



THE CORNERSTONE DECEMBER - 2023

A monthly publication compiled by the Second Congregational Church of Warren
P.O. Box 206 – 252 Main Street – Warren, Maine 04864 – (207) 273-2338
Rev. Bette - revbette.sccw@tds.net - Office Administrator: office.sccw@tds.net

P
A
S
T
O
R
S

P
A
G
E

T'is the season to be jolly! But what if we aren't feeling very jolly right now? While it sometimes seems that everyone is festive and happy in December, this can be misleading. Many people feel pressured to put on a good front for family and friends. December can be a very stressful time for many people. There are high expectations, financial pressures, and sometimes painful memories can be triggered and/or accentuated by the holidays.



How do you navigate the next several weeks with the love and joy that Christ came to bring? It seems ironic that the Prince of Peace is born into the world, and we celebrate that by being very frenzied and stressed. In the dark evenings of winter, we must remember how the world was in darkness before the Light, that is, Christ came into the world.

The famous carol, "The Little Drummer Boy" talks about the very simple gift that was brought to the baby Jesus. We try to compete every year by finding the best, most expensive, trendiest gift – topping all our gifts from last year! The Magi traveled a long distance to bring gifts to the newborn King. We are told that the gifts included gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Only the former was an extravagant gift. The other two came from nature.

In the Christmas song, the little boy confesses he has no gift to bring that is worthy for a king. He sees the great gifts laid before the manger, and feels inferior. He then realizes that he can give what he does have.... his ability to play the drum. It is a gift humbly offered from the heart, and is all he has. For his effort, he gets approval from Mary and a smile from the infant Jesus.

My friends, in the following weeks, may we remember the gift that we already have; our ability to bring joy and love to others, that doesn't come from the store, isn't delivered by Amazon, and doesn't need to be wrapped in fancy paper - An offering of self.. After all, it is what God has given to us – Himself - Emmanuel, which is God-with-us.

Have yourself a Merry "little" Christmas.

Love & Light~

Pastor Bette

UPCOMING EVENTS & NOTICES

DEC. 9TH – SATURDAY – CHRISTMAS TREE CHOIR AT THE THOMASTON BAPTIST CHURCH

DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY SERVICE REGULAR TIME 10:00 AM

DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – 4:00PM

ADVENT MISSION

After much consideration, the Mission Board has decided to give our Advent offering to the Bread for the Journey food pantry. In addition to the monetary offering, we will be collecting some very specific food items, which must be purchased on a regular basis to keep up with the need. These items can be brought in anytime in December and can be placed in the baskets under our Christmas tree.

December 3: creamed corn and canned beets

December 10: flour and sugar

December 17: mayonnaise and ketchup

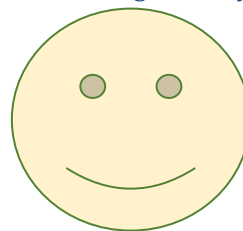
December 24: jam and jelly

Our hope for this season of giving is that those less fortunate will find Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in our gift of food.



Dec. 1 – Kathy Lanphier
Dec. 4 – Debbie Collemer
Dec. 6 – Harlean Jordan
Dec. 6 – Jane Sprowl
Dec. 8 – Susie Overlock
Dec. 12 – Julie Lent-Mercier
Dec. 13 – Patty Overlock
Dec. 15 – Bradley Miller
Dec. 16 – Diana Dare
Dec. 19 – Hope Creighton
Dec. 20 – Muriel Fogg
Dec. 23 – James Lent
Dec. 23 – January Peavey
Dec. 23 – Bob Augustine

Dec. 12 Clint & Kat Lanphier
Dec. 17 Leland & Valerie Boggs
Dec. 20 Eric & Patty Overlock
Dec. 31 Sterling & Carolyn Robinson





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).*

GOD'S PRAYERS

Lorraine Strout by Linda K.
Rev. Wayne Sawyer
E. Frank Johnson by Gayle W.
Bob Carpenter
Eric Overlock
Mason (8) by Sonja W.
Pat Kurr by Hope C.
Ronnie Anderson
Sheila Barnstein
Steve Miller by Linda L
Lois Engleking
Jane Sprowl

Rebecca by Rev. Bette
Heidi White by Janice O.
Joel Kinney by Janice O.
Gilbert Dare by Diana D.
Parkinson by Linda L.
Lois Silloway by Linda L.
Robert Prudhomme by Kathy L.
Bill Meservey by Patricia O.
Justin Overlock by Janice
Sheila A. by Tina B.
Jackie Gushee by Tina B.
Gloria Ouellette

Stuart Mank
Allen Wall by Robin Q.
Gabriel Johnson (7) by Robin Q.
Elizabeth Rodi by Robin Q.
Wayne Quinn by Robin Q.
Lee Houghton
Carol Hall Perry by Pat W.
Faye Doucette by Pat W.
Carolyn Perkins By Pat W.
Gabe Payson by Pat W.
Daniel by Melody S.
Mike Harris by Patty Overlock



In Memory

Church member, friend and past Deacon, David Weston Chase age 91 passed away peacefully at Sussman House on Nov. 18th, 2023. A memorial service will be held in Old Saybrook at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to St. George Community Cupboard/Development online or PO Box 160, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860. David will be missed by many. May he rest in peace.

