


From: adminassist@elijahkellloggchurch.org 
Subject: Weekly News & Notes (11-16-23)
Date: November 16, 2023 at 12:10 PM
To: Stephanie Alexander adminassist@elijahkellloggchurch.org



Sunday services can be heard live on the radio at WHPW 97.3 FM. Or watch previous weeks on the following Vimeo link:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7960701>

We hope you will join us for worship this Sunday at 10:00am. In leu of Fellowship this week, we will be having a Stewardship Brunch. Please see the announcement below for details.

Fellowship Hour is a great way to get to visit with people. Hospitality needs your help hosting this time. Boards, Committees and individuals are welcome to sign up for Sundays in December. Please see the signup sheet on the wall as you enter the kitchen.

*****ATTENTION - Mold Bros. to start work on Monday, November 20th*****

Mold Bros. are scheduled to start the cleaning and sanitization of the entire basement to kill all mold spores present. No one will be permitted to enter the basement for two weeks, from November 20th – December 1st.

Thank you,
Dave Fitzgerald

Holiday Office Hours – The office will be closed on Wednesday, November 22nd and Thursday, November 23rd. If you have anything you would like announce in the weekly email or bulletin, please have it to Stephanie no later than 5pm on Tuesday, November 21st.

2024 Pledge Envelopes - It's hard to believe, but 2024 is right around the corner which means it's time to order pledge envelopes. If you would like to continue to receive pledge envelopes, you need to do nothing and the envelopes will be ordered for you. If you receive pledge envelopes but do not need them this year, please let Stephanie know by Friday December 1st. If you do not currently receive envelopes but would like to for the coming year, please let Stephanie know by Friday, December 1st. Envelopes will be ordered the first week of December to ensure they arrive by January 1st. Thank you!

A Message from Pastor Joe

Dear Friends in Christ at the Elijah Kellogg Church,

After the service of worship this week everyone is invited to the Stewardship Brunch. Do note: what had traditionally been a Stewardship Breakfast this a Brunch this year. After everyone eats Council members will engage people at each table about **YOUR IDEAS** when it comes to a five year plan. Below are several of my ideas which I outlined in a *News and Notes* several weeks ago.

Modern technology needs to be adopted. Everything should be assessed from live streaming (being worked on), to online giving, to office computer equipment to updating the church website. Note: most church members want to attract young people and a web site is a place young people look at first. A security system is needed and, like live streaming, that is being worked on. An industrial sized microwave in the kitchen would be very helpful. Last, the Meeting House worship space sound system needs a very different approach.

Another recommendation is that the by-laws need to be re-written. In one sense, there is nothing more to be said about that. However, a starting point might be to look at by-laws other churches use.

There also needs to be a system of legacy giving which invites people to remember the church in their Will. Why? This is a reality of the modern non-profit world, i.e.: this is true of all non-profits. Any non-profit which does not have a growing endowment will eventually not have the finances it needs to sustain itself. Put simply, that is the way our economy now works. It is reality which should not be ignored.

Of course, an overview of any five year plan for a church always needs to consider where our journey together and our with God will take us. Just like any plan, there is no way to predict what will happen. But this is sure: we can strive to remain faithful— faithful to the call of God, the love of God.

See you in church.

Joe Connolly

CONTACT INFORMATION:

9 Ward Circle

Brunswick, Maine 04011

607-226-7141

josephconnollyjr@gmail.com

SERMON BLOG: <https://localpastor.net/>

Pastor Joe's office hours for the week of November 20th – 24th - Monday, November 20th from 9:00 - 11:00.

The Bible Study passage for Monday, November 20th at 11:00 a.m. is Ephesians 1:15-23.

Stewardship Brunch – Sunday, November 19th following worship in Fellowship Hall

Dear Friends,

After worship service Sunday we will gather in Fellowship Hall to enjoy a delicious brunch, prepared in honor of the church's members and friends who support us through their financial gifts and volunteerism. Stewardship breakfast (this year a brunch) has always been a beloved recognition of the generosity that sustains all the good work of the church.

This year, at the behest of the Church Council, we are piggybacking that event with a brainstorming session to help the Council develop a five-year plan. These will be guided discussions whose purpose is to elicit ideas from everyone on where we'd like to see the church in 2028. We've had casual conversations with individual church members in the last couple of months; these small group discussions are the follow-up. Council members will take notes at the discussions and bring back the information to the Council to consider next steps.

Here are the questions we're using to frame the discussion. There are no right or wrong answers!

