

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WARREN

P.O. BOX 206 - 252 MAIN ST. - WARREN, ME 04864 (207) 273-2338

THE CORNERSTONE

AUGUST 2024 EDITION



🍏🌟 *August was nearly over – the month of apples and falling stars, the last care-free month for the school children. The days were not hot, but sunny and limpidly clear – the first sign of advancing autumn.” Victor Nekrasov. 🍁🍂*

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

We are entering the last “layer” of glorious summer. So much living, laughing, loving, and enjoying the long days and warm sun. August tends to continue all of those things, but the lush green of June and July is starting to fade a bit. I have already noticed my sumac changing color in the backyard. The grass along the roadside is starting to dry a bit and is losing its deep green, turning a bit more brown. These are the signs of end of summer/beginning of fall. Not that we are RUSHING the season, just observing.

It brings to mind Jesus talking about signs. In the Gospel of Matthew (16), Jesus was asked to show a sign from heaven. He replied, “When evening comes, you say it will be fair weather, for the sky is red...and in the morning, today it will be stormy for the sky is red and overcast. You know how to interpret the signs of the times.”

We know that when darkness starts to creep in a little earlier each day, autumn is approaching. We know that when the corn has been harvested by summer’s end, that planting and sowing are over, and reaping season has begun. We know that when we see the yellow school buses on the road, summer is over. But as Jesus also said in Matthew’s Gospel, “Don’t worry about tomorrow!” We are to live in the PRESENT MOMENT.

Last month’s church supper was delicious, and it was enjoyed and savored – but it’s OVER. Maybe you went away on a trip or vacation or had family reunions/celebrations over June and July. GREAT! You enjoyed those MOMENTS, but that’s in the past now. There are MANY more events, circumstances, people and places to enjoy – delights to COME. But TODAY, we are here. And we are grateful for THIS moment, THIS time, and THIS season. We have good memories, and we have great expectations, but the REAL joy is right here, right now.

Carpe diem, beloved ~
Pastor Bette

HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

- Aug. 8 - Thursday 5:30pm
Church Public Supper
- Sept. 1 - NO Sunday Service
(Details on Page 3)

AUGUST MEETINGS

- Aug. 1 - Wed. 4:00pm
Deacon meeting
- Aug. 5 - Mon. 10:00am
Ladies Circle meeting
- Aug. 5 - Mon. 6:30pm
Caring & Sharing Sisters
- Aug. 7 - Wed. 12noon
Missions meeting
- Aug. 8 - Thurs. 6:30pm
Trustee Meeting
- Aug. 15 - Thurs. 6:30pm
Church Council Meeting
- Aug. 31 - Sat. 9:00am
Men’s group meeting



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.

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...

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Stuart Mank | Lorraine Strout by Linda K. |
| Daniel by Melody S. | Pam Pitcher by Becky & Hope |
| Stan Waltz by Melody S. | Gabe DeRaps |
| Lee Houghon | Bob Carpenter |
| Wayne Quinn | Rev. Bill Meyer |
| Nathan Lanphier | Gabe Payson by Pat W. |
| Jim Pacheco | Sheila A. by Tina B. |
| Lois Silloway by Linda L. | Joel Kinny by Janice O. |
| Cathy Clough by Becky R. | Robert Littlehale |
| Romeo Jackson by Melody S. | Jaime by Sterling R. |
| Jessica by Sue Chipman | Brent Lawson by Melody S. |
| Mary Lee Melvin by Carole S. | Deborah Smith by January P. |



- Aug 1 - Kenny Lent
- Aug 5 - Donna Lewis
- Aug 7 - Margaret Damewood
- Aug 8 - Sue Burnell
- Aug 11 - Deagan Poland
- Aug 13 - Nola Studley
- Aug 20 - Gus Ruggieri
- Aug 21 - Connie Heath
- Aug 21 - Jason Heath



- Aug 10 - Vicki & Bob Barrett
- Aug 27 - Bob & Harlean Jordan

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



Food insecurity is a notable concern in Warren, with Bread for the Journey assisting nearly 30 families every Thursday. You can contribute by donating non-perishable items to help support them. Look for the food barrel in the Church foyer, and kindly place your donations in a bag inside the barrel. **Be mindful of 'use by' dates, they do not accept expired food items.** Your donations are appreciated.



