30 p.m.	23 Deacons 4:30 p.m.	24	25  Praise Team  Prayer Team 4:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:30 p.m.	26	27
28	29 Bible Study  Ladies & Men 4:30 p.m. Missionary Tim Long visits	30	 Sundays 10:45 a.m.	 Sundays @ noon	<i>When we feed our faith, we starve our doubts.</i>	

Notes