And if you can't make it Sunday, please feel free to give your answers to these questions to any member of the Council.

Thank you!

Five-year plan

Overarching idea: When you envision this church community in 2028, what do you see? What is different, the same? What would you emphasize, what would you minimize?

1. What do you think are the top three priorities for this church to attain by 2028? Why?
2. How do you see staffing over the next several years? We are pursuing a full-time, settled minister. We currently have a 20-hour per week administrative assistant, a part-time bookkeeper and an accompanist. Our Christian Ed and Music Director positions are vacant. Should we leave it at that? Is there a

MUSIC DIRECTOR positions are vacant. SHOULD WE LEAVE IT AT THAT? IS THERE A better way to align our staffing?

3. Several people said they want to see an increase in community outreach by the church. What does that look like? Extending ourselves to offer more companionship/services to Harpswell's aging population? Becoming more of a community hub by opening our facility to more organizations affordably? Inserting ourselves into community activities in an intentional way (EKC booths at Harpswell Days, Garden Club festival, Memorial Day parade tours, summer tours of the church in conjunction with Harpswell Historical Society hours?)
4. Where should we be from a technology perspective in five years? Live, streaming services; adequate internet speeds and service to Zoom meetings; a robust website that announces all our activities and serves as an ambassador to the world outside our Sunday services?
5. Finances: How do we stabilize/grow our financial foundation so we can do all that we propose? Currently, pledges make up about 65% of our budget with the remainder coming from events, endowment gains, rentals, etc. Are there untapped sources (making our kitchen/event assets – plates, silverware, coffee urns, tables, chairs, tents available to rent?) Can we commit to legacy giving as a congregation?
6. Other ideas?

Please join members of the Church Council on Sunday, Nov. 19, for small-group discussions about our five-year plan. The conversations will commence after a stewardship brunch to celebrate the on-going support of EKC members and friends. Please join us to enjoy a fabulous meal and then brainstorm about how we see EKC in 2028.

Christian Education

Please join us for a fun free movie event!

Drinks & snacks are provided. Please bring your own lunch or bring a dish to share if you would like.

The event starts at 11:30am on December 2nd.

The movie will begin at 12PM.



Thank you,
The Christian Education Board



An Update from the Pulpit Committee

We continue the search process. The pulpit committee continues to meet to review application materials from prospective pastors, follow-up with interviews and reference or background checks, as well as viewing the on-line sermons provided by applicants.

We have appointed Becky Gallery to represent us on the future Pastoral Relations Committee, and both Carrie Bubier and Becky Gallery to join representatives from Board of Finance to work on a Minister's Compensation sub-committee.

Ashley Braley, Carrie Bubier, Becky Gallery, Bill Greenwood, Sharon Kirker, Ben Skinner and Wendy Van Damme

Wanted ** Advertising Person

After a couple of years of doing the advertising for church events, activities and suppers, I am ready to pass the baton to someone else. I have completed the ad for our upcoming Christmas Services with the Anchor, and will be ready to work with someone to start off the New Year! Please contact me if you are interested, and I have good notes to pass along to our new person.

Thank you,
Carrie Bubier

Moment for Missions

Blanket Support - Envelopes will be in the pews this Sunday for your Blanket

Support. Should you choose to give by check, please make it out to EKC with a notation of CWS in the memo line.

Angel Tree - Our Angels are on the tree and all gifts must be returned by December 3rd. **Please remember that they are to be unwrapped and your Angel tag needs to be included within your bag of gifts.** If you have any questions on procedures, please contact Carrie Bubier.

Missions Donations for the month of November - Your Board of Missions was able to disburse funds totaling \$1400 for the month of November, due to the generous pre-payment of Mission pledges.

Monies went to: MCHPP (The Food Bank)

\$400

The Salvation Army (For gift cards and unfilled requests)

\$400

The Gathering Place (Serving many homeless needs)

\$300

Church World Service (1st time we've supplemented

\$300

additional blankets)

Food Bank (MCCHP)

The food bank has notified us of the following needs to restock their shelves:

- Canned Stew or Canned Pastas, ie., Chef Boyardee, Spaghetios, etc.
- Hearty Canned Soups (like Progresso)
- Spaghetti or Pasta Sauces
- Toilet Tissue

(Might we suggest some additional foodstuffs in line with the Thanksgiving holiday? Cranberry juice boxes, cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes, canned green beans or peas.) Instant puddings or Jello could be festive.

Thank you,
Your busy Missions Board