Isn't the sanctuary beautiful? Special thanks to the Deacons for decorating the Christmas tree and to Patty Overlook for collecting orders for Poinsettias. A lot of love and dedication goes into beautifying our sanctuary and we are all very appreciative of the time and effort that goes into this. So, thank you Deacons, and Patty!



**Congratulations to
Josiah Hays, and Drew Swindler
who have earned the
Boy Scouts highest honor
EAGLE SCOUT**



Born on the same day, attending the same schools (Warren Community School and Medomak) and joining the same Cub Scout pack 12 years ago, Josiah Hays and Drew Swindler have one more thing in common. They both have been awarded scouting's highest honor, Eagle Scout, in a dual ceremony Sunday Nov. 19 at Boy Scouts of America Troop 254 sponsor organization, the Second Congregational Church in Warren.



Send Holiday cheer...

A holiday hello to our church family at Second Congregational Church. A request from your deacons.

Last summer our summer seminarian, Dave Stuart, spoke of a young woman 'Anna' who was incarcerated in a NY prison. She has had a challenging and abusive life her whole life. The deacons have 'adopted' Anna as an outreach ministry and occasionally help with her needs.

She has been in touch with us and seems very sweet and appreciative. We send a monthly note to "Anna" and were wondering if our church family would like to join us in sending her holiday/Christmas greetings. At this time, it would be best if we/deacons remain the contact with her so we are asking for cards to be given to us to be forwarded in a bundle to her.

If you are interested, we will collect cards and send off weekly until December 18th. So, we have THREE Sundays to remember to bring in a card 'FOR ANNA". It should put a wonderful smile on her face and in her heart.

Thank you from your deacons, Cindy, Eric, Gayle, January, Karen, Robin, and Susan.



COFFEE CHATTER

Tuesday mornings from 9am to 11am

You never know who will show up...maybe it will be YOU next week.

HOLLYBERRY FAIR

Santa came to visit the Holly Berry Fair in November. The Ladies Circle served a delicious brunch of beef stew and Indian pudding and Grandma's attic was cleaned out. Thanks to all who participated and came for the festivities. Despite the pouring rain, Santa came prepared with his blue umbrella and many people attended.



Jeremy said "HO HO IS HERE !!!!"



There were just too many good pictures to choose from.....thank you Hope Creighton



MISSION OF THANKS

To the Church Community,

One thing I've learned in the ten-plus years since my husband Matt and I founded The Exodus Road: the only way to fight human trafficking is to do it together. This month, we introduced you to members of our global team who are doing exactly that. But as a part of The Exodus Road community, the truth is that you are fighting human trafficking too.

When we look back with gratitude on the over 450 survivors of trafficking we've removed from exploitation so far in 2023, we're looking at your impact.

You can proudly say, along with our teams: "I fight human trafficking." Thank you for being a part of The Exodus Road's community, this bold, global group of people committed to ensuring that no one is bought, sold, or exploited. [Today](#) and every day, we're grateful for you!

With gratitude,

Laura Parker
CEO and Co-founder of The Exodus Road

I hope you are doing well [today](#). My name is Kaitlyn and I work with our community of donors at The Exodus Road. I noticed that you recently donated \$471 and I just wanted to reach out to thank you personally.

You are helping us find and free more people from human trafficking by investing in this work. We are so honored that you have chosen to walk this journey with us! You have gone above and beyond to provide urgent needs for victims and long-term support for survivors. We cannot thank you enough.

Again, thank you for your steady support in this work. We truly could not pursue freedom without you. If you ever want to learn about a specific area of our work, please don't hesitate to reach out or check out the most recent stories on our [website](#).

Together for Freedom,
Kaitlyn

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

The sign may be small but the lessons are large. Each Sunday the Board of Education continues their lesson on Creation.

Robin, Kathy, Michelle and Becky each week prepare lessons for the children. We would like to grow this mission but we need your help. Spread the word, bring your littles, invite your grand babies.

Children need Jesus.





Welcome to December from the music ministry.

The On a Ring and a Prayer Ringers will be at our service on December 10.

Special Music is looking for people that would like to share during this season. Please contact me at 432-4497 or sccwchoir@gmail.com ASAP so we can get you ready for the service.

Have you thought about singing in CHOIR ? We are looking for dedicated people to share in the ministry of music at Second Congregational Church. If you have the gift of singing , please consider using your voice in worship. If you aren't sure, please see me for a consultation. If you play an instrument, please see me about participating, also.