Church custodian/sexton needed. Responsibilities are to maintain the cleanliness and orderliness of the church facilities. Duties include cleaning kitchens, restrooms, vacuuming carpeted areas, mopping floors, dusting and wiping surfaces, and ensuring that all areas are presentable and ready for use. Currently offering 8 to 10 hours per week with a pay rate of \$14.15 per hour. Please contact the office for an application.

Before a new sexton joins us, let's all be considerate of our environment. To maintain order, remember to tidy up after yourself by returning chairs, cleaning tables, picking up any trash, wiping spills, and replacing full trash cans with new bags. Our church is bustling with activities, so let's each do our part to ensure the premises remains clean. Thank you for your cooperation! If you know of someone interested in this position, please let us know.

Calling all creative types for the lesson this coming Sunday, August 4.

Summer Sermons ! For the month of August, we will dive deep into the Scripture. For the next four Sundays, we will hear and learn about some obscure passages and stories not otherwise told from the lectionary readings that we follow. The Bible is filled with treasure, and we know just a small part of the rich ideas & concepts. Just like Vacation Bible School for the kids in the summer, this will be an adult Bible Vacation for us. I hope you join us for this last month of summer, and maybe learn something and enjoy the trip! PB

Awesome NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

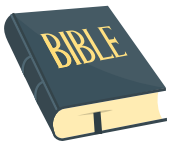
On Sunday, September 1, SCCW will be traveling to Jefferson to the Bunker Hill Baptist Church on Bunker Hill Road (213). Reverend Bette will be preaching the sermon there. This is our opportunity to bring life and sound and blessing to a very small church. There is a choir for anyone interested in singing. While our own tithes and offerings should be given in our church either on 8/25 or 9/8, I am sure any donations to the Bunker Hill Church will be very appreciated. **There will be no service here at Second Congregational in Warren.** We hope many of you will join us, and carpooling will be available. Their service begins at 9 AM! This is a great opportunity to meet other Christians and share fellowship and worship with our brothers and sisters. Hope to see you there! PB



Bunker Hill Baptist Church
1185 Bunker Hill Road
Jefferson, Maine

Service September 1st 9AM

BIBLE STUDY:



Our Bible study will continue in the fall, starting in September. The most popular days and times, according to those I have heard from, are Tuesdays and Thursdays, after lunch. Other days and times are available, but we get the most attendance on these days. I would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in different times and days, and if we have enough people, I would be happy to do another study. Be thinking on this for the rest of the summer. PB

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY:

- After the Sunday service, different groups take turns providing refreshments.
- The schedule is as follows:
 - First Sunday: Men's Group
 - Second Sunday: Ladies Group
 - Third Sunday: The Congregation
 - Last Sunday (even in 5-week months): Caring and Sharing Sisters
 - In 5-week months, the Congregation weeks are the 3rd and 4th weeks.
- The calendar with this schedule is shared via email in the monthly newsletter and displayed on both bulletin boards for everyone's reference and on the back of the bulletin each week.
- On Congregation weeks, to avoid burdening the same individuals with snack duties each week, please consider bringing a small snack to share and take any leftovers back with you. Thank you. CR

The whole world paused this morning.

Do you know why? Because an 8-year old's tank was empty. The boys had already started their school day at their desks, and I was preparing to leave for work when I noticed my littlest standing in the bathroom wiping his face.

I paused at the door and asked if he was okay. He looked up with tears silently dripping and shook his head. When I questioned if something happened, again he shook his head.

