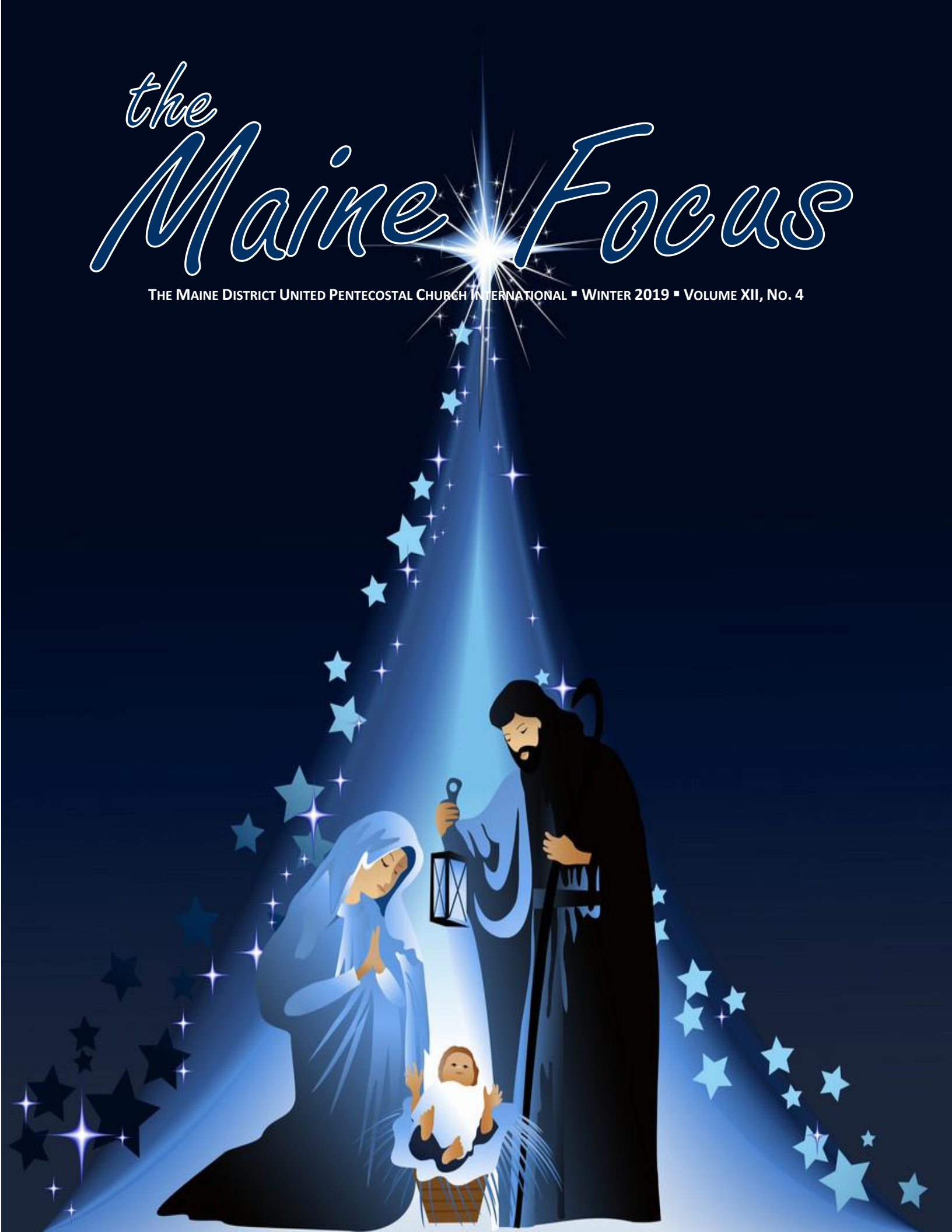
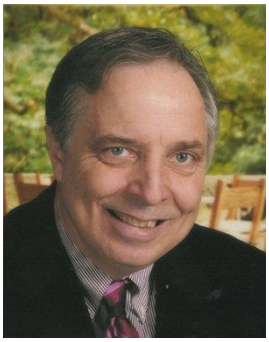
the Maine Focus

THE MAINE DISTRICT UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL ▪ WINTER 2019 ▪ VOLUME XII, NO. 4



Superintendent's Pen



What a Difference the Power Makes

By: Rev. Rick Stoops, Superintendent
Maine District UPCI

"Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."

