


**From:** adminassist@elijahkellloggchurch.org   
**Subject:** Weekly News & Notes (9-28-23)  
**Date:** September 28, 2023 at 11:02 AM  
**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. After the service, please join us for Fellowship.

**The office will be closed next Thursday, October 5th and the following Thursday, October 12th. If you have something you would like included in the weekly News & Notes or in the bulletin, please have it to Stephanie no later than Tuesday, October 3rd or Tuesday October 10th. Thank you!**

## From the Deacons

We hope to see you soon, and we are happy to be celebrating communion this Sunday. Masks are still recommended though not required inside the church building. The windows will be open a little, so please dress warmly. Here are recommendations and info from the CDC website:

In **Cumberland County, Maine**, the COVID-19 hospital admission level is **Low**.

- [Stay up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines.
- Maintain [ventilation improvements](#).
- Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow recommendations for [isolation](#) if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow the recommendations for [what to do if you are exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19.
- If you are at [high risk of getting very sick](#), talk with a healthcare provider about additional prevention actions.

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a high-quality mask when indoors in public.

## FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The Congregational Council has started to develop a five-year strategic plan that will provide a framework for the Church's mission and activities moving forward.

In an effort to be as inclusive as possible in the process and to give everyone in the Church an opportunity to participate and offer suggestions and ideas of how they

would like to see the Church function over the next five years, the Council is encouraging everyone to think about their ideas for our priorities and how we allocate our resources so that the Church remains vibrant and relevant for its members and the community - what is our role in the community, with each other, and with God?

We encourage you to think about these things and talk with members of the Congregational Council at the next two coffee hours on October 1st and 8th following the worship services. Then during the coffee hour on October 15 we'll convene in small group discussions in an effort to clarify your thoughts and ideas.

If you are unable to attend in-person, feel free to contact any member of the Congregational Council directly.

Thank you for your time and consideration as we make the effort to define a path forward that advances our Church's mission and enhances its relevance for each of us, our community and our World.

**Your Congregational Council,**

Ashley Braley  
Carrie Bubier  
Linda Clement  
Joe Connolly  
Carol Coultas  
Kay Greenwood  
Nancy Hurst  
Gail Johnson  
Ned Pierce  
Nancy Simboli  
Eric Wohltjen

## A Word from Pastor Joe

Dear Friends in Christ at the Elijah Kellogg Church,

Last Sunday and again in this edition of *News and Notes* the Moderator, Ned Pierce, announced the Council will seek everyone's input about developing a Five Year Plan for the church. That leads to an obvious question: what is a plan? What is any plan we make? There are two ideas which are necessary to address concerning **ANY** plans.

First (to use an example), perhaps the most planned undertaking of the Twentieth Century was the Apollo Moon landing. Twice things did not go as planned. The three astronauts died on the launch pad when the Apollo One capsule caught fire. What did

NASA do in response? They re-planned everything they had done to that point.

Then Apollo 13 was seared into our collective memory because there was an explosion on the craft. What did NASA do in response to that emergency? The astronauts used the landing vehicle as a “lifeboat.” Back at mission control everyone scrambled to find a way to keep the crew alive until they returned to earth. The bottom line: they improvised.

So, despite all the planning and re-planning, despite all the back-up systems put in place because of the Apollo One tragedy, all their planning failed so they improvised.

The first thing to remember about plans, any plans, is the best laid plans of mice and men.... I don't think I have to finish that sentence.

Please do not mis-interpret that by thinking goals aren't needed. Goals are very good and even valuable. But frozen goals are by definition an impediment to progress. The reality of goals is they can and must change because of conditions. Changing conditions means revising plans and sometimes even means improvisation is essential.

The second necessary idea about planning is obvious: time moves forward. Once a five year plan is in place one year will pass. Does that mean there are only four years left in the plan? No. Year after year after year after year the plan must be revisited and redrawn. Why? A five year goal is a reasonable time frame for a plan. After one year the plan must be revisited, rethought and then it will still be a five year plan.

To reiterate, goals are very good, even valuable. But frozen goals become by definition an impediment to progress. Any goal needs to change when and as conditions change. It is probably conditions will change every year.

A rock solid plan allows for both re-planning and improvisation. There is a very fancy theological term I use when re-planning and improvisation are needed: CHANGE.

See you in church.

Joe Connolly

CONTACT INFORMATION:

9 Ward Circle

Brunswick, Maine 04011

607-226-7141

[josephconnollyjr@gmail.com](mailto:josephconnollyjr@gmail.com)

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

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

**OFFICE HOURS FOR THE WEEK OF 10/02 - 10/06 - Monday, 10/02 - 9:00 - 11:00.**

**The Bible Study passage for Monday 10/02 at 11:00 a.m. is Philippians 3:4b-14.**

## Women's Fellowship

Where: Fellowship Hall;  
When October 3rd at 11:00AM

Women's Fellowship would like to invite everyone to a program by Andrea Lauerman, the Program Director of "Sacred Ground". This is a program which uses group discussions led by trained facilitators with the overall goal of improving the racial disparities in our society. Come and learn more about the program and the possibilities it offers us.

