

South Parish Congregational Church UCC



From Pastor Nathan Richards

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying.

(Luke 10:38-

38)

Neither the story of the good Samaritan nor the story of Mary and Martha is complete without the other. Each of these stories in Luke's Gospel makes its point: the good Samaritan loves his neighbor, and Mary loves her Lord. However, the model for a disciple of Jesus is found in the juxtaposition of the two. To the lawyer, at the conclusion of the good Samaritan story, Jesus says,

"Go and do," but he praises Mary for sitting and listening. The life of a Christian requires both."

PASTOR'S OFFICE
HOURS

TUESDAY

11 AM TO 3 PM

WEDNESDAY

9 AM TO 2 PM

Pastor Nathan's Inspirational Video Choice This Week.



[Click Here to Watch](#)

Sit Walk Stand: Living Out Your Identity in Christ in a Sexualized Culture

Ted Shimer

Description

A study in the book of Ephesians about how to sit, walk and stand in our identity in Christ. In Sit, Paul unpacks a believer's position in Christ. In walk, Paul exhorts the Ephesians to live in a manner worthy of their high calling. In stand, believers are instructed to prepare for the enemy's attacks. The Ephesians lived in a sexualized culture which has great application for today's believer in a pornified world.



FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY

Every Last Friday of the Month

Come as you are. Leave refreshed.



What Is Fellowship Friday?

A monthly gathering where community comes alive. We share stories, laughter, and a sense of belonging—no agenda, just connection.



Schedule

Lunch at 12:00 PM – Each month we visit a local restaurant.

Games at 1:00 PM – We reconvene at the church for games and good company.



When & Where

Last Friday of Every Month [Insert Time]
Snacks, smiles, and good company provided.



Questions?

Contact:

Donna Martin 207-626-0184 - Ellie Kidwell 207-622-

**SOUTH PARISH
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
COMMUNITY DINNER**

4:30 PM

**MEN'S BREAKFAST
THURSDAY, JULY 17
6:30 AM
MARGE GROVER RM.**

JUST DAYS
LEFT TO
DOUBLE
YOUR IMPACT!

Your Impact

The Augusta Emergency
Overnight Warming Center
A Mission of South Parish Congregational



Only a few days left!

We're *this close* to unlocking the full \$9,500 match from Kennebec Savings Bank—but we need your help to cross the finish line by July 31.

Your gift today will go twice as far in helping us:

- Prepare for the cold months ahead
- Sustain vital year-round services for our community

This is more than a donation, it's a chance to make a lasting difference.

📱 Donate now and double your impact: [Click Here](#)

Or you can mail your donation to 9 Church St., Augusta, Maine 04330

Let's make every dollar count. Together, we can reach the goal and keep the warmth going all year long.

Scan the QR Code with your camera to donate



BRIDGING THE GAP

Addie's Attic Clothing Bank ▪ Basics Essentials Hygiene Pantry
Resource Connection & Support | Centralized Helping Fund
A community initiative of Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church
A United Way of Kennebec Valley Partner Program
209 Eastern Avenue, Augusta, ME 04330

Good Day BTG Friend!

I wanted to touch base with you to let you know what's happening at Bridging the Gap.

We are in another state of transition. Katrina Kelley, the director hired to replace Sarah Miller, has left. We have discovered reports, updates and communications with our partners were lax or nonexistent. We are working to rectify the situation.

I have been asked to be the interim director for the next few months until a new director is hired. I am working with the staff to get our monthly/quarterly reports done and out to you.

We are continuing to serve our guests in Addie's Attics and Basic Essentials. Our resource connection department has remained very busy helping with electric bills, rent, transportation, etc. I know you know the need is great.

We are in need of basic essential items. If your organization would like to collect shampoo, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, soap, laundry pods, toilet paper or size 6 diapers, we'd love it!!

Thank you for your support and patience,
Bobbi-Jo Burdin, Interim Director

Bridging the Gap Monthly Report

JUNE 2025

TOTAL UNDUPLICATED INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2025 TO DATE: 2614 (ytd in 2024: 2,540)

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS REPORTING "NO PERMANENT RESIDENCE": 106 (ytd in 2024: 185)

SERVICE STATISTICS FOR JUNE

Addie's Attic:

- Total Households served: **262** (same month 2024:)
- Total unduplicated individuals served: **816** (same month 2024: 901)

Basic Essentials Hygiene Pantry:

- Total Households served: **297** (same month 2024: 284 / 4.5% increase)
- Unduplicated individuals served: **911** (same month 2024: 949 / 4% decrease)
- Percentage of individuals who are New Mainers: **36.99%**

RESOURCE CONNECTION & SUPPORT

The Resource Department handles multiple calls a day. The nature and outcome of each call is different. People might be directed to a different or additional resource; asked to call back with more information so BTG can better assess and assist; or BTG might agree to assist financially. BTG often works with other funding sources to fully meet a request that is beyond what BTG can support alone. When other agencies' funds are depleted, BTG must be even more discerning.

Number of calls/emails/walk-ins received: **108**

Number of individuals directly served: **14**

Note: The number of individuals served represents hands-on cases, sometimes in collaboration with another program/agency, and/or BTG supported the individual financially. It does not represent the number of individuals who simply received a pamphlet or phone number.