Isaiah 54:16-17

A short time ago there was a tremendous amount of rain and wind that hit our area and we lost power. When the outage continued, I found myself busied with lots of things that normally a flick of a switch would take care of. I was dragging generators out, running extension cords, getting five-gallon pails of water since there was no electricity to run the well pump, running back and forth to the gas station to get gas for the generators, and setting up lamps. All of this made me think about what a difference the power makes. When the power is on, things that are difficult, hard, or even impossible— become possible.

When the power is on, life is much easier, burdens lighter, and life is brighter. We forget how dark the night is when the power is off. The night crew for Central Maine Power showed up and went to work and suddenly there was light! The church steeple once again brightly pointed to the heavens. The security lights lit up the church yard. The church signs illuminated the darkness, and I couldn't help but think, "What a difference the power makes!"

Consider these two statements made by Jesus. In Matthew 28:18, we read, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**" In Luke 10:19, he said, "**Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**"

1. **ALL POWER BELONGS TO JESUS.**
2. **HE HAS GIVEN YOU POWER.**

What a difference the power makes! No more dragging, pulling, pushing, and carrying heavy loads when the power is turned on. Things that were strenuous may now be accomplished by His power that is in you.

We read in Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."

NO WEAPON, no court, no malady, no depression, no sickness, no fear, no worry, no financial problem, no family problem, NOTHING THAT THE DEVIL HAS WEAPONIZED AGAINST YOU…SHALL PROSPER! NO WEAPON THAT IS FORMED AGAINST YOU SHALL SUCCEED! IT

Continued on page 11.

District Leadership

Rev. Rick Stoops
District Superintendent

Rev. Thomas Channell
District Secretary

Rev. Ron Doughty
Presbyter, Section One

Rev. Carroll Kennedy
Presbyter, Section Two

Rev. Michael Cox
Presbyter, Section Three

Rev. Ned Stephens
Presbyter, Section Four

Rev. Todd Little
Presbyter, Section Five

Rev. Harold Churchill
Rev. Walter Henderson
Rev. Charles Hurst
Rev. Vernon Sixberry, Sr.
Honorary Presbyters

Division Leadership

Rev. Rodney Dame
Children's Ministries Director

Rev. Todd Little
Global Missions Director

Rev. Sid Kear
North American Missions Director

Rev. Jonny Channell
District Youth President

Joe & Heidi Sage
Marriage Enrichment Director

Sis. Jackie Little
Ladies Ministries President

Rev. Matthew Beal
Men's Ministries Coordinator

Rev. Brenda L. Bowley
World Network of Prayer

Richard Eaton
Multi-cultural Director

Editorial Staff

Rev. Diana Hartley
Content and Design Editor

The *Maine Focus* is the official newsletter of the Maine District United Pentecostal Church International. All communications regarding the *Maine Focus* can be submitted electronically to dianahartley04@gmail.com.

Design and layout provided by brenda orffer. © 2019

Americans spend over **$465 BILLION** each year on Christmas.

The average American spends $**700 PER PERSON** on Christmas.

Based on this average, UPCI constituents spend over **$500 MILLION** on Christmas.

This year we challenge you to **GIVE YOUR BEST GIFT TO CHRIST** on **DECEMBER 22, 2019.**

CHRISTMAS FOR CHRIST

Help North American Missions bring hope to North America by planting new churches and supporting new church plants!

THIS YEAR'S OFFERING DATE

DECEMBER 22, 2019

Thank you for giving!

ADoPtEd MIsSiOnArY OFFERING

The Adopted Missionary Offering provides a ***Christmas Cheer Check*** to each Global Missions family.

The Adopted Missionary Offering continues to spread this cheer throughout the year by sending each Global Missions child a ***Birthday Card and Check***.

This year's offering goal is $ 2,000. Please send offering to: Sis Amy Stoops, Maine Ladies Secretary, 634 Civic Center Drive, Augusta, ME 04330 by January 1, 2020.

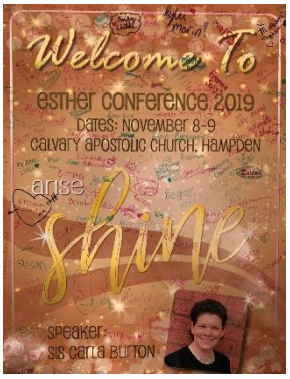
Remember that this offering counts towards your annual Mother's Memorial offering total!

