

The Cornerstone



Rev. Bette Bond

DECEMBER MEETINGS

- Dec. 5 - Thurs. 4:00pm
Deacon Meeting
- Dec. 12 - Thurs. 6:30pm
Trustee Meeting
- Dec. 19 - Thurs. 6:30pm
Church Council Meeting



Where decisions are made.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

There's a song in the air!
There is a star in the sky!
And the star rains its fire while the
beautiful sing.... and we greet in His cradle,
our Savior and King!



It's that time of year again... it's dark, it's cold, and it's bare. What better time of year for the Light of Bethlehem to shine? When you go out on a clear, starry night or see the twinkling Christmas lights on trees and in windows, these are reminders that the people in darkness have now seen a great Light - it is the light of God's love come down to earth in the form of Jesus Christ.

Some people think of GREEN as the color of Christmas (O Tannenbaum). Others might pick RED (holly berries, Santa's suit). For many, Christmas can be BLUE (loneliness, loss) and there are these wild & crazy folks who love a WHITE Christmas ❄️

But this year, with all the other lovely colors, may we contemplate GOLD, that is, the shining beauty of a crown, of a star, of the treasure brought to the Baby Jesus.

Let us make December a month to shine! Not just our ornamental trees and our packages, but our very selves. Practice kindness, love, compassion, selflessness, peace, and understanding. Take time each day, no matter how busy (especially when busy!) to just take some breaths. Slow down, savor a cup of tea, look at the Christmas lights or a burning log in the fireplace. Just BE. Those cookies will get made, those presents will be wrapped, and the holiday will be over before we know it.

But the gift of God lives on every day in that Light, the Light that shines within each of us.

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you." Isaiah 60: 1-2

Peace be with you~
Pastor Bette



When the Fall and Halloween seasons end, the Christmas decorations begin. Sometimes the ornaments, tinsel and wrapping paper are out WITH the Halloween candies and costumes. We Americans love Christmas and cannot get enough of it! That is our secular world.

In our spiritual world, our personal worship, Christmas doesn't happen until the Christ Child is born. The four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day comprise a season of waiting expectantly for the Christ child to be born in us. In the church, Advent is a season of its own. The word advent means "arrival or coming."

While the stores are playing Christmas music to get everyone in the buying mood, and many people have been listening to Christmas music in their cars and homes for months, in the church, we patiently wait to sing the joyous songs of Christ's coming until right before that day. It is a time of reflection, anticipation, and patience... just like we await the birth of our own child.

Stepping into the church on Sunday morning during Advent is not like stepping into the mall to go shopping.... Nor should it be. Our church is a sanctuary.... A place set apart for worship and praise. We step out of the world and its activities and environment to enter a place of peace and calm amidst the swirling outside. Let us welcome and embrace this special opportunity.

We will be starting the Advent season with Advent songs, that is, songs that celebrate our patient waiting and wonder for the arrival of our Lord and Savior.

Rest assured, as the season progresses, and we get closer to the birth of Christ, our songs will begin to reflect more of Christmas.

Since there are five Sundays in December this year, Beverly and I would like to sing all Christmas music on Sunday, December 29th. If you have not heard/sung your favorite Christmas carol/hymn up to this point, NOW IS YOUR CHANCE! We look forward to joyous celebration!

Peace~
PB

Advent Offering

God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
as we wait and prepare for his coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen

The Mission Board will be collecting NEW pajamas, underwear and socks for the Children's Clothing Exchange during the Advent season. Sizes range from newborn to size 14, but the need is greatest for school age children. We will have baskets under our Christmas tree in the sanctuary for these items. Please consider a clothing donation to our own CCE and at any time throughout the year. The need is great, not only at Christmas, but all year long!

Our monetary offering will be given to Homeworthy (formerly Knox County Homeless Coalition). Please specify this on a Mission envelope, found in the bulletin or on the Deacon's table in the back of the sanctuary. If you were here in October for our Habitat Mission Moment, you know that the two organizations are partnering to fight homelessness in Knox County. Housing is perhaps the greatest need we are being asked to address these days. Please consider a generous gift this Advent season for those without a home.

Your Mission Board wishes you hope, peace, joy and love this Advent season,
Gayle, Irene, Marcia, Sharon & Valerie

Deacon Reminder

Submitted by Cindy Bland

DO YOU HAVE A NEED?

The winter season is before us, bringing extra challenges to our daily routines and to our budgets. The deacons would like to lighten some of the worries that come with the season; how will I get my walk/driveway cleared, how will I get out for my groceries or get to church, the kids have all outgrown their winter boots, fuel bills/tax bills/Christmas giving. Worries can be overwhelming at times, and you just need someone to stop by and visit. We, your church family, would like to help. There will be box on the Deacon's table at the back of the church during the next several months. Know that you can ask for help confidentially by placing a note in the box. A Deacon will check it once or twice a week and reach out to you.