So, I sat on the side of the tub and pulled him in my lap. I told him sometimes our heart tanks feel empty and need to be refilled.

He cried into my chest, and I held tight.

I asked if he could feel my love filling him up?

A nod, and tears stopped...

I waited a minute...

'Has it reached your toes yet?'

He shook his head no...

'Okay man. We will take as long as you need. Work doesn't matter right now. School isn't important either. This right here, is the most important thing today, okay? Filling you back to the top. Is that good?'

nods

One more minute...

'Is your heart full of mamas love now?'

'Yeah...'

Looks in his eyes I see it shining in there, you're full to the top, and you're smiling!

Y'all. You may not be 8- you may be 28, 38, 48 or whatever- but ALL of us run on empty just like he did.

His weekend was so busy and so full, and his little soul was just dry!!!

We all have to pause and take a moment to refill with the good things. Scripture, prayer, sunshine, worship, song, laughter, friends, hugs. Refill your empty, or you'll find those emotions (tears, anger, snappy words) overflowing with no reason why.

Take a moment. Refill. It's the most important part of your day!

Story submission: Pat Weaver



Public Supper



The final public supper of the summer is scheduled for August 8th. We appreciate everyone who joined us and sincerely hope you enjoyed the meals. Due to health and safety considerations, we have made some adjustments to our serving format, we hope this hasn't discouraged anyone from attending. Stay tuned for details on a fall harvest dinner, with the date yet to be determined. As always, membership to C&S is open to everyone.

Blessings from the Caring & Sharing Sisters

Wedding Bliss !

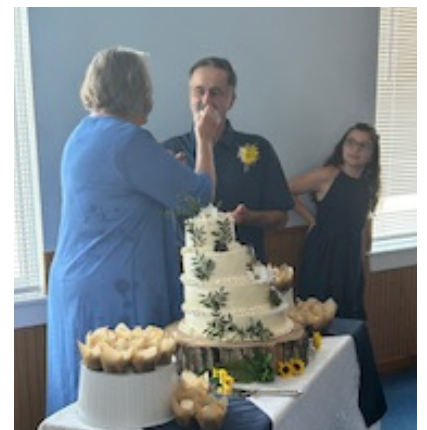


Congratulations to Sam & Pat. They tied the knot on Saturday July 20th sealing their love forever. May God Bless them with many years of good health and happiness.

To our wonderful church family.

We thank all of you for your well wishes and support on our lovely day. To both of our families for being there and doing most of the work setting up. To Beverly and January for the music at the church, Sterling for the sound, Carolyn for her great support getting it in the newsletter. And for Rev. Bette for the awesome service that she wrote.

We have received many compliments. To all of you, we are so proud and happy to be a part of this great caring family. We love you all,
Pat and Sam



GUEST AND FRIEND

On July 21st colleague and friend of Rev. Bette visited SCCW. Rev. Garry Fisher from the Olivet Congregational Church in Michigan shared a song with Rev. Bette during Sunday Service for the congregation and he also delivered the children's message. It was a pleasure meeting Rev. Garry and hope he visits again.



Hello August and readers of this Newsletter. I feel the 'Get Ready' Fall is coming energy ...It is time to plan. It's Sunflower time! Joy!

Have you thought about participating in Choir? Bell Choir? Sharing a song or a reading with a musical underscore as a special?

September 18 at 5:30pm. Fall Church Choir rehearsals begin.

September 18 at 10:00am. On A Ring and A Prayer Bell Choir begins.

Anyone playing other instruments like Guitar, bass, or drums and interested in playing worship? Please see me after church. Special Music has Sunday August 18 has an opening for Special Music. Call 432-4497

I am so grateful for those that have participated in the last year and helped to make our group more cohesive through their dedication. Please pray to see if you are led to join us and share this invite with a friend.

***Anyone interested in learning how to read and follow music as a 4-week workshop?

Please sign up and we will find a date and time.