Choir practices are fluctuating this month so please call or email.

Other news: The Cantata is The Glory of Christmas by Lloyd Larson.

The Christmas Tree Choir will be Performing at The Thomaston Baptist Church on December 9 and 10 at 4:30 pm in the afternoon. Jim Pacheco and Robin Quinn will be joining from our Church as well as Pastor Pat from Warren Baptist. I am accompanying and JoAnne Parker is directing this annual event. It is a beautiful cantata, full of wonderful holiday songs that you will recognize. I hope to see you there.

Yours Musically,
Beverly



DECEMBER MEETINGS

- **Ladies Circle Meeting**
Mon. Dec. 4th - 10:00 am
- **Missions Meeting**
Wed. Dec. 6th - 12noon
- **Deacons Meeting**
Wed. Dec. 6th - 6:30pm
- **Trustee Meeting**
Thur. Dec. 14th - 6:30pm
- **Church Council Meeting**
Thur. Dec. 21th - 6:30pm
- **Men's Group Meeting**
Sat. Dec. 30th - 9:00 am

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
DEC. 21, 2022 6:30PM
REPORTS DUE DEC. 18TH**

**NEVER TOO EARLY TO
PREPARE FOR
ANNUAL MEETING
January 21, 2024**

Please be thinking about preparing your year-end committee reports. They will be due on or before **January 11, 2024**



Bottle redemption to benefit
THE CHILDREN'S CLOTHING EXCHANGE

Returnable box is in the downstairs Fellowship room

From the office...

- Current office hours are Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
- 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. Each month there will be a few printed copies available as well.

Visited our website recently?

Everything you could possibly want to know is within its pages. We encourage you to visit often.



If you have information you would like to add to this newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact the office.
www.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.org
We are also on Facebook



On-Line giving is now available. [Click this link.](#)
THANK YOU
for your continued support.



| Date | Attendance | Offering | Missions |
|-------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 11/05 | 59 | \$3849.00 | \$94.00 |
| 11/12 | 55 | 1059.00 | 87.00 |
| 11/19 | 54 | 959.00 | 71.00 |
| 11/26 | 56 | 1086.00 | 93.00 |

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

P O BOX 206 WARREN, MAINE 04864 207.273.2338

December 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | |
|---|--|--|---|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 3 10:00am Service 9:45-11:00am Children Sun. School CH: Men's Group | 4 10:00 Ladies Circle 8:30am Chair Yoga | 5 9-11 Coffee Chat | 6 8:30am Chair Yoga 12pm Missions Mtg. 10:45 Bell Practice 5:30pm Choir Reh. 6:30pm Deacon Mtg. | 7 9-11am CCE | 8 8:30am Chair Yoga | 9 8:30am Chair Yoga | |
| 10 10:00am Service 9:45-11:00am Children Sun. School CH: Ladies Circle | 11 8:30am Chair Yoga | 12 9-11 Coffee Chat | 13 8:30am Chair Yoga 10:45 Bell Practice 5:30pm Choir Reh. | 14 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Trustee Mtg. | 15 8:30am Chair Yoga | 16 9-11am CCE | |
| 17 10:00am Service 9:45-11:00am Children Sun. School CH: Congregation | 18 8:30am Chair Yoga | 19 9-11 Coffee Chat | 20 8:30am Chair Yoga 10:45 Bell Practice 5:30pm Choir Reh. | 21 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Church Council mtg. | 22 8:30am Chair Yoga | 23 8:30am Chair Yoga | |
| 24 10:00am Service 9:45-11:00am Children Sun. School 4:00pm Candlelight Service CH: Congregation | 25 Merry Christmas | 26 9-11 Coffee Chat | 27 8:30am Chair Yoga 10:45 Bell Practice 5:30pm Choir Reh. | 28 9-11am CCE | 29 8:30am Chair Yoga | 30 9:00am Men's Group Mtg. | |
| 31 10:00am Service 9:45-11:00am Children Sun. School CH: Caring & Sharing | | | | | | | |
| LITURGIST | | | DEACONS | | | TRUSTEES | GREETERS |
| 12/03 Merle Vanner 12/10 Pat Weaver 12/17 Lee Houghton 12/24 January Peavey 12/31 Donna Lewis | 12/03 January & Robin- CP Cindy & Susan 12/10 Cindy & Susan 12/17 January & Karen 12/24 Susan & Robin -4pm Cindy & Gayle 12/31 January & Cindy | 12/03 Jeff Creighton 12/10 Irene Maxcy 12/17 Sandra Overlock 12/24 Marcia Cifaldo 12/31 Jeff Creighton | 12/03 Sam & Pat 12/10 January & Jon 12/17 Walter & Linda 12/24 Sterling & Carolyn 12/31 Val M. & Cathy L. | | | | |

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