



JANUARY 2025 EDITION THE CORNERSTONE



Rev. Bette Bond

JANUARY MEETINGS

- Jan 2 - Thurs. 4:00pm
Deacon Meeting
- Jan 5 - Special
Congregational meeting
following service
- Jan 9 - Thurs. 6:30pm
Trustee Meeting
- Jan 16 - Thurs. 6:30pm
Church Council Meeting
- Jan 19 - Annual
Congregational Meeting
after Sunday Service
- Jan 25 - 9:00am Men's
Group Meeting



Where decisions are made.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Happy 2025 ! Does that sound futuristic to anybody else? I remember in high school in 1977, thinking that 2025 was so far away in the future! To a teenager, almost 50 years sounds like an eternity. And yet, here we are. We are a quarter of the way through the 21st century.

Do you remember from your childhood (or your children's), the TV cartoon "The Jetsons"? It was set in the far future, and yet many of the things on that show have come to pass... video calls, smart watches, robots, 3-D printers, and flatscreen TVs, just to name a few. We have advanced quicker than they thought, as the Jetsons was set in 2062.

But have we advanced as a society of people? We fight "smarter wars" than back in the Civil War or even the World Wars, "Smart bombs" target, smaller, and specific areas. But it's still war and people still die. Are we kinder and more thoughtful than we were 25 years ago? Are our relationships more improved, better than they used to be? Are we closer to God, loving our neighbors, and in relationship with Jesus Christ more than we were?

It's my tradition to choose a Bible verse each New Year's Day that I can live out for the year. This year I am drawn to Colossians 3:10 - "A fresh new you, which is continually renewed in knowledge, according to the image of the One who created you." What a great positive outlook and goal for myself. I hope each of you in your study and meditation on God's Word, find that verse or two that leap out to you and resonate with where your soul is right now, looking forward to where God is calling you to be.

The world around us changes daily, even by the minute, and great improvements are made. **God never changes.** God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer forever is the same now and will always be.

Our Creator invites us to change continually, growing in wisdom and spiritual knowledge so that we can shine in God's image always, as Christ, our Lord has shown us and has been for us.... Light.



Happy New Year
Rev. Bette



Heavenly Father, in Your compassion, please bring healing and recovery to those listed. Touch them with Your healing hand and restore their strength. Ease their pain and mend what is broken. Surround them with Your peace and comfort. In Jesus' Name we pray for...

This Prayer List is provided to encourage you to keep these special people in your prayers during the week. If you know an individual you would like added to this list, please talk with the person and get their permission before having them added to the player list. (In some instances, we know that this may not be possible). If your loved one has received the healing Grace of God, please let us know so we can remove them from the prayer list.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Lorraine Strout by Linda K. | Stuart Mank |
| Larry Philbrick | Ann & Peter Gribbin by Melody S. |
| Bob Carpenter | Brent Lawson by Melody S. |
| Jessica by Sue C. | Romeo Jackson by Melody S. |
| Lee Houghton | Danny Swindler, Sr. |
| Sheila A. by Tina B. | Carol Hall |
| Joel Kinney by Janice O. | Sue Mercier by Linda L. |
| Tiny Dodge by Jonathan | Nathaniel Parkinson by Linda L. |
| Liam Feeley by Valerie M. | Natashia by January |
| E.J. by Becky | Walter Pendleton |
| Jamie by Sterling | Christian by Carolyn |
| Bradley Miller | Melody Sainio |
| Elijah Kellogg Congregational Church-Harpswell | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January

- 4 Tina Bryant
- 6 Mark Waltz
- 12 John Black
- 12 Muriel Knutson
- 19 Stephen Lombardo
- 11 Jonathan Dodge
- 20 Neil Stetson
- 24 Jeremy White
- 30 Niva-Jean Poland

If your special day is not listed please contact the office.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 21 Steve & Betty Davis

Our Barrel has been Bare lately. Please consider supporting those in need by contributing non-perishable items to our community food pantry. You can find the food barrel located in the Church foyer; please place your donations in a bag inside the barrel. Remember to check the 'use by' dates, as expired food items cannot be accepted. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

This month, the following items are needed:

- Cereal
- Canned soups
- Crackers



IMPORTANT DATES & HAPPENINGS

- January 1, 2025 - Wishing everyone a joyful and healthy New Year filled with blessings!
- January 5, 2025 - Special Congregation member meeting regarding chancel chairs. Please attend.
- January 16, 2025 - 6:30pm Church Council meeting
- January 19, 2025 - Annual Congregational Meeting to discuss budget and other things. Bring a bagged lunch. Drinks will be provided.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

December 8th was a busy day at SCCW, and a busy day for the community. We started off with a wonderful Sunday service. Then from 1pm to 3pm we welcomed children from the community to a FREE shopping spree for Christmas. Later that evening we collaborated with the Warren Baptist Church (with coaxing from the Warren Park Committee) to revive the annual Christmas Tree lighting in the Woolen Mill Park, complete with singing and Santa. Thank you to everyone who helped and attended both of these events.



