

# THE BELL RINGER

Calling all to gather in His name

October 2020  
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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



Pastor Jerry Springston  
Minister-at-Large

### ***"My Country 'Tis of Thee"***

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."*  
[Psalm 33:12]

According to a recent Pew Research Center poll, an increasing number of people in our country deny that our nation was founded on Christian principles. Should that surprise us? The Pew findings reveal that since 2010 the number of Americans who consider themselves to be "Christian" has fallen to an all-time low of 65%. Twenty-six per cent of Americans

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consider themselves to be atheists, agnostics, humanists, secularists or "nothing at all," and 2% of Americans identify with the Jewish faith. One per cent each are Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus.

But how many Americans actually practice their faith? Nearly 75% per cent of the 50,000 randomly selected adults participating in a recent poll said their outlook is either "*religious*" or "*somewhat religious*," but when it comes to membership or participation in a faith community, Americans fall short of their professed belief. Of those who identified with a religion, only half live in a household where either they or anyone else belongs to a church, synagogue, mosque or temple! Among Americans who identify themselves as atheists, agnostics, humanists or secularists, it was revealed that their involvement in activities and interests beyond themselves is also minimal. Political scientists, who study social trends, say the media, technology and generational changes are responsible for people's withdrawal from religious/philosophical/civic engagement. On a more

positive note, the Pew Research Center revealed that in the past decade the number of people who identify with being “*born again*” evangelical Christians has increased by a whopping 59%! However, non-involvement in that identity can never satisfy the God of the Bible. Jesus commanded that we “*Do unto others...!*” [Matt. 7:12] We can’t be “Christian,” “*born again*,” or “*evangelical*” in name only. “*Do*” requires intent, tangible participation and overt endeavors. To truly love the Lord is to love Him with all our soul, mind and body. [Deut. 6:5] So, if we are to please God, “*born again*” evangelical Christians must engage with our nation by being an integral part of everyone’s “*life, liberty and pursuit of happiness*,” and by being concerned about our neighbor’s eternal destiny. Oh, yes, and by voting in a presidential election on the first Tuesday of November every four years.

Jerry Springston

## Spirited Moments

We seek to attain, instead of obtain. Not until we are driven to the end of Romans 7 will we know the freedom of Romans 8.

Miles Stanford

Obedience is not so much a requirement God imposes on us, as a privilege He affords us.

Jerry Bridges

Holiness is not the private preserve of an elite corps of martyrs and mystics; it is the everyday business of every Christian.

Chuck Colson

## 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.

Prayers are needed for Sam Woodward, currently receiving immunotherapy, a type of cancer treatment that helps your immune system fight cancer.

Paul and Ginger Doyle have asked for prayers, as follows: We are calling out to everyone to pray for all the fire fighters, police, all behind-the-scenes personnel helping and all the families being evacuated in California, especially the people of Calistoga and surrounding area. This wildfire is named Glass Fire and is moving very, very fast. Please also pray for beautiful Bothe Napa State Park and the Bale Grist Mill where we have been volunteers.

Healing prayers are needed for Sandy Woodward after a recent slip-and-fall incident which has left her bruised and sore.

Please keep Louise Shackett in prayer as she continues to receive rehabilitation treatment at Courtland Rehabilitation & Living Center.

We need to keep praying for everyone involved in trying to bring about an end to the coronavirus pandemic. We know that prayer works, so let’s not get discouraged. We may not be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel yet, but God surely is listening to our prayers.

## October Bulletin Bloopers

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister’s daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

## Signs of Faith



## Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided by these special people. It is also important to remember that appreciation, affirmation and prayer support of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year. First Baptist Church of Blue Hill deeply appreciates and is grateful for the dedication to our congregation of Jerry Springston, our interim pastor.

### *Our Pastor*

*You **lead** our congregation by opening  
God's Word, and then you **live**  
your life reflecting all we've heard.  
You **care** for others deeply  
and lift them up in **prayer**,  
and when we face misfortune,  
we know that you'll be there.  
We really love you, Pastor,  
for **everything** you do.  
And we thank God  
for giving us a  
**Pastor like you.***

Anne Peterson

## Mailbag

Showing up in our mailbag is a thank-you note from the Gribbin family, which reads as follows:

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the generous gift card you gave us to celebrate the birth of our son Roark! It will be so helpful to buy "boy" clothes and toys, as much of our current baby items are pink and girly. 😊 I am so grateful for our church family and how supportive you've always been of me and my family. I'm excited to bring Roark to church to meet everyone once we adjust a bit more to the challenge of life with a newborn.