2019 Maine Esther Conference

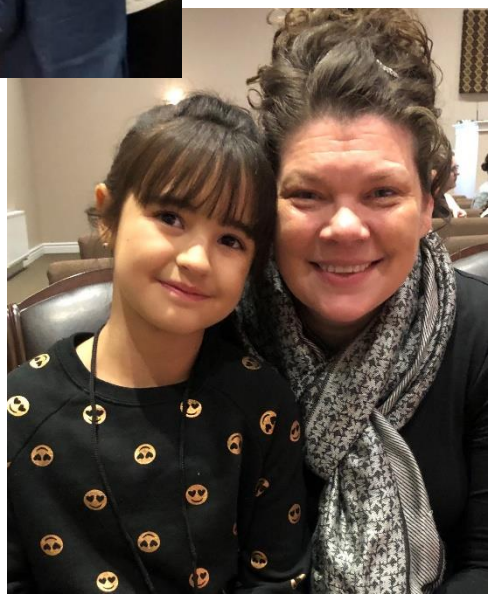
By: Jackie Little

God's favor was upon us at the 2019 Maine Esther Conference! Three received the Holy Ghost for the first time as Sis. Carla Burton delivered powerful and anointed messages that ministered to our hearts. Nearly 200 girls and chaperones were in attendance. Our theme this year was SHINE and our time together was filled with laughter, hugs, friendship, unity and LOTS of glitter and sugar too! We had so much fun!

Breakout sessions included cake decorating, learning to pray, how to teach a Bible study, vocal helps, spa time, Pentecostal hairdos, crafts and photography. Young ladies at ages 16, 17 and 18 each received a rose and tiara to celebrate their "coronation." A great big thank you goes to our ladies committee, breakout session speakers, caterer, photographer, chaperones and many volunteers who helped make this event extra special.



Your Mother's Memorial offering helps make this event possible. Thank you for your support! Special thanks to our generous sponsors: Patrons Oxford Insurance Company, Sam's Club and Walmart. Save this date for the 2020 Maine Esther Conference on November 6-7 with Sis. Debbie Sanders from Hawaii!



THE HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH

By: brenda orffer

Our family once spent time at Disneyland in California and enjoyed vacation. That week was the rainiest week in history for Anaheim! The boast that Disney makes of being the happiest place on earth is appropriate. The fun rides, the immaculate grounds, the colors, the fireworks, the food, the smiles, the *magic* in the air. Once you step through the gates, it is remarkable how happy you become.

The Disney people go the distance to ensure over-the-top customer service, and they proudly proclaim that their product—the thing they manufacture—is happiness. Their model of customer service is sought out by companies all over the globe, and people flock to their training centers hoping to glean even a small piece of their success in creating happy customers. Standing there in crowds so large you can't move, waiting in line for 60 minutes for a two-minute adventure, enduring the rain or pulsing heat, people are still happy. Why? Because they promote courtesy, efficiency and show, and they view every person that walks through the gate of their park as a VIP.

In hindsight, I tried to think of other places that would be happier than Disney. A place where the circumstances may not be the best, but happiness abounds. Things that came to mind include exile in Babylon, floating in a basket on the Nile, a lion's den, a fiery furnace, an Egyptian jail, the tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. As crazy as it sounds, those places provided some of the greatest and amazing outcomes for those that endured. Being at peace in their situations, people like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Daniel, Joseph, Moses and others probably looked back to realize that one of their *happiest places* turned out to be a result of coming through their darkest hour.

Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Philippians 4:11) It is ironic that the best way to impact a change in our situation is to be happy not to change it at all. Joseph embraced his prison experience and became a leader among the prisoners and ultimately in Egypt. The Hebrew children were content with their usual menu and refused the finer foods and delicacies of their captors. Rather than seeking a change in their situation or place, they found ways to be content there. God can bless those who are content; if we have a constant need for change or something better, what benefit would come of blessing us? We would then just look for the next thing. Have you ever met those people who are not happy no matter what? Those are the ones who do not know how to be content.

We may find that things are not perfect in our lives. Perhaps our job is not exactly what we like; maybe our family and home environment is not ideal. Maybe our health is failing, or we are frustrated by our economic status. Whatever it is, remember that God is always with you and taking care of you. He will always come through for us, and we can realize a blessing when we are content in our current condition.

Standing in the rain, wearing a poncho, shivering from the cold and trying to eat cotton candy before the moisture in the air melted it away, I still could not deny being so happy! Why? I was content to have that moment with my family and to enjoy that time regardless of the circumstances. Our reaction to the circumstance is far more important than the circumstance itself. When we learn to be content in any situation, God will bless us because he sees us as a VIP, and he likes to make us happy!