And keep your ears listening for a song that moves you that could be shared during worship time.

Yours Musically, Beverly Pacheco



Hi AIO Supporters and Friends,

I hope that your summer is going well, wherever you are. Many of you may have heard that the City of Rockland announced they are eliminating funding support for AIO and other non-profits from this fiscal year's budget. There has been an outpouring of support to fill the void. This is both gratifying and humbling. One of the most amazing responses has been from a former AIO member who received services at AIO in the past. With our help and the help of Homeworthy, she made it through a rough period in her life. Now she has stable housing and sufficient means so that when she read the news, she knew she wanted to give back and presented us with a generous check. AIO makes a difference! You make a difference! Thank you.

It's been my privilege to meet many of you as members, volunteers, partners and donors during my short tenure and the best part is learning about the connection each of you has with AIO. Your passion and commitment to the AIO mission and vision is amazing. Thank you. In this newsletter, you'll read about the fruits of many good ideas, input, and efforts. I hope you'll read on and be as inspired as I am with how AIO touches lives in ways that fill the needs of so many in the community.

Best Wishes to you and your families,
Alan Kearl
Executive Director, AIO Food & Energy Assistance

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Mark and the late Jane Waltz's grandson, Chris Younkin, was in town for Jane's celebration of life on July 27th. He took these incredible photos of our church with his drone. Amazing Birds Eye view. Thank you Chris.





BOTTLE DRIVE
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.

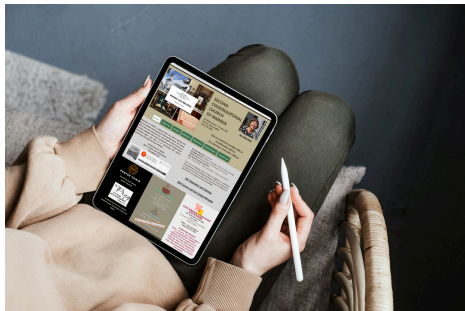


For your convenience on-line giving is now available. If you are reading this on your laptop, phone or tablet, click [HERE](#) to make a secure donation.

Thank you for your continued support.



Date	Attendance	Offering	Missions
07/07/24	61	2,976.00	0.00
07/14/24	59	1,447.00	260.00
07/21/24	67	1,293.00	62.00
07/28/24	60	1,251.00	72.00



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

AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9-11am CCE	2	3
4 10:00am Service	5 10:00a Ladies Circle 6:30p Caring\Sharing	6 9-11am Coffee Chat	7 12pm Missions	8 4:00p Deacon Mtg 5:30PM Supper 6:30p Trustee Mtg	9	10
11 10:00am Service Barbara Bibro	12	13 9-11am Coffee Chat	14	15 9-11am CCE 6:30 Church Council	16 Wedding rehearsal	17 Wedding rental
18 10:00am Service	19	20 9-11am Coffee Chat	21	22 9-11am CCE	23	24 Room Rent
25 10:00am Service	26	27 9-11am Coffee Chat	28	29 9-11am CCE	30	31 9:00am Men's Group meeting
LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY		
08/04 Melody Sainio 08/11 Dave Stuart 08/18 Louise Cornforth 08/25 Merle Vanner	08/04 Susan L. & Michelle B. 08/11 Eric O. & Robin Q. 08/18 Michelle B. & Robin Q. 08/25 Cindy B. & Eric O.	08/04 Sandra Overlock 08/11 Marcia Cifaldo 08/18 Sterling Robinson 08/25 Jeff Creighton	08/04 Carole S. & Janina W. 08/11 Janice O. & Susie O. 08/18 Patricia & Eric Overlock 08/25 Walter P. & Patty O.	08/04 Men's Group 08/11 Ladies Circle 08/18 Congregation 08/25 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

CH: Denotes Coffee Hour

Chair Yoga – Suspended until September 2, 2024