Sarah, Dave, Vera, Evie and Roark

Also in our mailbag is a thank-you and update from Cordell and Sandy Snow:

Cordell and I want to thank the congregation for prayers during our recent hurricane, Sally. It was a frightening experience to be in 80 to 90 mph winds and receive 20+ inches of rain over a period of only 12 hours. We survived well, much better than some in our neighborhood and certainly better than those who had water in their homes and businesses. Our home had no damage, but our yard was a mess of leaves, twigs and branches. We lost one large tree which took three more trees in its wake. We were without power for less than four days and fortunate that it was bearable to be without A/C during that time. Our Maine generator kept the fridge and freezer running.

We moved here almost three years ago. Coming from Maine, we wanted trees in our yard. And we have them — two beautiful live oaks, along with others. But we have seen what a category 2 hurricane can do to trees and houses. The streets all over town have piles of branches and tree trunks. Authorities say it will be cleaned up by Christmas!! Again, we appreciated your thoughts and prayers during this time. We think of you all often and know that God is holding you in His hands.

Sandy

## Member News

We've lots of news of our church family this month, so let's get started!

We enjoyed special music from our Praise Team on Sunday, September 13, and look forward to having them perform for us each month.



The following Sunday, September 20, we were treated to a special performance by our organist, Sue Fenders, and her grandson, Jonathan Fenders, of

*Sonata Op. 168 3<sup>rd</sup> mvmt* for Bassoon and Piano by Camille Saint-Saëns. The duo was incredible and we hope they'll consider future appearances.



Jackie Butler was visiting our local post office on Patriot Day, September 11, when she spotted one of Peter Clapp's giant sunflowers turning its face to "salute" the flag flying at half-staff. A poignant reflection of the significance of the day.



We want to congratulate the youngest members of our church family who show up on Sundays, wearing their face masks, to be in God's house and hear His Word. The first photo shows Josh Astbury and family and the second photo is of Mike (the younger) Astbury and family. Face masks never looked so good. Bless them all!



Rob and Patty Clapp were blessed with a visit from daughter Lydia and family in late August. Lydia, husband Aaron and children, Robin and Luke, joined the senior Clapps and sister Sarah's family, including newborn Roark, for summer fun at Walker's Pond.



Fall means it's time to go apple picking. Here's Josh and family at the orchard. What a beautiful day!



After getting the "green" light from Gov. Mills, schools in our area reopened on schedule. Here are "first day of school" photos of Mya and Chloe Schildroth:



Our sympathies go out to Jerry and Jackie Butler, who are grieving the loss of a close family member. Jackie writes:

Many of our congregation may remember Jerry's cousin, Reg Bowden. He lived in their grandfather Walter Butler's house, the white house with the big red barn up from the Butler homestead on Route 15, where he owned and operated the Mountain Press. He was a graduate of the University of Maine, Orono, majoring in journalism. Many years ago, Reg moved back to Orono. He passed away at the age of 87 at Ross Manor in Bangor on September 25.

We've heard from Bonnie Benedix this month. Bonnie sends her love to all of us and says she is doing well, even though everyone at Seaport Village remains in "lockdown." They do allow outdoor visits with family members once a week. Her sister, Jane, visits every week and brings Bonnie "care" packages. She says it's like Christmas! Bonnie also sent us a poem she has written that captures the essence of the season...

## Maple Leaves

Maple leaves glisten and shimmer,  
Scarlet, orange and gold,  
Rustling in the breeze,  
A beauty to behold!  
Children run and jump  
Into the fallen leaves,  
Parents snap a photo,  
This carefree moment to seize.  
Autumn in all its glory,  
Portends the drifting snow,  
All the seasons are needed,  
As we live and grow.  
I'll sit by my kitchen window,  
With a cup of tea,  
Gazing out at the splendor,  
Of the maple leaves.

By Bonnie Benedix

## More in October

There sure is a lot going on in October! Did you know that October is World Mission Month? The following is important information about how you can help. And watch for those World Mission Offering envelopes in your pew slots.

The World Mission Offering theme for this year is "I once was blind but now I see," and focuses on Mark 8:22-25. There we read the story of Jesus healing a blind man. Jesus spits on the man's eyes and puts his hand on him, asking him, "Do you see anything?" When the man replies that he sees people who look like trees walking around, Jesus touches the man's eyes again, and his sight is fully restored. This story begs the question – why was the healing in two stages?

Perhaps there are times when Jesus wants to take us on gradual journeys of healing, so that we can experience the full journey with him. Like the blind man, our spiritual vision begins with one touch that opens a lifelong journey with Jesus, during which he opens our eyes more and more day by day.

But our God doesn't stop there. Jesus rescues us out of darkness with a goal for us. He wants us to see him and he also wants to use us to help open the eyes of others.

So will you journey with us on a month of prayer? Throughout the month of October, join with our global servants in praying that God would give us wisdom and courage so that we help those we serve to know Christ's love.

Your gifts through the World Mission Offering supply the essential support needed by our 125 global servants, 900+ short-term volunteers, 35+ home staff, and 260+ international partners as we help others see Christ more clearly.