June 2025	YEAR TO DATE 2025
Hotel = \$0	Hotel = \$0
Recovery Housing = \$467.00	Recovery Housing = \$637.00
Rooming House = \$0	Rooming House = \$0
Rental Assistance = \$500.00	Rental Assistance = \$1,980.00
Security Deposit = \$324.00	Security Deposit = \$2,948.00
Housing Other = \$0	Housing Other = \$2,206.00
Utilities = \$373.74	Utilities = \$2,559.22
Heating Assistance = \$0	Heating Assistance = \$3,527.20
ID/Birth Certificate = \$0	ID/Birth Certificate = \$15.00
Car Repairs = \$0	Car Repairs = \$425.34
Gas = \$60.00	Gas = \$970.00
Taxi/Concord/Greyhound = \$0	Taxi/Concord/Greyhound = \$277.94
Phone/Phone Service = \$48.83	Phone/Phone Service = \$277.38
Other = \$175.00	Other = \$1,615.00
June TOTAL = \$1,899.74	YTD TOTAL = \$17,438.08

Bridging the Gap offered direct/indirect support with matters including:

- Security Deposit
- Moral Support
- Phone Service
- Housing
- Rent
- Gas Cards
- Recovery Residence
- Connecting/Directing to other resources
- Utilities

Tabling at Bridging the Gap:

- Groups
- Blue Sky Counseling
- SOL Work Counseling
- Tumbleweeds Case Management
- Maine Equal Justice
- Spurwink
- SMART Recovery
- CMP Community Connection
- Family Violence
- Options
- Anglez

Bridging the Gap Outreach:

1. The Resource Department continues to collaborate with KVCAP to connect individuals and families to their Laundry Card Program. Through this partnership, we can fill 8 slots each month, providing participants with access to clean laundry—a basic but critical need that supports health, dignity, and self-confidence. This ongoing collaboration helps reduce barriers for those facing financial hardship.

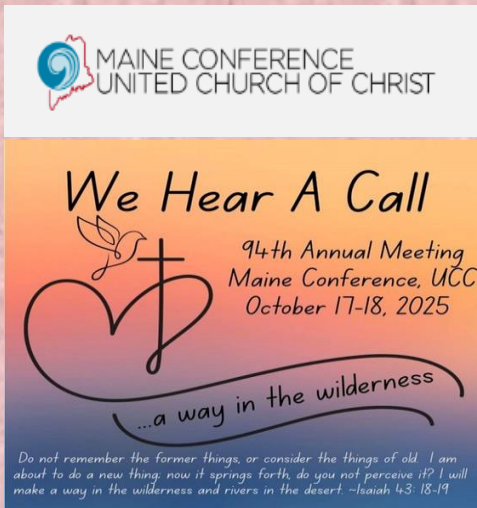
TELEHEALTH ACCESS POINT PROJECT

Bridging the Gap is in another transition phase and is hoping to launch its Telehealth Access Point. Telehealth Access Point is a public space where people can connect via video/audio to a medical provider, case manager, recovery coach, etc. We are working with **Northeast Telehealth Resource Center** to ensure an adequate/appropriate space. Additionally, the equipment can be used to stream workshops, classes and support groups. We will be collaborating with the **National Digital Equity Center** who offer free classes.

BTG secured funding through the **Maine Health Access Foundation** and **Grow Smart Maine's Digital Equity Stipend** to support this project.

VOLUNTEERS

Number of active volunteers in June: 14
Total hours: 153.



Mark your calendars and spread the word! For this Annual Meeting and the months leading up to it, we will be focusing on developing a new vision and mission statement. As the Board of Directors has begun to brainstorm and pray for God's guidance for our vision and mission, we will continue that process with your vital input, your discernment, your sacred discovery of our vision and mission. We want to do all we can to include God's voice and vision in our path forward—through you—beloved people of our Conference.

Vision questing in preparation for Annual Meeting

Many thanks to those who have begun to engage in our conference-wide quest for a divine vision for the Maine Conference UCC. Folks throughout Maine are gathering with one or two friends and spending an hour in a public place, prayerfully opening to God's vision for our conference.

The Board of Directors is praying for all the vision-questers out there. We would love to know how this is going. If you have questions or want to share your experience, please be in touch with Bill Bliss at (207) 751-4572 or bliss.bill@gmail.com.

To our Pastors and Faith Communities

ICE is showing up in more places in Maine.

The best guidance of how to respond if ICE shows up at your faith setting is from the ACLU:

[2025 Know Your Rights Checklist for Places of Worship](#)



Pilgrim Lodge

Adults, your turn at camp is coming up! [Lighten Up, Loosen Up](#), from July 30 - August 3 is a laidback program for adults with the option to register for 1-4 nights at camp. If you always wished you could be a camper or are ready to relive your childhood favorites, this program is for you!



Mission Statement Pilgrim Lodge extends the ministry of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ through quality camping and retreat experiences. Hosted programs at Pilgrim Lodge emphasize spiritual and outdoor exploration, personal growth, authentic self-expression in a safe environment, and an intentional community that affirms individual sacredness.