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 prayer 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 |
| Gabe DeRaps | Ann & Peter Gribbin by Melody S. |
| Bob Carpenter | Brent Lawson by Melody S. |
| Jessica by Sue C. | Romeo Jackson by Melody S. |
| Lee Houghton | Nathan Lanphier by Clint L. |
| Sheila A. by Tina B. | Brenda King |
| Joel Kinney by Janice O. | Sue Mercier by Linda L. |
| Emily Beattie | Nathaniel Parkinson by Linda L. |
| Tiny Dodge by Jonathan | Natashia by January |
| Regina Pitt | Marie Hardy-Fuller |
| Liam Feeley by Valerie M. | Walter Pendleton |
| E.J. by Becky | Sally Edwards and Nancy Bryant |
| Elijah Kellogg Congregational Church-Harpswell | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 01 John Barnstein
- 01 Kathy Lanphier
- 04 Debbie Collemer
- 06 Harlene Jordan
- 08 Susie Overlock
- 12 Julie Lent-Mercier
- 13 Patty Overlock
- 15 Bradley Miller
- 16 Diana Dare
- 19 Hope Creighton
- 29 Muriel Fogg
- 23 James Lent
- 23 January Peavey
- 24 Bob Augustine
- 25 Jesus Christ

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 12 Clinton & Kathy Lanphier
- 17 Leland & Valerie Boggs II
- 20 Eric & Patty Overlock
- 31 Sterling & Carolyn Robinson

Support those in need this season of giving 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:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Soups
- Pancake Mix
- Pancake Syrup



IMPORTANT DATES & HAPPENINGS

- Sun. Dec. 8th - 1-3pm - Kids Christmas Corner free shopping spree
- Sun. Dec. 8th - 4:00pm - Christmas Tree Lighting in the Park with Santa, Cookies, Hot chocolate, Carol singing and storytelling by Pastor Pat Anders from the Warren Baptist church. Dress warmly, bring a flashlight and a friend.
- Thur. Dec. 19th - 6:30pm - Church Council Meeting. Your attendance is encouraged.
- Tues. Dec. 24th - 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service.
- Wed. Dec. 25th - Christmas Day - Happy Birthday Jesus.
- Sun. Dec. 29th - 10:00am Sunday Service - All Christmas Carol singing.

music ministry

Advent the prelude to Christmas... a lovely time for music.

Friday Dec. 13 and Saturday Dec. 14 at 6:00pm AND Sunday Dec. 15 at 4:00pm the **Community Christmas Cantata** will present a Glorious Christmas at the **Thomaston Baptist Church**. All are welcome to celebrate the reason for the season, Jesus's birth.

Christmas Eve service will take place at 4:00pm Dec 24.

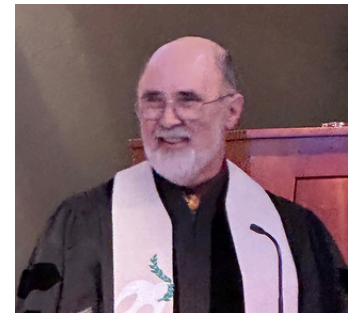
Thank you, Beverly Pacheco



Congratulations!

Dave Stuart has accepted a position as Pastor of Teaching and Preaching at Wilton Congregational Church. He will start serving in this position beginning this January while finishing his final semester at Yale Divinity. His hope is that he will have an Ecclesiastical Council with the Fairfield East Association in the first quarter of next year, be approved for ordination and be voted upon for the Associate Minister position in Wilton. We wish him many blessings.

We sincerely apologize to Rev. Dr. Irv Gammon for the error in the November newsletter. He was installed at the First Congregational Church in Rockland, not Camden. We wish him many rewarding years of Christian service with his new congregation in ROCKLAND.



Please be aware...

We are in the midst of cold/flu season, and other respiratory illnesses. We all know to stay home when we are feeling unwell. Please remember to ask permission before hugging and/or kissing someone when greeting in church. Each person has a different level of comfort in how they want to greet and be greeted. But do continue greeting one another with love ! ❤️❤️❤️



Holly Berry Fair 2024

On Saturday, November 23rd, the Ladies Circle hosted the Annual Holly Berry Fair. The event featured a variety of crafts, raffles, cookies, treasures from grandma's attic, and a hearty beef stew luncheon, along with a special visit from SANTA! Everyone enjoyed the festivities, and we would like to express our thanks to all those who contributed to organizing this wonderful event. Enjoy these two pages of photos.





Thanksgiving blessings

We sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed a delightful Thanksgiving surrounded by their loved ones.

We participated in a blessed and gratitude-filled service with the Warren Baptist Church on Thanksgiving Eve.



