



# FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION

# THE CORNERSTONE



## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

**The most serious charge that can be brought against New England is not Puritanism but February. Joseph Wood Krutch**

We are now entering the shortest month of the year! Aren't you glad that the shortest month is February and not July? February can be a very sweet month or it can be a brutal month. Of course, we are hoping for the former. There are many birthdays in February in our church, and according to my list, it's all women! It's also the birthday of our church ! 197 years! That makes it a very sweet month.

And speaking of sweet, don't forget that February 14 is Valentine's Day. If you have a sweetie pie, a dear friend, a loved one in the nursing home or assisted living, please be sure to let them know they are loved. I was talking with a friend and we were reminiscing about making Valentines for all of our classmates when we were in grade school. In my classroom, everyone got a big box and we got to decorate it however we liked. Some of those kids were pretty artistic (not me). We cut a slot in the top of the box to receive all of our Valentines. We made them ourselves out of red construction paper, pink construction paper, white doilies, and sometimes other adornments. We made a very special one for someone on whom we had a crush, but everyone made a Valentine for everyone else. No one was left out. Sadly, I believe this is a lost art. Maybe we should have a Valentine making party on a bright sunny February day! Check inside this newsletter....

Our American Sign Language class in January was amazingly well attended and a lot of fun! We all learned so much and Heather Meservey, our very patient and skilled instructor has agreed to come back to do more classes with us. Stay tuned for details in the announcements and email on dates and times. The ability to communicate with ALL PEOPLE is a gift.

Aside from the candy, chocolates, flowers, and birthday cakes, this is a month of **LOVE** ❤️ ❤️ **Love** for our family, **love** for our friends, **love** for our fellow human beings on this big blue ball. Most of all, it is about God's **love** to us and our **love** for God.

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. I John 4:10*

*Love & Light,  
Rev. Bette*



*Rev. Bette Bond*

### FEBRUARY MEETINGS

- Feb 6 - Thurs. 4:00pm  
Deacon Meeting
- Feb 13 - Thurs. 6:30pm  
Trustee Meeting
- Feb 20 - Thurs. 6:30pm  
Church Council Meeting
- Feb 22 - 9:00am Men's  
Group Meeting



*Where decisions are made.*



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...

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 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                              | Melody Sainio                    |
| Bradley Miller                                 |                                  |
| Elijah Kellogg Congregational Church-Harpswell |                                  |

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.



### February

- 1 Carole Starr
- 2 Emily Beattie
- 10 Rev. Bette Bond
- 16 Patricia Weaver
- 22 Cynthia Field

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

**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:**

- Canned Soups
- Canned Beans
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta
- Egg noodles



## IMPORTANT DATES & HAPPENINGS

- Feb. 9– Recognition Sunday & Sunday School children singing AND Soup-er Bowl Sunday
- Feb. 9 - Scout Sunday
- Feb. 14 - Valentine’s Day
- Feb. 20 - Church Council Meeting 6:30pm – Please consider attending
- Feb. 23 - SCCW Church birthday celebration after service - YES CAKE!!!
- Feb. 28 - SCCW 197th Birthday - she looks amazing! Thanks to this congregation.



## CALLING ALL CARDS!

**On Wednesday, Feb. 5th at 2 pm**, we will be making **HOMEMADE** Valentine cards. Everyone is welcome. Bring your favorite doodads and frills, and we will also have supplies. Let's bring back this childhood favorite, and spread some love to folks who need it! PB

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**On Sunday February 9th** we will be adding up all the soup cans and packages that hopefully will be donated. We are once again in competition with the Warren Baptist Church. Last year they attempted to claim victory but they had included RAMEN noodles and we did not. We only donated CANS. And our CAN count was much more than theirs so **WE WON** last year.

We decided this year to add the RAMENs to the count so whatever you care to donate, RAMEN or CANS, they will all be counted.

### LETS WIN AGAIN!!!!

Bring in your donations on or **BEFORE** Feb. 9th when we will be counting.

**THANK YOU**

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**On Sunday, February 16th**, our very own January Peavey-Dodge will be bringing the message and leading our worship service. Please come and support her and encourage her as she is in the last months of her Lay Ministry Studies ! PB

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**SAVE THE DATE! Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season which precedes Easter, begins on Wednesday, March 5th.** We will be having a Day Retreat here at the church. It will be from 10 am until 2 pm and lunch will be provided. There will be more information in the March newsletter with the registration form. There is no cost to attend, but you must register. PB

## CARD MINISTRY



A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated greeting card minister, Aleta Mank! Aleta plays a special role in our church community by sending thoughtful messages to brighten our days. Whether you're celebrating a birthday, commemorating an anniversary, or feeling under the weather, you can count on Aleta to deliver uplifting words of encouragement just when you need them. Her cards bring joy and positivity, always sprinkled with blessings to uplift your spirit. Aleta is a true beacon of support, consistently extending her kindness and encouragement to everyone. We are truly grateful for her commitment to spreading happiness and connection within our church!