Sis. brenda orffer attends Olympic Christian Center in McCleary, Washington and serves as the Content and Design editor for the Washington Word. *Rev. Brian Orffer is her pastor.*

Upcoming Missionary Schedule

January 21-26, 2020
Steven Well | Chile

April 7-12, 2020
Stephen Summers | Cyprus

If you want information on hosting a missionary in your church, please reach out!

Rev. Todd Little
P. (207) 754-3582
E. teachrtodd@aol.com

We appreciate all who have hosted a missionary service, hosted a missionary, gave to the "I Am Global" offering, and who faithfully support our missionaries through Partners in Missions. Your support makes a difference!

WHAT A DIFFERENCE THE POWER MAKES! *concluded…*

DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE DEVIL IS TRYING TO HATCH OR WHAT THE ENEMY IS TRYING TO DO—IT SHALL NOT PROSPER!

In I John 4:4, scripture tells us, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**"

David was up against it. The Philistines had heard that David had been anointed King over all Israel and they came to try to kill him and the people of God. The Philistine army spread out through the Valley of Rephaim (Hebrew giants). David and the people of God defeated the Philistines but the enemy came back for another round.

In II Samuel 5:22-24, the Bible says, "And the Philistines came up **yet again**, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. And when David inquired of the Lord, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the Lord go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines." In other words, the Lord was saying to David, "When you hear the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees," or, as the Living Bible says, "When you hear a sound like marching feet in the tops of the balsam trees, attack!"

Bestir thyself! Rouse yourself, shake it off, make an all-out effort, and get going!

FOR THEN SHALL THE LORD GO OUT BEFORE THEE, TO SMITE THE HOST OF THE PHILISTINES! OH WHAT A DIFFERENCE THE POWER MAKES!

Foundations are shaking,
And every curse is breaking
Strongholds are falling
And greater things are coming!

SHEAVES FOR CHRIST MOVES THE GOSPEL

The Maine District Youth Ministries team wishes to thank our district for generously supporting Sheaves for Christ and helping us move the gospel to the whole world. Sheaves for Christ offerings support our district youth events as well as national youth events. In addition, money raised through Sheaves for Christ also has a global impact through support of missionaries and ministries around the world.

Congratulations to the Pentecostals of Jonesport for contributing the highest offering for 2019. We appreciate every offering that was given as much as the top giving churches for the Maine District listed above. Thank you for your commitment to young people here in Maine and throughout the world. Your giving makes a difference—an eternal one.

All correspondence, article submissions and input should be sent to

THE MAINE FOCUS
Diana Hartley, Content & Design Editor
179 Tardiff Road
Clinton, Maine 04927
dianahartley04@gmail.com

Visit us online at www.maineupc.com!

December 2019

22	Christmas for Christ Offering Sunday	
25	Christmas Day!	

January 2020

1	New Year's Day	
	30 Days of Prayer and Fasting Begins	
	Adopted Missionary Offering Deadline	
4	Junior & Senior Bible Quizzing Tournament	
6	Ladies of Prayer International	
13	Section One Prayer Meeting for Ministers and Spouses	
14	Section Two Prayer Meeting for Ministers and Spouses	
15	CFC Applications Due to UPCI Headquarters	
	Departmental Financial Reports Due to District Secretary	
	AYC Application Deadline North America	
16	Sections Four and Five Prayer Meeting for Ministers and Spouses	
17	Section Three Prayer Meeting for Ministers and Spouses	
24	New Year's Rally	Hampden
26	CFC Offering Call-in Date to for Maine District	

February 2020

1	SFC Scholarship Deadline	
	Junior & Senior Bible Quizzing Tournament	
3	Ladies Prayer International	
14	CFC Offering due to District	
17-21	Youth Week	
21	Articles Due for *Maine Focus*	
20-22	Winter Fire	Bloomfield, CT

March 2020

1	Save Our Children Kickoff	
2	Ladies of Prayer International	
2-5	UPCI General Board Meetings	St. Louis, MO
7	Junior & Senior Bible Quizzing Tournament	
15	Sunday School Drive Begins	
18-19	Spring Maine District UPCI Board Meetings	
19-21	Ministers' Retreat	Black Bear Inn
20	Ladies Luncheon	
27	Sectional Youth Rallies	