Rev. Bette and Pastor Pat



The WBC Choir and a few of our own.



The lovely Norwood sisters, Nancy, Hope and Patty.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the members and friends of Warren Baptist Church for their attendance at the annual community Thanksgiving Eve service.

Card Ministry



Do you have a stash of greeting cards that you've received but are unsure how to handle? Are you hesitant to toss them in the trash? Consider donating them to the church, where they can be transformed into heartfelt acknowledgments! Envelopes aren't needed, as the cards will be repurposed for their greetings, decorations, and designs (any personal messages in the donated cards will not be used). Your donation will be greatly appreciated, and you'll feel a sense of relief from clearing out that drawer (or two, or a closet, or a box...)!

Our Card Minister, Aleta Mank, is also in need of new greeting cards, including thank you, get well, thinking of you, and assorted cards. You can drop them off at the office or hand them directly to Aleta. Additionally, if you'd like to contribute stamps for her ministry, she would be grateful for that as well. Thank you!

The Nominating Committee has been diligently reaching out to individuals whom we believe would be a great match for the open positions at the church. If you feel inspired to take on a stewardship role, please reach out to any of the following members:



Marcia Cifaldo, Aleta Mank, Eric Overlock or Carolyn Robinson.



Please consider attending



The Annual Meeting is approaching quickly, set for January 19th. If you are part of a board or committee, please keep in mind that annual reports must be submitted to the office by January 10th. Preparing these reports requires time, and your prompt submission is greatly appreciated. Thank you, CR



Thank you to Patricia and Eric Overlock for ordering, delivering and setting up the beautiful Poinsettia display on the chancel. And a thank you to the Deacons for decorating the Church. So beautiful.

Merry Christmas 2024

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas filled with joy and warmth! As we close out 2024, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support and contributions to our “Cornerstone” newsletter throughout the year. Your dedication to promoting SCCW and helping us communicate our message is greatly appreciated.

As we bid farewell to 2024 and usher in 2025, let us all embrace the spirit of blessings, gratitude, and a united determination to make the coming year our best yet— personally, professionally, and spiritually.

May God bless you all, keeping you healthy and happy.

With love,
Your Church Office Gal,
Carolyn



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.

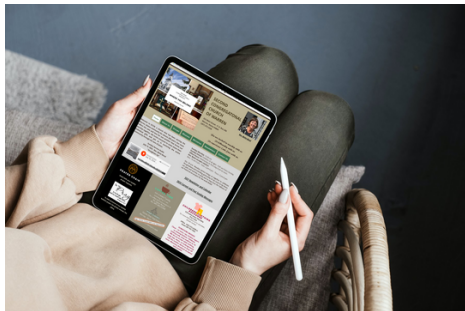


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 For your convenience on-line giving is available.
 If you are reading this on your laptop, phone or tablet, click [HERE](#) to make a secure donation.

Thank you for your continued support.



DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	MISSIONS
11/03	75	\$ 4483.00	\$ 582.00
11/10	59	1005.00	66.00
11/17	58	853.00	56.00
11/24	61	887.00	61.00



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

December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00am Service	2 10:am Ladies Circle meeting & luncheon	3 9-11am Table Talk 1pm Bible Study	4 12pm Missions	5 9-11am CCE 4pm Deacon meeting	6	7
8 10:00am Service 1-3pm Kids FREE shopping Spree 4:pm Tree Lighting Woolen Mill Park	9	10 9-11am Table Talk 1pm Bible Study	11	12 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	13	14
15 10:00am Service	16	17 9-11am Table Talk 1pm Bible Study	18	19 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Church Council meeting	20	21 Hall Rental/Lent 11 to 4
22 10:00am Service	23	24 4:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 9-11am CCE	27	28 9am Men's group
29 10:00am Service Christmas Music Singing	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	1 HAPPY & BLESSED 2025	2 9-11am CCE	3	4
LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY	12/01	
12/01 Donna Lewis 12/08 Wes Ames 12/15 Louise Cornforth 12/22 Jim Pacheco 12/24 Christmas Eve 12/29 January Dodge	12/01 Karen C. & Michelle B. 12/08 Cindy B. & Karen C. 12/15 Michelle B. & Wes A. 12/22 Cindy B. & Susan L. 12/24 Cindy B. & Susan L. 12/29 Wes A. & Eric O.	12/01 Sterling Robinson 12/08 Jeff Creighton 12/15 Irene Maxcy 12/22 Sandra Overlock MERRY 12/29 Marcia Cifaldo	12/01 Carolyn R. & Kat L. 12/08 Freda H. & Nola S. 12/15 Susan & Steve L. 12/22 Sue C. & Raymond W. CHRISTMAS 12/29 Steve & Betty Davis	Men's Group Ladies Circle Congregation Caring/Sharing EVERYONE 12/29 Congregation		

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

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