### **ALETA.... Always Lending Encouragement To All!!**

Since April of 2024 when Aleta took over this mission, she has sent out 84 Birthday cards, 25 Anniversary cards, 56 Get well/Thinking of You cards, and 33 Sympathy cards. That is a lot of cards.

Aleta is very thankful for all the cards and stamp donations., but could always use more, so if you have any that you can donate to her mission, please let her know.

If you see Karen Richards, our church cleaner, let her know what a great job she is doing. She goes above and beyond her job description. We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated craftswoman, who gives so freely of her time and talents. Her dedication and commitment to maintaining the beauty and cleanliness of our church and fellowship space is truly inspiring. We have been very fortunate over the years to have such dedicated people tending to the appearance of the church; team Lent, Susan Lombardo, and others before them and now, Karen. We are truly blessed indeed.



*Mindful Movers*

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8:30AM

252 MAIN ST.  
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Our Seated Yoga class has grown. With nearly 15 mindful movers joining us each Monday, Wednesday and Friday we felt the need to create our own Facebook Group. This has been a wonderful outreach for our church. We have yogis from as far away as Appleton. If we continue to grow we will need a larger TV. And a very nice gentleman has joined us, so come on guys! You are welcome as well.

This half hour class is easy, free, fun, relaxing, helpful and we have room for YOU! Just drop in any of those days, we begin promptly at 8:30am .



On February 28th our beloved church will be 197 years old. Praise God!

**We will be celebrating on Sunday February 23rd.  
There will definitely be CAKE!**

Following is our suggested wish list....

***PS: thanks to your super generosity last year, we just recently had to purchase toilet tissue. So, thank you.***

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|--|--|
| Postage Stamps                                     | Office copy paper                              |
| Paper Towels (Bounty)                              | Electric P-Touch Label Maker (Amazon)          |
| Toilet Paper (2-Ply)                               | Card stock white office paper                  |
| 6" Paper plates                                    | Epson ET-4760 Eco-tank ink                     |
| White tall kitchen trash bags                      | Refills - EPSON T-522 (On Amazon)              |
| Black 33Gallon trash bags                          | Brother Laser Printer toner cartridges #TN-436 |
| 7 ounce HOT and COLD paper cups                    | AA Batteries                                   |
| Purple transfer bags                               | Hannaford Gift cards                           |
| Domino sugar packets                               | Shell Gas Cards                                |
| Individual coffee creamer cups                     | Lincoln's Gift Cards                           |
| Ground coffee – decaf and regular (Folgers/Dunkin) | Lobster dinner restaurant gift certificates    |
- 

These items don't have to be purchased just for our birthday party, the need is always there, especially for paper products, so feel free to donate any time throughout the year. This list will also be posted on the upstairs bulletin board.

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The Caring & Sharing Sisters will be hosting coffee hour after service on Sunday Feb. 23rd with a special CAKE to help celebrate our 197th birthday 😊



Be aware, a committee was formed during the Annual Meeting to organize our churches 200th Anniversary in the year 2028, It may seem far away but it will be here before we know it. You do not have to be on this committee to help. If you have any suggestions or want to help with preparations, please feel free to speak up or contact Pat Weaver.

## Pat Weaver asked to share an email she received....

As Christians, we often need to ask ourselves, “In what and whom do I trust? Where do I turn for hope?” These questions are especially relevant as we start the year in a world marked by natural disasters, violence, a growing resistance to God’s Word in our culture, and social upheaval—and that’s in addition to the personal challenges we all face.

In response, our answer needs to be that of Psalm 20:7: “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.”

Ultimately, we must keep our thoughts fixed on the Lord who has “given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade” (1 Peter 1:3b–4a).

Such overcoming faith is spread and nurtured through Christians who know and trust the Bible.

Dr. Mark Yarbrough-Dallas Theological Seminary

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*Spread the Love*

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.

For now, we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. *1 Corinthians 13*

*Happy Valentine Day*

## The Importance of Fair Share Giving to NACCC



Dear Church Family,

As we approach this important time of year, I invite you to join me in prayerful reflection on our contributions to the NACCC through our Fair Share Giving. This annual commitment is vital for our member church, as it supports the NACCC Shared Ministries Fund, which directly funds essential programs and services that benefit all member churches.

Fair Share Giving represents the suggested annual contribution of \$13 per member. However, we are encouraged to consider giving more to enhance the impact of the NACCC's mission and to further our collective efforts in growing the Kingdom of God globally.

Understanding the significance of our contributions is crucial. The NACCC's mission is to serve its member churches, and it relies on our financial support to sustain its diverse offerings. The organization strives to remain valuable and relevant to all member churches, regardless of size or specific needs.

Through our contributions, we enable the NACCC to provide vital assistance in areas such as pastoral searches, financial resources, fellowship opportunities, and educational programs—an initiative that changed my life and provided me the necessary resources in order to follow my calling. Additionally, the NACCC supports mission vetting, church growth strategies, conflict management, and strategic planning, among other essential services.