For more information, contact Ruth Smith at 833-6246 or [jandrsmith@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jandrsmith@myfairpoint.net) or at fellowship hour.

## On-Line Auction & Holiday Fair

In preparation for the on-line auction part of the 2023 EKC Holiday Fair, we are soliciting donations that can be posted on the auction website for bidding. The auction will open on October 20 at 5PM and bidding will close on November 1 at 8PM. If you'd like to make a donation, please contact one of us.

Thank you!

Patty Carrier, Pat Myer, Rob Porter, and Allen Tucker (the on-line auction committee).





**Handmade Crafts  
Treasures  
Country Store & Baked Goods**

**Luncheon 11 am – 1pm  
Lobster Rolls, Fish Chowder, Egg  
Salad Sandwiches & Pie!**

**Credit Cards Accepted!**

**Online Auction**  
October 20 - November 1

**The link for the auction is:**  
[auctria.events/2023EKCHolidayFair](https://auctria.events/2023EKCHolidayFair)

**Location:** 917 Harpswell Neck Rd., Harpswell **FMI:** 833-6026

## MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

In keeping with our 4 part program of supplying needed items for the current Tedford Shelters, October will be the month we have selected to contribute: **TOILETRIES AND PERSONAL ITEMS.** Among the list are:

Razors and Shaving Cream

Shampoos

Body Washes and Soaps

Deodorants

Mouthwash

Toothbrushes

Kleenex and Toilet Tissue

(Items should be Full Size, not the sample or travel size)

This should be a fun and quick request to fill, although the housewares was so very rewarding to see EKC's creativity and generosity in action.

**Thank you,**

Your Board of Missions

## Board of Finance

A few people approached me after last Sunday's special meeting and said they wished there'd been more context for the vote to authorize the release of funds for our mold remediation project. So here is a summary that I hope fits the bill.

Last year we discovered we had mold in the basement and the Trustees set about finding a contractor that could assess the scale of the problem and provide an estimate for remediation. In October, we received a generous donation of \$25,000 to address the problem.

By the time our annual meeting rolled around in February, we had one estimate in hand and it was in excess of \$100,000. Given that we were still researching the scale of the problem and appropriate remediation and mitigation options, we decided at the annual meeting not to vote on approving the funds needed for the project until we had more information. A Mold Remediation Task Force was created to help Trustees address this problem.

Since then, a cadre of volunteers emptied out the basement rooms, cutting the cost of some of the remediation work.

We received another quote for the remediation work, this one closer to \$65,000. Additionally, the Trustees were in talks with a couple of companies on how to mitigate the problem so the mold never returns.

As of this writing, the Trustees are modifying the contract with Mold Bros. to clarify some points raised by our attorney. Assuming all goes well, we hope to begin the remediation part of the work in October.

Trustees are also closing in on a mitigation option with a company, TC Hafford, that should run about \$40,000. Thankfully, Helen Norton, our generous donor in 2022, sent us a check for \$75,000 this summer to cover most of the mold work. Between her generous donations and savings we're seeing in our budget, we expect to be able to cover the cost of the project.

Our church bylaws require that we convene a special meeting of the congregation whenever we want to spend in excess of \$2,000 for any non-budgeted item. That was the reason for last Sunday's meeting and vote.

Our hope is the contracts will be finalized soon and work can begin. The Trustees and the Mold Remediation Task Force members have done and continue to do exceptional work on our behalf. We are lucky to have such diligent stewards of EKC.

Carol Coultas  
Co-chair, Board of Finance

## Chicken Pot Pie Update

Many thanks to everyone who helped, and everyone who came to eat. We had a successful dinner, served around 150 pot pie dinners, and were sold out by 6:00. Unfortunately, we had to turn people away. We had helpers from HNPEA join us, and are able to donate \$500 to their fundraising project to build new tennis courts and upgrade the area. After paying the bills, the Kellogg Church is able to keep \$1,124 for our profits! The supper helpers will be meeting after church on Sunday to talk about what went well, and what we need to work on for the next Pot Pie Supper.

**Again, many thanks to all,**  
Dick Moseley & Carrie Bubier

## CALLING ALL BAKERS, PRESERVERS AND CANDY-MAKERS!

Our annual Christmas by the Sea Fair is swiftly approaching (November 4). Your help is needed to stock our Country Goods section. Have you been canning your garden's bounty? Making jams and jellies?

We are looking for preserves and more. Baked goods of all kinds: breads, muffins, cakes, pies, cookies and brownies. Fudge! Toffee!

A basket will be outside the church office to collect the labeled jars of preserves and jellies. Baked goods will be accepted in the days just before the big event.

Contact Becky Gallery (833-6159) or Krista Hinman (860-670-3467) for more information.

**Thank you for helping support our fair!**