*He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. Proverbs 22:9*

Remind yourself of God's promises regarding generosity. God promises if you sow bountifully, you will reap bountifully. So give! Give abundantly! Even extravagant giving is honored by God. I've never known anyone who went bad because he or she was too generous. Remind yourself of His promises regarding generosity and start giving!

Charles R. Swindoll

## Coming Attractions

# Project 31

Project 31 is always held on the actual day of Halloween. This year it falls on a Saturday and our Christian Ed team has come up with a different plan to celebrate due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will have the same goody bags containing candy and bible tracts with an invitation to Sunday school clipped to each bag. These goody bags will be handed out in our parking lot from 5 to 7 p.m. by volunteers wearing gloves to all cars with children as they pass through

the lot. Volunteers are needed to help with Project 31. Although our Project 31 program is downsized to follow Maine's CDC guidelines, there remains plenty of work to be done. Please contact Allison Charles at 374-9918 or speak with her at church to find out how you can help with this fun and exciting program that benefits all of our church youth as well as so many from the wider community. You'll be glad you did!

## Canceled



### Harvest Home Supper

One of the hardest decisions your leaders have had to make this year is the cancellation of our annual Harvest Home Supper. Much thought and many prayers for guidance have gone into the making of this decision.

The primary reason for the cancellation is, of course, concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Those concerns include the health and safety of our congregation and in particular, those of our members who put in the hard work and long hours it takes to pull off a successful event each year. Ideas were put forth for alternative ways to host this year's Harvest Home Supper, one of which was to borrow a page from some of our local restaurants and offer "takeout" service. In the end, it was determined that none of the suggested alternatives would be feasible for our small group of workers to undertake. Nevertheless, our hopes are high for a return of our famous Harvest Home Supper in 2021.

## Not Canceled



Most of you know that our annual Fall Business Meeting historically takes place on the Sunday following our Harvest Home Supper. In a

normal year, we would enjoy a potluck luncheon supplemented by Harvest Home Supper leftovers immediately after our worship service on that Sunday and then call to order our business meeting. Because we are not holding our Harvest Home Supper this year, we are **not** having the usual luncheon preceding the meeting. We will, however, hold our Fall Business Meeting as usual after our morning worship. That meeting will take place in the sanctuary of the

church, which already is marked off for social distancing. Please plan to attend this very important annual meeting, which determines the business of the church going forward in 2021.

## LOL

And now, for a little fun...

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbor and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbor asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver-haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

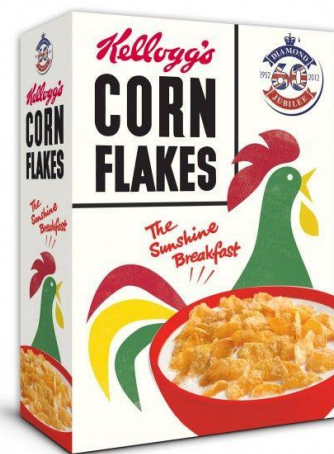
Her neighbor decides to go over and help with the puzzle.

She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea."

Then he says, with a deep sigh... "And then we'll put all the corn flakes back in the box."



Many thanks to Paul Zierk for providing the humor.

## Birthday and Anniversary Greetings



Raquel Dorr  
Ronald Stanko  
Broden Chase

**Happy Birthday to**  
October 9 Tim Walls  
October 12 Wayne Hutchins  
October 17 John Clapp  
Christine Cote

October 18  
October 22  
October 25  
October 27



Josh and Kim Astbury  
Ken and Allison Charles

**Happy Anniversary to**  
October 6 Cory and Shelly Schildroth  
October 7 Wayne and Ruth Hutchins

October 9  
October 31



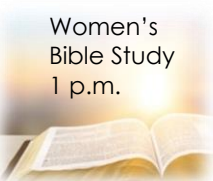



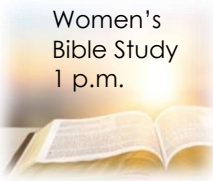




Are you on our Birthday or Wedding Anniversary list? If not, please let us know by e-mail to [fbcbluehill.office@gmail.com](mailto:fbcbluehill.office@gmail.com) so we might celebrate with you!

## Kids Korner

Color me!



# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>Temporarily suspended</p>				<p>1</p>  <p>Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Trustees 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Pastor Stephen Heneise in the pulpit</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Columbus Day</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Christian Ed 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Annual Fall Business Meeting following worship service</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Deacons 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>Project 31 5-7 p.m.</p>
					<p><b>God is like...</b> <i>Dial Soap: Aren't you glad you've got Him? Don't you wish everybody did?</i></p>	

## In-person Church Attendance Guidelines

- ✓ If you come, physical distancing must be maintained.
- ✓ Masks must be worn. Please bring a mask with you. Should you not have one, we have a limited supply.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer is available.
- ✓ Attendees assume the risk.

## Notes