Becky and Susan stood behind the privacy curtain, which separated the gifts from the parents. The children enjoyed a fantastic time shopping freely.

Pictured right: The Santa's elves—Niva, Susan, Val, Gayle, Zoe, Monique, and Kat—wrapped gifts tirelessly for two hours. We extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed donations that made this event such a success. A special shout-out goes to Becky for her creative ideas and excellent organization.



Later that evening at the Gazebo, close to 50 people came to the Woolen Mill Park to enjoy the delicious hot chocolate prepared by the Warren Baptists, along with a generous assortment of cookies provided by SCCW. Santa made an appearance for photos, while Pastor Pat from WBC guided the group in Christmas carols and storytelling. A heartfelt thank you goes to Santa, as well as to Warren Park Committee members Helene Rondeau and Lane Sturtevant, and the town workers who assisted with the festive lighting.

Caring & Sharing Sisters



On Dec. 15th the Sisters of SCCW shared a luncheon out for their Christmas celebration. Unfortunately, not all were in attendance, and they were missed. We had a lovely meal together. Afterward, we met back at church for coffee and dessert and a gift exchange. Fun, Fun.

We'd like to wish everyone a very happy New Year filled with good health and happiness. May 2025 be a year to strive, strive to be more kind, strive to be more mindful and above all strive to be thankful for the blessings that are bestowed upon us, today and every day. And I thank my sisters for all their support this past year, we care, we share and we glorify the Lord above, together. CR

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve service was lovely. With bell ringers, carol singers and readings. Such a joyful tone and atmosphere for the birth of Jesus. The service ended with everyone circling around the church with candlelight's and the singing of Silent Night.



Holiday HAPPENINGS



A beautiful Christmas scene handcrafted by Louise Cornforth.

Rev. Bette hand delivered it to the BLFI Home (formerly Beacon Home) in Warren. The residents were thrilled to receive it. Thank you, Louise and the Ladies Circle, for the donation.



Pictured left is the Wednesday missions luncheon group enjoying their 'sweet' Christmas party on December 18th with shared desserts. They played the dollar game and raised a basket full totaling \$180, which was given to the Warren school for whatever the teachers or staff need to help kids who go without.



Happy New Year.

The Choir and Hand Bell Choir will be taking a short break and will return to rehearsing on Wednesday January 15.

Calling people feeling led to share special music in Worship.

Reach out to me by calling 432-4497 or email bpachecomusic@me.com.

Yours Musically,

Beverly Pacheco

Consider attending

THURSDAY JANUARY 16TH 6:30PM



Google says...."Church council meetings are important because they provide a platform for church leadership to discuss, plan, and make key decisions regarding the church's vision, mission, finances, outreach programs, and overall operations, ensuring the church functions effectively and fulfills its goals while also fostering transparency and accountability to the congregation".

Google is pretty smart. If you agree, please join us for a meeting?

CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY JANUARY 19TH...

...is approaching quickly, following Sunday service. Deadline for committee and board reports is January 10th. Preparing these reports requires time, and your prompt submission is greatly appreciated. Thank you!



As we shut the door on 2024, with all its beauty, challenges, and triumphs, let us express gratitude for each day we experienced. We are thankful for the relationships we've built, the choices we've made, the invaluable time we've been given, and for using that time wisely. We have lost many, but their memories will remain with us forever. As we enter the new year, start with Jesus. May we open our hearts and minds to a brighter future, not just for our church but for each of us. Happy New Year one and all. -CR



DID YOU GET A PACKAGE YOU DIDN'T ORDER???

Experts warn of new 'brushing' scam.

Be careful about any PACKAGES that you didn't order or ones that don't have a return address and want you to scan a QR code: it could be a scam.

These so-called brushing scams have been around for a few years and there are a few varieties. They can range from a "victimless" crime to one that involves scanning a QR code to find out who the package is from.

That could lead consumers to a site tricking them into entering personal information, similar to a phishing scam. In some cases, malicious QR codes could also install malware to steal information from the consumer's phone.

DO NOT FOLLOW UP ON THESE REQUESTS. Do what you like with the item you received, just don't act on it! Be safe in the New Year and always.