Your generosity and commitment to Fair Share Giving play a pivotal role in empowering the NACCC to fulfill its mission. Together, we can strengthen our church community and contribute to the broader work of the NACCC in spreading love and faith worldwide.

Thank you for considering this important opportunity to support our shared mission. Blessings,

January M. Peavey  
NACCC Year-Round Delegate  
SCCW



The Mission Board thanks all those who have donated to One Great Hour of Sharing/ CA wildfires. There is still time to make a donation, just memo your check for CA wildfires or indicate that on a Mission envelope. We will be sending a check after we meet on February 5th.

In 2024 we made 2 different donations to OGHS, for Iowa floods and Hurricane Helene. The amount collected by NACCC/OGHS for Iowa floods is \$7,360 and for Hurricane Helene \$10,734. This is what we can do when many reach out to help those who have lost everything.

~ In appreciation, The Mission Board

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## Music News



Welcome to the quiet season.

It is a great time for Special Music. Please contact me with your selection so you can share in the service.

I am currently looking for a person to play in the lower bells if our Hand Bell Choir. Curious as to what that would involve? Please see me.

Sincerely  
Beverly Pacheco

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## ASL Class



On January 11th Heather Meservey, who attends the Warren Baptist Church, lead an **American Sign Language Class**. It was well attended and we had a great time learning how to communicate with our hands.

Our next class will be on **Saturday March 1st at 10:00am** for those who wish to attend, to learn, to observe, to speak with your hands. Our homework is to learn how to sign our own names, so if you care to join us, there are numerous YOUTUBE videos teaching the basics.





**Everyone Tuesday morning 9 to 11am.  
Everyone welcome. Upper room.**

### **Life and a Cup of Coffee**

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When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar...and the coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

So, the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas among the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up every other space. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "Yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty spaces where there was no sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided. "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life.

The golf balls are the important things: your family, your children, your health, your friends, your favorite passions – things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else – the small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled.

"I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple cups of coffee with a friend."

*~Author Unknown - Submitted by Louise Cornforth*



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.

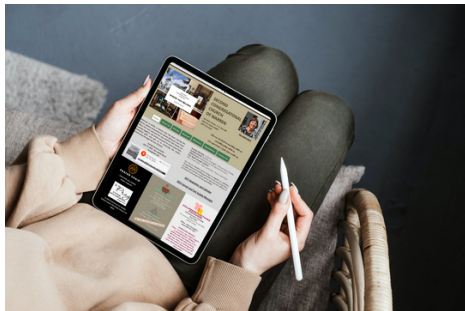


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DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
01/05	53	\$ 4953.00
01/12	49	2168.00
01/19	63	1123.00
01/26	66	1205.00





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](http://www.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.org).

**SCCW CONTACT INFO:**

- MINISTER:** Rev. Bette - [rev.bette.sccw@tds.net](mailto:rev.bette.sccw@tds.net)
- OFFICE ADMIN:** Carolyn Robinson - [office.sccw@tds.net](mailto:office.sccw@tds.net)
- TREASURER:** Patricia Weaver - [treasurer.sccw@tds.net](mailto:treasurer.sccw@tds.net)
- TRUSTEE CHAIR:** Jeff Creighton - [jeffcreighton@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcreighton@gmail.com)
- DIACONATE CHAIR:** Weston Ames - [westonames508@gmail.com](mailto:westonames508@gmail.com)

**SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 P O BOX 206 WARREN, MAINE 04864 207.273.2338

# FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10:00am Service Communion	3	4 9-11am Table Talk	5  Card Making 2PM	6 9-11am CCE 4:PM Deacon Mtg	7	8
9 10:00am Service SOUP-ER Bowl Sunday Scouts Sunday	10	11 Rev. on Vacation → 9-11am Table Talk	12	13 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Trustee Mtg	14 Valentine's Day 	15
16 10:00am Service January Peavey-Dodge in the Pulpit	17	18 9-11am Table Talk	19 Rev. Bette returns	20 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Church Council meeting	21	22 9am Men's group
23 10:00am Service Church 197 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration-Cake after service	24	25 9-11am Table Talk	26	27 9-11am CCE	28 HAPPY 197 SCCW	MARCH 1 ASL Class 10AM
LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY		
02/02 Weston Ames 02/09 Gayle White 02/16 Niva Poland 02/23 Aleta Mank	02/02 Karen C. & Michelle B 02/09 TBA 02/16 TBA 02/23 TBA	02/02 Marcia Cifaldo 02/09 Sterling Robinson 02/16 Jeff Creighton 02/23 Irene Maxcy	02/02 Linda & Walter Kaler 02/09 Wes Ames & Tina B. 02/16 Vicki & Robert Barrett 02/23 Jeff & Hope Creighton	02/02 Men's Group 02/09 Ladies Circle 02/16 Congregation 02/23 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