Happy New Year

Word Search



- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Fireworks | Happy |
| Kiss | McEvoy |
| New York | Party |
| Time Square | |
| Ball Drop | Celebrate |
| Herrera | Hopkins |
| Midnight | New Year |
| Party Hat | Sparklers |



BOTTLE DRIVE
FUNDRAISING

Bottle Redemption benefits the **CHILDREN'S CLOTHING EXCHANGE**
Returnable bin is in the downstairs Fellowship room. We thank you kindly for your donations.

Please empty your bags directly into the bin.
Also please empty the bottles before putting them into bags and be sure the bags you bring in do not have holes.
Leaky bags are no fun!

To Volunteer at the Children's Clothing Exchange, contact CCE Director - Susan Lombardo 207-701-7622

FROM THE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

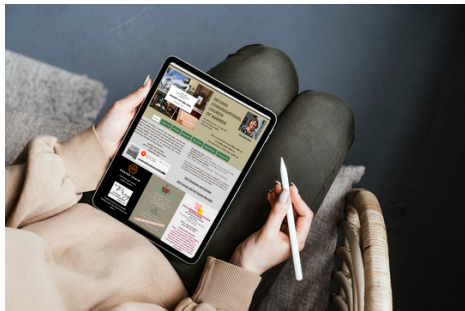


- Current office hours are Wednesday and Thursday 8:00am to 1:00pm
- Newsletters are mailed and emailed once a month on or near the first of the month.
- Information to be put in the newsletter is due ON or BEFORE the 28th of each month.
- If you need a newsletter mailed to you, please contact the office. Printed copies are available upon request.
- Rev. Bette office hours to meet with you are Mondays 10-2, Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-6. Please call to arrange a meeting.



Give a gift at any time. Simple and Secure.
For your convenience on-line giving is available.
If you are reading this on your laptop, phone or tablet, click [HERE](#) to make a secure donation.

Thank you for your continued support.



DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	MISSIONS
12/01	60	\$ 3321.00	\$ 630.00
12/08	53	912.00	N/A
12/15	59	930.00	48.00
12/22	57	1622.00	246.00
12/29	43	942.00	39.00

Visit our website for up-to-date information where you can find all the details you need. Explore the pages to discover our history, listen to a Sunday service, and learn about our various boards and committees. Feel free to visit us at www.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.org.

SCCW CONTACT INFO:

- MINISTER:** Rev. Bette - rev.bette.sccw@tds.net
- OFFICE ADMIN:** Carolyn Robinson - office.sccw@tds.net
- TREASURER:** Patricia Weaver - treasurer.sccw@tds.net
- TRUSTEE CHAIR:** Jeff Creighton - jeffcreighton@gmail.com
- DIACONATE CHAIR:** Cindy Bland - tomcyn.bland@roadrunner.com

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

P O BOX 206

WARREN, MAINE 04864

207.273.2338

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			12pm Missions	2 9-11am CCE 4pm Deacon meeting	3 2:00pm Richard Sprowl Celebration of life	4
5 10:00am Service Special Congregational Member meeting following service	6 9-11am Table Talk 1:00pm Bible Study	7 9-11am Table Talk 1:00pm Bible Study	8	9 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	10	11
12 10:00am Service	13	14 9-11am Table Talk 1:00pm Bible Study	15	16 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Church Council meeting	17	18
19 10:00am Service ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER SERVICE	20	21 9-11am Table Talk 1:00pm Bible Study	22	23 9-11am CCE	24	25 9am Men's group
26 10:00am Service	27	28 9-11am Table Talk 3:30 Pm Clergy Mtg.	29	30 9-11am CCE	31	1 FEBRUARY
LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY		
01/05 Wes Ames 01/12 Aleta Mank 01/19 Melody Sainio 01/26 Donna Lewis	01/05 Karen C. & Susan L. 01/12 Wes A. & Eric O. 01/19 Michelle B. & Cindy B. 01/26 Karen C. & Susan L.	01/05 Sterling Robinson 01/12 Jeff Creighton 01/19 Irene Maxcy 01/26 Sandra Overlock	01/05 Nola M. & Freda H. 01/12 January & Jonathan D. 01/19 Niva P. & Sandra O. 01/26 Eric O. & Mark W.	01/05 Men's Group 01/12 Ladies Circle 01/19 Congregation 01/26 Caring/Sharing		

NOTE: Above duties are subject to change. Office hours: Wed. & Thurs. 8-12 Rev. Bette visiting hours: Mon-10-1 Tues:2-6 Thurs: 2-6

TUES. EVE.: AA Group Meet

THUR. EVE. Scouts Meet

Video Gentle Chair Yoga – Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30am